

Exhibit R Scenic Resources

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project



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Preliminary Application for Site Certificate

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Note: Not all acronyms and abbreviations listed will appear in this Exhibit.

°C	degrees Celsius
4WD	4-wheel-drive
A	ampere
A/ph	amperes/phase
AC	alternating current
ACDP	Air Contaminant Discharge Permit
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ACSR	aluminum conductor steel reinforced
AIMP	Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan
AMS	Analysis of the Management Situation
aMW	average megawatt
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
APE	Area of Potential Effect
APLIC	Avian Power Line Interaction Committee
ARPA	Archaeological Resource Protection Act
ASC	Application for Site Certificate
ASCE	American Society of Civil Engineers
ASP	Archaeological Survey Plan
AST	aboveground storage tank
ASTM	American Society of Testing and Materials
ATC	available transmission capacity
ATV	all-terrain vehicle
AUM	animal unit month
B2H	Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project
BCCP	Baker County Comprehensive Plan
BCZSO	Baker County Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
C and D	construction and demolition
CAA	Clean Air Act
CadnaA	Computer-Aided Noise Abatement
CAFE	Corona and Field Effects
CAP	Community Advisory Process
CBM	capacity benefit margin
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH	critical habitat
CIP	critical infrastructure protection
CL	centerline
cm	centimeter
cmil	circular mil
COA	Conservation Opportunity Area
CO ₂ e	carbon dioxide equivalent

COM Plan	Construction, Operations, and Maintenance Plan
CPCN	Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
cps	cycle per second
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CRT	cathode-ray tube
CRUP	Cultural Resource Use Permit
CSZ	Cascadia Subduction Zone
CTUIR	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
CWA	<i>Clean Water Act of 1972</i>
CWR	Critical Winter Range
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DC	direct current
DoD	Department of Defense
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
DOGAMI	Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
DPS	Distinct Population Segment
DSL	Oregon Department of State Lands
EA	environmental assessment
EDRR	Early Detection and Rapid Response
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS for Draft and FEIS for Final)
EFSC or Council	Energy Facility Siting Council
EFU	Exclusive Farm Use
EHS	extra high strength
EMF	electric and magnetic fields
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPC	Engineer, Procure, Construct
EPM	environmental protection measure
EPRI	Electric Power Research Institute
ERO	Electric Reliability Organization
ERU	Exclusive Range Use
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESCP	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
ESU	Evolutionarily Significant Unit
EU	European Union
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FCC	Federal Communication Commission
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FFT	find, fix, track, and report
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
Forest Plan	Land and Resource Management Plan
FPA	Forest Practices Act
FSA	Farm Services Agency
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
G	gauss

GeoBOB	Geographic Biotic Observation
GF	Grazing Farm Zone
GHG	greenhouse gas
GHz	gigahertz
GIL	gas insulated transmission line
GIS	geographic information system
GPS	Global Positioning System
GRMW	Grande Ronde Model Watershed
GRP	Grassland Reserve Program
HAC	Historic Archaeological Cultural
HCNRA	Hells Canyon National Recreation Area
HPFF	high pressure fluid-filled
HPMP	Historic Properties Management Plan
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
Hz	hertz
I-84	Interstate 84
ICC	International Code Council
ICES	International Committee on Electromagnetic Safety
ICNIRP	International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection
IDAPA	Idaho Administrative Procedures Act
IDEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
ILS	intensive-level survey
IM	Instructional Memorandum
INHP	Idaho Natural Heritage Program
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
IPC	Idaho Power Company
IPUC	Idaho Public Utilities Commission
IRP	integrated resource plan
IRPAC	IRP Advisory Council
ISDA	Idaho State Department of Agriculture
JPA	Joint Permit Application
KCM	thousand circular mils
kHz	kilohertz
km	kilometer
KOP	Key Observation Point
kV	kilovolt
kV/m	kilovolt per meter
kWh	kilowatt-hour
L _{dn}	day-night sound level
L _{eq}	equivalent sound level
lb	pound
LCDC	Land Conservation and Development Commission
LDMA	Lost Dutchman's Mining Association
LiDAR	light detection and ranging
LIT	Local Implementation Team

LMP	land management plan
LOLE	Loss of Load Expectation
LRMP	land and resource management plan
LUBA	Land Use Board of Appeals
LWD	large woody debris
m	meter
mA	milliampere
MA	Management Area
MAIFI	Momentary Average Interruption Frequency Index
MCC	Malheur County Code
MCCP	Morrow County Comprehensive Plan
MCE	Maximum Credible Earthquake
MCZO	Morrow County Zoning Ordinance
mG	milligauss
MHz	megahertz
mm	millimeter
MMI	Modified Mercalli Intensity
MP	milepost
MPE	maximum probable earthquake
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
MVAR	megavolt ampere reactive
Mw	mean magnitude
MW	megawatt
$\mu\text{V/m}$	microvolt per meter
N ₂ O	nitrous oxide
NAIP	National Agriculture Imagery Program
NED	National Elevation Dataset
NEMS	National Energy Modeling System
NEPA	<i>National Environmental Policy Act of 1969</i>
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
NESC	National Electrical Safety Code
NF	National Forest
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NFS	National Forest System
NGDC	National Geophysical Data Center
NHD	National Hydrography Dataset
NHOTIC	National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
NHT	National Historic Trail
NIEHS	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA Fisheries	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Division
NOI	Notice of Intent to File an Application for Site Certificate
NOV	Notice of Violation
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSR	noise sensitive receptor
NTTG	Northern Tier Transmission Group
NWGAP	Northwest Regional Gap Analysis Landcover Data
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
NWPP	Northwest Power Pool
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
NWSRS	National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
NWSTF	Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility
O ₃	ozone
O&M	operation and maintenance
OAIN	Oregon Agricultural Information Network
OAR	Oregon Administrative Rules
OATT	Open Access Transmission Tariff
ODA	Oregon Department of Agriculture
ODEQ	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
ODF	Oregon Department of Forestry
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
ODOE	Oregon Department of Energy
ODOT	Oregon Department of Transportation
OHGW	overhead ground wire
OHV	off-highway vehicle
OPGW	optical ground wire
OPRD	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
OPS	U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety
OPUC	Public Utility Commission of Oregon
OR	Oregon (State) Highway
ORBIC	Oregon Biodiversity Information Center
ORS	Oregon Revised Statutes
ORWAP	Oregon Rapid Wetland Assessment Protocol
OS	Open Space
OSDAM	Oregon Streamflow Duration Assessment Methodology
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OSSC	Oregon Structural Specialty Code
OSWB	Oregon State Weed Board
OWC	Oregon Wetland Cover
P	Preservation
PA	Programmatic Agreement
pASC	Preliminary Application for Site Certificate
PAT	Project Advisory Team
PCE	Primary Constituent Element
PEM	palustrine emergent
PFO	palustrine forested
PGA	peak ground acceleration
PGE	Portland General Electric
PGH	Preliminary General Habitats
Pike	Pike Energy Solutions

PNSN	Pacific Northwest Seismic Network
POD	Plan of Development
POMU	Permit to Operate, Maintain and Use a State Highway Approach
PPH	Preliminary Priority Habitats
Project	Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
PSS	palustrine scrub-shrub
R	Retention
R-F	removal-fill
RCM	Reliability Centered Maintenance
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ReGAP	Regional Gap Analysis Project
RFP	request for proposal
RLS	reconnaissance-level survey
RMP	resource management plan
ROD	Record of Decision
ROE	right of entry
RNA	research natural area
ROW	right-of-way
SAIDI	System Average Interruption Duration Index
SAIFI	System Average Interruption Frequency Index
SC	Sensitive Critical
SEORMP	Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan
SF6	sulfur hexafluoride
Shaw	Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure, Inc.
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SLIDO	Statewide Landslide Inventory Database for Oregon
SMS	Scenery Management System
SMU	Species Management Unit
SPCC	Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasures
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
SRSAM	Salmon Resources and Sensitive Area Mapping
SSURGO	Soil Survey Geographic Database
STATSGO	State Soil Geographic Database
SUP	special-use permit
SV	Sensitive Vulnerable
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
T/A/Y	tons/acre/year
TDG	Total Dissolved Gas
TES	threatened, endangered, and sensitive (species)
TG	Timber Grazing
TMIP	Transmission Maintenance and Inspection Plan
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
tpy	tons per year
TSD	treatment, storage, and disposal
TV	television
TVES	Terrestrial Visual Encounter Surveys

TVMP	Transmission Vegetation Management Program
UBAR	Umatilla Basin Aquifer Restoration
UBWC	Umatilla Basin Water Commission
UCDC	Umatilla County Development Code
UCZPSO	Union County Zoning, Partition and Subdivision Ordinance
UDP	Unanticipated Discovery Plan
U.S.	United States
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S.C.	United States Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UWIN	Utah Wildlife in Need
V/C	volume to capacity
V	volt
VAHP	Visual Assessment of Historic Properties
VMS	Visual Management System
VQO	Visual Quality Objective
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WAGS	Washington ground squirrel
WCU	Wilderness Characteristic Unit
WECC	Western Electricity Coordinating Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WOS	waters of the state
WOUS	waters of the United States
WPCF	Water Pollution Control Facility
WR	winter range
WRCC	Western Regional Climate Center
WRD	(Oregon) Water Resources Division
WRP	Wetland Reserve Program
WWE	West-wide Energy
XLPE	cross-linked polyethylene

1 Exhibit R 2 Scenic Resources

3 1.0 INTRODUCTION

4 Exhibit R provides an analysis of scenic resources for the Boardman to Hemingway
5 Transmission Line Project (Project). Exhibit R demonstrates that the Project, including
6 mitigation, will comply with the approval standard for scenic resources in accordance with
7 Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 345-022-0080 based on information provided pursuant to
8 OAR 345-021-0010(1)(r), paragraphs (A) through (F).¹

9 Specifically, Exhibit R provides the information needed to determine whether the Project is likely
10 to result in significant adverse impacts to scenic resources and values identified as significant or
11 important in local land use plans, tribal land management plans, and federal land management
12 plans for any lands located within the analysis area described of the Project. Exhibit R
13 specifically addresses those resources identified in applicable land management plans as
14 important scenic resources. The information presented herein relies on the documentation
15 included as Attachment R-1 to this Exhibit, which provides a comprehensive inventory and
16 impact assessment for all scenic resources within the analysis area.

17 The terms “scenic resources” and “visual resources” are used interchangeably in this Exhibit
18 and Attachment R-1. Consistent with the applicable OAR provisions, Exhibit R predominantly
19 uses the term “scenic resources.” In addition to meeting the OAR requirements, Idaho Power
20 Company (IPC) has developed information intended to address documentation of compliance
21 with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related requirements of interest to
22 federal agencies, primarily the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Department of
23 Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS). Consistent with terminology commonly used in the context
24 of NEPA and management of resources on BLM-administered lands, Attachment R-1 and
25 related documents typically use the term “visual resources.”

26 2.0 APPLICABLE RULES AND STANDARDS

27 The Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC or Council) scenic resources approval standard is set
28 forth in OAR 345-022-0080. Under OAR 345-022-0080, the Council must find through
29 appropriate study that:

- 30 • *(1) Except for facilities described in section (2), to issue a site certificate, the Council*
31 *must find that the design, construction and operation of the facility, taking into account*
32 *mitigation, are not likely to result in significant adverse impact to scenic resources and*
33 *values identified as significant or important in local land use plans, tribal land*
34 *management plans and federal land management plans for any lands located within the*
35 *analysis area described in the project order.*
- 36 • *(2) The Council may issue a site certificate for a special criteria facility under OAR 345-*
37 *015-0310 without making the findings described in section (1). However, the Council*
38 *may apply the requirements of section (1) to impose conditions on a site certificate*
39 *issued for such a facility.*

¹ In this Exhibit, IPC concludes that the Project is likely to cause significant adverse impacts to several important scenic resources within the analysis area. Accordingly, IPC intends to develop mitigation to reduce the Project's visual impacts on these resources to “less than significant.” For additional discussion of potential mitigation for Project impacts on scenic resources, see Section 3.4.3.

1 To demonstrate compliance with this standard, and in accordance with OAR 345-021-
2 0010(1)(r), Exhibit R must include the following:

3 *An analysis of significant potential impacts of the proposed facility, if any, on scenic*
4 *resources identified as significant or important in local land use plans, tribal land*
5 *management plans and federal land management plans for any lands located within the*
6 *analysis area, providing evidence to support a finding by the Council as required by OAR*
7 *345-022-0080, including:*

8 (A) *A list of the local, tribal and federal plans that address lands within the*
9 *analysis area.*

10 (B) *Identification and description of the scenic resources identified as significant*
11 *or important in the plans listed in (A), including a copy of the portion of the*
12 *management plan that identifies the resource as significant or important.*

13 (C) *A description of significant potential adverse impacts to the scenic resources*
14 *identified in (B), including, but not limited to, impacts such as:*

15 (i) *Loss of vegetation or alteration of the landscape as a result of*
16 *construction or operation; and*

17 (ii) *Visual impacts of facility structures or plumes.*

18 (D) *The measures the applicant proposes to avoid, reduce or otherwise mitigate*
19 *any significant adverse impacts.*

20 (E) *A map or maps showing the location of the scenic resources described under*
21 *(B).*

22 (F) *The applicant's proposed monitoring program, if any, for impacts to scenic*
23 *resources.*

24 Additionally, the Project Order requires Exhibit R to include the following specific information:

- 25 • *The application should include visual depictions (photo-simulations) of the project's*
26 *impact on scenic resources within the analysis area, especially protected areas identified*
27 *in Exhibit L. Photo-simulations and visual impacts assessments of permanent structures*
28 *should include substations, in addition to transmission lines/towers, and roads. For the*
29 *purposes of Exhibit R, "local" land use plans include state, county, and city planning*
30 *documents or inventories. The applicant should also describe the measures it will take to*
31 *minimize significant adverse impacts to important scenic resources identified by*
32 *reviewing agencies (see Section VII of this order).*
- 33 • *If the applicant engages a multi-agency workgroup to inventory scenic resources or to*
34 *assess visual impacts to scenic resources, incorporate into Exhibit R a description of the*
35 *workgroup, its purpose, its membership, and any agreements made by the involved*
36 *parties related to potential visual impacts of the proposed facility.*

37 **3.0 ANALYSIS**

38 **3.1 Analysis Area**

39 Pursuant to the Project Order, the analysis area for Exhibit R is the Site Boundary and 10 miles
40 from the Site Boundary. The Site Boundary is defined in OAR 345-001-0010(55) as "the
41 perimeter of the site of a proposed energy facility, its related or supporting facilities, all
42 temporary laydown and staging areas, and all corridors and micro-siting corridors proposed by

1 the applicant.” The Site Boundary for the Project includes the following related and supporting
2 facilities in Oregon:

- 3 • Proposed Corridor: 277.2 miles of 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line corridor, 5.0 miles
4 of double circuit 138/69-kV transmission line corridor, and 0.3 mile of 138-kV
5 transmission line corridor.
- 6 • Alternate Corridor Segments: Seven alternate corridor segments consisting of
7 approximately 134.1 miles that could replace certain segments of the Proposed Corridor.
8 IPC has proposed these alternate corridor segments in order to allow flexibility for IPC
9 and EFSC, as well as federal agencies, to reconcile competing resource constraints in
10 several key locations.
- 11 • One proposed substation expansion of 3 acres; two alternate substation sites (one 3-
12 acre substation expansion and one new 20-acre substation). IPC ultimately needs to
13 construct and operate only one substation expansion or substation in the Boardman
14 area.
- 15 • Eight communication station sites of less than one acre each in size; four alternate
16 communication station sites along alternate corridor segments.
- 17 • Temporary and permanent access roads.
- 18 • Temporary multi-use areas, pulling and tensioning sites, and fly yards.

19 The features of the Project are fully described in Exhibit B and the Site Boundary for each
20 Project feature is described in Exhibit C, Table C-21. The location of the Project (Site Boundary)
21 is outlined in Exhibit C. The extent of the analysis area for scenic resources is identified on the
22 maps provided in Attachment R-2.

23 **3.2 Land Ownership and Land Management Jurisdictions within Analysis** 24 **Area**

25 The Project’s analysis area for scenic resources is a mosaic of federal, state, and private lands
26 supporting a wide variety of land uses. The majority (approximately 72 percent) of the Project
27 crosses privately owned land. Lands managed by federal agencies account for approximately
28 26 percent of the Project. Approximately 1 percent is located on land owned by the state or local
29 governments.

30 The analysis area for this Exhibit includes all areas within the Site Boundary and 10 miles from
31 the Site Boundary. The following discussion provides a brief summary of the local, state, tribal,
32 and federal entities with jurisdiction over lands within the analysis area. Section 3.4.1 identifies
33 the land use plans for these jurisdictions that have been reviewed and the contents of the plans
34 that relate to scenic resources. Sections 3.4.2 through 3.4.5 address adverse impacts to
35 important scenic resources identified in the plans, mitigation measures that may be applicable to
36 the impacts, mapping of scenic resources, and monitoring provisions.

37 **3.2.1 Local Governments**

38 The following local government entities occur within the analysis area:

- 39 • Morrow, Gilliam, Umatilla, Union, Baker, and Malheur counties in Oregon;
- 40 • Owyhee, Canyon, and Washington counties in Idaho;
- 41 • Klickitat and Benton counties in Washington; and

- 1 • Municipalities of Boardman, Irrigon, and Lone in Morrow County; Umatilla, Hermiston,
2 Stanfield, Pendleton, and Pilot Rock in Umatilla County; La Grande, Island City, Union,
3 and North Powder in Union County; Haines, Baker City, and Huntington in Baker
4 County; and Vale and Adrian in Malheur County. No municipalities in other counties are
5 located within the analysis area.

6 **3.2.2 State Lands**

7 Lands owned by the State of Oregon account for less than 1 percent of the analysis area. State-
8 owned lands addressed in Exhibit R include several units of the state park system, administered
9 by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), and several state wildlife areas,
10 managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Management plans
11 applicable to the lands managed by OPRD and ODFW are addressed in Section 3.4.1.3.

12 In addition to state-owned lands, Oregon has designated a number of State Scenic Waterways
13 and State Scenic Byways. Designations and management plans applicable to these types of
14 administrative features are also addressed in Section 3.4.1.3.

15 **3.2.3 Tribal Lands**

16 The Proposed Corridor passes south of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian
17 Reservation (CTUIR) boundary in Umatilla County. Although the Proposed Corridor will not
18 cross the CTUIR boundary, the analysis area for scenic resources for the Project (the Site
19 Boundary and 10 miles from the Site Boundary) includes reservation lands.

20 **3.2.4 Federal Agencies**

21 Federally managed lands present within the analysis area primarily include lands managed by
22 the USFS and BLM. Some acreage is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
23 (FWS), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and the Department of Defense (DoD).

24 **3.3 Methods**

25 The methodology used in analyzing the significant potential impacts of the Project on scenic
26 resources identified as significant or important in local, tribal and federal land use management
27 plans involved a comprehensive review of the applicable plans, application of recognized
28 assessment methods of the BLM and USFS, and identification of areas that will require
29 mitigation to reduce visual impacts to levels that are below significant. Section 3.3.1 describes
30 the consultation process through which the study methodology was developed, and Section
31 3.3.2 provides a summary of the assessment process. Section 3 of the Visual Resources
32 Assessment Report (Attachment R-1) describes in more detail the steps in the assessment
33 process.

34 **3.3.1 Visual Resource Workgroup Process**

35 Staff from the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), BLM, USFS, IPC, and consultants to IPC
36 and the federal agencies functioned as a visual resources workgroup to define the study
37 approach. The workgroup process included facilitated meetings on July 27, 2011, and May 30
38 and June 25, 2012. IPC's consultant presented an initial draft of a visual resources study plan at
39 the first meeting on July 27, 2011. Workgroup participants provided comments on the initial
40 study plan and a revised study plan. Substantive review questions were resolved at the May 30,
41 2012, meeting, and IPC issued a final study plan subsequent to the June 25, 2012, meeting
42 (see Attachment R-3).

3.3.2 Summary of Visual Assessment Process

Key steps in the visual assessment documented in Section 3.4.2 are summarized below.

- Define Visual Environment – This step is based on regional landscapes or ecoregions, and smaller units within the regions. The visual environment also reflects the surface areas from which the Project can potentially be seen (the Project viewshed) and the applicable regulatory framework.
- Identify Key Observation Points and Viewsheds – A set of Key Observation Points (KOPs) provides a framework of representative reference points for site-specific assessment of potential Project impacts. KOPs were identified through review of applicable land use and resource plans, consultation with agencies and organizations, and viewshed analysis. The objective is to define a set of KOPs that sufficiently represents sensitive viewing locations relative to the Project, including key travel routes, park and recreation areas, residential and other developed land uses, and/or areas that are protected by statute or regulation. The KOPs used in the analysis are indicated on the maps included as Attachment R-2. Maps in Attachment R-2 also identify the viewsheds for the Proposed Corridor and alternate corridor segments.
- Assess Existing Scenic Resources – The existing scenic resources of a project area are defined by landscape character and visual quality. Landscape character is a descriptive means to assess a landscape, which can be distinguished in terms of pattern elements and pattern character. Pattern elements are the primary visual attributes of objects, which are form, line, color, and texture. Pattern character is the description of the relationship between the pattern elements of objects or larger collections of landscape components, which can be described with the attributes of dominance, scale, diversity, and continuity. Inventory forms were used to systematically and consistently document the existing conditions of the KOPs, based on the pattern and character elements present as applied to landform, vegetation, water, color, the influence of adjacent scenery, scarcity of the landscape, and the effect of cultural modifications. This process resulted in a rating for the existing scenic quality at each KOP as Class A (Distinctive), Class B (Average or Common), or Class C (Minimal or Indistinctive); these ratings conform with a High, Moderate, and Low rating scale.
- Depict the Visual Appearance of the Project – The character, composition, and dimensions of the various structural components of the Project, as defined in Exhibit B, were used to determine the expected appearance of the Project from the KOPs. Realistic models of the Project structures (towers), conductors, and other elements were used to develop computer-generated photosimulations of the Project at selected key locations. Photosimulation figures applicable to the scenic resources assessed in Exhibit R are included in Attachment R-4. The appearance of the Project at other locations was inferred based on visibility assessment and the information provided by the simulations and the graphical representations of the Project facilities in Exhibit B.
- Predict Viewer Response – Understanding how viewers are likely to perceive and respond to changes in visual conditions resulting from the Project is a key part of the impact assessment process. This step involved identifying the types of viewers expected to be present at each KOP and considering the sensitivity to visual change for the viewer group, the duration of the view, and the number of viewers present.
- Assess Visual Impact – The expected visual impacts of the Project as it would be seen from each KOP were determined by assessing the amount of visual contrast introduced to the existing landscape by the Project and considering the effect of that change in conjunction with the expected viewer response to the change. Contrast in the landscape

1 is determined by the differences in form, line, color, texture, scale, and landscape
 2 juxtaposition between the existing conditions and the proposed action. Contrast levels
 3 were determined using assessment forms and were assigned an overall rating of none,
 4 weak, moderate or strong, following guidelines described in BLM Handbook H-8431-1
 5 (BLM 2001b). Briefly, a contrast rating of none represents a change that is not visible or
 6 perceived, weak contrast can be seen but does not attract attention, moderate contrast
 7 begins to attract attention and begins to dominate the landscape, and strong contrast
 8 demands attention and dominates the landscape. Factors to be considered in rating
 9 contrast include viewing distance, angle of observation, duration of view, relative size or
 10 scale, season of use, light conditions, recovery time, spatial relationships, atmospheric
 11 conditions, and motion. A visual impact rating was derived for each KOP, using a scale
 12 ranging from Low (or none, if the Project would not be visible) to High. The impact rating
 13 reflected combined consideration of the existing visual quality, the change (contrast)
 14 created by the Project and the expected viewer response to the change.

15 Visual impact levels were determined for the KOPs according to a matrix relating the level of
 16 visual resource change with the overall viewer response (i.e., degree to which people are likely
 17 to react adversely to the change, as discussed previously) for each KOP. Visual resource
 18 change is the change in landscape character and visual quality as a result of the action. The
 19 level of resource change for each KOP was determined by considering the existing scenic
 20 quality rating for the KOP in conjunction with the visual contrast rating created by the Project at
 21 that location. The overall viewer response rating results from the combination of viewer
 22 expectations or sensitivity, duration of view, and use volume applicable to each KOP. The visual
 23 impact rating matrix is presented as Table R-1.

24 **Table R-1.** Visual Impact Rating Matrix

Viewer Response	Visual Resource Change				
	Low	Low to Moderate	Moderate	Moderate to High	High
Low (L)	L	L	L	LM	M
Low-Moderate (LM)	L	LM	M	M	M
Moderate (M)	M	LM	M	MH	MH
Moderate-High (MH)	M	M	MH	MH	MH
High (H)	M	M	MH	H	H

25

26 The derivation and definitions for the visual impact levels indicated in the table are summarized
 27 as follows:

- 28 • *Low* – Minor adverse change to the existing visual resource, with low viewer response to
 29 change in the visual environment; insignificant impact.
- 30 • *Low to Moderate* – Minor to moderate adverse change to the existing visual resource,
 31 with low to moderate or moderate viewer response to change in the visual environment;
 32 insignificant impact.
- 33 • *Moderate* – Moderate adverse change to the visual resource, with moderate viewer
 34 response; adverse impact, but not significant.
- 35 • *Moderate to High* – Moderate adverse visual resource change with high viewer response
 36 or high adverse visual resource change with moderate viewer response; potentially
 37 significant impact.
- 38 • *High* – A moderate to high or high level of adverse change to the resource and a high
 39 level of viewer response; clearly significant adverse impact.

3.4 Information Required by OAR 345-021-0010(1)(r)

3.4.1 List of Plans and Description of Scenic Resources

OAR 345-021-0010(1)(r)

An analysis of significant potential impacts of the proposed facility, if any, on scenic resources identified as significant or important in local land use plans, tribal land management plans and federal land management plans for any lands located within the analysis area, providing evidence to support a finding by the Council as required by OAR 345-022-0080, including:

(A) A list of the local, tribal and federal plans that address lands within the analysis area.

(B) Identification and description of the scenic resources identified as significant or important in the plans listed in (A), including a copy of the portion of the management plan that identifies the resource as significant or important.

IPC reviewed the local, tribal, state and federal land management plans for the jurisdictions listed above in Section 3.2 to determine which scenic resources within the analysis area have been identified in the plans as significant or important. Several of the jurisdictions clearly address scenic resources in their land use plans and clearly identify certain scenic resources as important or significant. However, several of the jurisdictions within the analysis area do not address or identify scenic resources in their land use plans, or if they do address scenic resources do not describe them with sufficient specificity to allow for a conclusion that they were clearly intended to be treated as important or significant. In such cases, IPC was required to carefully review and interpret the language and context in the plans to determine the importance/significance of the resource.² In those few cases where uncertainty remained after careful review of the language and context, IPC contacted the relevant jurisdiction to obtain more information about the jurisdiction's intent regarding the language in the plan.

Table R-2 below describes the applicable land use plans and the interpretation of the plan content relative to identification of significant or important scenic resources in the analysis area. The "GIS ID No." entries in Table R-2 correspond to the label numbers for the scenic resource features are shown in Attachment R-2, Figures R-2-1 through R-2-5.

² Examples include references to features such as "rock outcroppings" (Gilliam County) or "geologic features" (Umatilla County).

Table R-2. Scenic Resources Identified as Significant or Important

Jurisdiction	Plan	Scenic Resources Identified? (Y/N)	Name of Scenic Resource	Location in Plan	Location of Scenic Resource	GIS ID No.	Analyzed in Exhibit R? (Y/N)
COUNTIES							
Morrow County, OR	Morrow County Comprehensive Plan (1986) and Zoning Ordinance, as updated through 2011	N	None identified	Natural Resources Element, p 96	N/A	N/A	N
Gilliam County, OR	Gilliam County Comprehensive Plan (2011)	Y	John Day State Scenic Waterway	Goal 5, pp. 2-3	Wheeler County line to Tumwater Falls; outside of the analysis area	N/A	N
Umatilla County, OR	Umatilla County Comprehensive Plan (2008)	Y	Wallula Gap	p. 8-11	On the Columbia River at and adjacent to the northern boundary of the county; outside of the analysis area	N/A	N
Union County, OR	Union County Land Use Plan (1979) and Technical Supplement (1984)	Y	Blue Mountain Forest Wayside (Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor)	Appendix J – Scenic Areas (page 99)	The Blue Mountain Forest Wayside is a 0.5-mile-wide corridor of land located west of La Grande along I-84 within the analysis area. The area corresponds to the Union County portion of the Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor, which also includes lands in Umatilla County.	SR U1	Y
			Minam River	Appendix J – Scenic Areas (page 99)	45 miles of the river from Minam Lake to the confluence with the Wallowa River in the eastern part of Union County; outside of the analysis area	N/A	N
Baker County, OR	Baker County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (1993, 2000), as updated through 2012	Y	U.S. Highway 26	Appendix I, Plate 10	Grant County line to junction with OR Highway 245, and east of Unity; outside of the analysis area	N/A	N
			OR Highway 245	Appendix I, Plate 10	From mile point (MP) 2.46 Unity Lake Park Entrance) to MP 37.03 (Junction Whitney Highway); approx. 4 miles within the analysis area	SR B3	Y
			OR Highway 203	Appendix I, Plate 10	From MP 22.9 (Baker/Union County line) to MP 31.09 (Salt Creek, east of junction with Sunnyslope Lane); approx. 8 miles within the analysis area	SR B1	Y

Table R-2. Scenic Resources Identified as Significant or Important (continued)

Jurisdiction	Plan	Scenic Resources Identified? (Y/N)	Name of Scenic Resource	Location in Plan	Location of Scenic Resource	GIS ID No.	Analyzed in Exhibit R? (Y/N)
Baker County (cont.)	Baker County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (1993, 2000)	Y	Interstate 84	Appendix I, Plate 10	From MP 317.39 (Pleasant Valley Interchange) to MP 329.24 (1.81 miles southeast of Durkee Interchange) within the analysis area	SR B4	Y
			Interstate 84	Appendix I, Plate 10	From MP 345.78 (Huntington Interchange) to MP 352.0 (Baker/Malheur County line) within the analysis area	SR B5	Y
			OR Highway 86	Appendix I, Plate 10	Flagstaff Hill eastward; from MP 4.81 (east of Sunnyslope Lane) to MP 40.64 (Eagle Creek); approx. 13 miles within the analysis area	SR B2	Y
			OR Highway 86	Appendix I, Plate 10	East of Richland, and east of Halfway to Copperfield; both segments outside of the analysis area	N/A	N
			Cornucopia Highway	Appendix I, Plate 10	Cornucopia to Carson; outside of the analysis area	N/A	N
Malheur County, OR	Malheur County Comprehensive Plan (1982)	N	None identified	Section 2, page 110; Section 3, page 226	N/A	N/A	N
Owyhee County, ID	Owyhee County Comprehensive Plan (2010)	Y	Bruneau River Canyon	p. 22	Upstream from C.J. Strike Reservoir in eastern Owyhee County; outside of the analysis area	N/A	N
			Owyhee Mountains	p. 22	Not identified in plan, undefined	N/A	N
			Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area	p. 22	Primarily in Ada County, north and east of Swan Falls; outside of the analysis area	N/A	N
			Bruneau Sand Dunes State Park	p. 22	East of C.J. Strike Reservoir in eastern Owyhee County; outside of the analysis area	N/A	N
Canyon County, ID	Canyon County 2020 Comprehensive Plan (2011)	N	None identified	Chapters 6, 10	N/A	N/A	N
Washington County, ID	Washington County Comprehensive Plan (2010)	N	None identified	Pages 34-37, 51-58	N/A	N/A	N

Table R-2. Scenic Resources Identified as Significant or Important (continued)

Jurisdiction	Plan	Scenic Resources Identified? (Y/N)	Name of Scenic Resource	Location in Plan	Location of Scenic Resource	GIS ID No.	Analyzed in Exhibit R? (Y/N)
Klickitat County, WA	Klickitat County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance (2012), Shoreline Master Plan (1996)	N	None identified	N/A	N/A	N/A	N
Benton County, WA	Benton County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2006)	Y	Rattlesnake uplift	Chapter 3, p. 3-14	West of Richland; outside of the analysis area	N/A	N
CITIES							
City of Boardman	City of Boardman Comprehensive Plan (2003)	N	None identified	Chapter V	N/A	N/A	N
City of Irrigon	City of Irrigon Comprehensive Plan (1978, 1991, 2005) and Development Code (2012)	N	None identified	Chapters IV-VI	N/A	N/A	N
City of Ione	City of Ione Comprehensive Plan (1979) and Zoning Ordinance (1999)	N	None identified	Section 5	N/A	N/A	N
City of Umatilla	City of Umatilla Comprehensive Plan (2010)	N	None identified	pp. 6-7, 21-25	N/A	N/A	N
City of Hermiston	City of Hermiston Comprehensive Plan (1984) and Development Code, as updated through 2012	N	None identified	Chapters II, III	N/A	N/A	N
City of Stanfield	City of Stanfield Comprehensive Plan (1983) and Development Code (2012)	N	None identified	Development Code Chapters 2-3	N/A	N/A	N

Table R-2. Scenic Resources Identified as Significant or Important (continued)

Jurisdiction	Plan	Scenic Resources Identified? (Y/N)	Name of Scenic Resource	Location in Plan	Location of Scenic Resource	GIS ID No.	Analyzed in Exhibit R? (Y/N)
City of Pilot Rock	City of Pilot Rock Comprehensive Plan (1979), Ordinance 489 (2001)	N	None identified	Chapters V, VIII	N/A	N/A	N
City of Pendleton	City of Pendleton Comprehensive Plan (1983, updated in 1990)	Y	Umatilla River and tributaries	Chapter I, p. TR-2; Chapter II, p. TR-44	Umatilla River and its tributaries within the city limits and within the analysis area	SR P1	Y
City of La Grande	City of La Grande Comprehensive Plan (1977), Ordinance 3182 (2009)	N	None identified	p. 23	N/A	N/A	N
City of Island City	City of Island City Comprehensive Plan (1984, 2001)	N	None identified	Chapter II, p. 19	N/A	N/A	N
City of Union	City of Union Land Use Plan (1984)	N	None identified	pp. 16-17	N/A	N/A	N
City of North Powder	City of North Powder Comprehensive Plan (1983, 1999)	N	None identified	N/A	N/A	N/A	N
City of Haines	City of Haines Comprehensive Land Use Plan (1979)	N	None identified	p. 3; Technical Information, Chapter 4	N/A	N/A	N
City of Baker City	City of Baker Comprehensive Plan (1978), as updated through 2012	N	None identified	p. 1 plus	N/A	N/A	N
City of Huntington	City of Huntington Comprehensive Land Use Plan (1980)	N	None identified	TBD	N/A	N/A	N
City of Vale	City of Vale Comprehensive Plan (1992, 2003) and Development Code	N	None identified	Development Code, Title VIII	N/A	N/A	N

Table R-2. Scenic Resources Identified as Significant or Important (continued)

Jurisdiction	Plan	Scenic Resources Identified? (Y/N)	Name of Scenic Resource	Location in Plan	Location of Scenic Resource	GIS ID No.	Analyzed in Exhibit R? (Y/N)
City of Adrian	City of Adrian Comprehensive Plan (1978)	N	None identified	p. 11, Appendix B	N/A	N/A	N
STATE							
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)	No master plans applicable to seven state park system units within the analysis area	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)	Columbia Basin Wildlife Areas Management Plan (2008; includes Coyote Springs Wildlife Area)	N	N/A	Description and Environment	N/A	N/A	N
	Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area Management Plan (2008)	N	N/A	Description and Environment	N/A	N/A	N
	Elkhorn Wildlife Area Management Plan (2006)	N	N/A	Description and Environment	N/A	N/A	N
Eastern Oregon Visitors Association/ Hells Canyon Scenic Byway Committee	Hells Canyon Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (2004)	N	N/A	III. Intrinsic Qualities and Context Statement	N/A	N/A	N
Eastern Oregon Professional Services, Inc.	Journey Through Time Tour Route Management Plan (1996)	N	N/A	Background; Vision, Goals, Objectives	N/A	N/A	N
Morrow County and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS), Umatilla National Forest	No corridor management plan; review based on Blue Mountain National Scenic Byway Interpretive Guide (1993)	N	N/A	II. Resource Inventory	N/A	N/A	N

Table R-2. Scenic Resources Identified as Significant or Important (continued)

Jurisdiction	Plan	Scenic Resources Identified? (Y/N)	Name of Scenic Resource	Location in Plan	Location of Scenic Resource	GIS ID No.	Analyzed in Exhibit R? (Y/N)
Morrow County and USFS, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest	Elkhorn Drive National Forest Scenic Byway Visitor Services and Management Plan (1994)	N	N/A	Resource Inventory	N/A	N/A	N
TRIBAL							
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Comprehensive Plan for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (2010)	N	None identified	5. Plan Elements: Goals & Objectives	N/A	N/A	N
FEDERAL							
Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Vale District, Baker Resource Area	Baker Resource Management Plan (1989)	Y	BLM-administered lands managed as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I and Class II	pp. 49-50, Map 5	Multiple tracts of BLM-administered lands within the Baker Resource Area and within the analysis area	VRM B1 – VRM B7	Y
			Oregon Trail Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	pp. 46-49, Map 6	Seven parcels of BLM-administered land in Umatilla, Union and Baker Counties	SR B6	Y
			Powder River Canyon ACEC	pp. 46-49, Map 6	Along Powder River in north-central Baker County	SR B7	Y
BLM, Vale District, Malheur Resource Area	Proposed Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Statement (2001)	Y	BLM-administered lands managed as VRM Class I and Class II	Chapter 2, p. 101; Chapter 3, pp. 274-276; Map VRM-PRMP	Multiple tracts of BLM-administered lands within the Malheur Resource Area and within the analysis area	VRM M1 – VRM M8	Y
			Oregon Trail ACEC	pp. 68-102	Three tracts of BLM-administered lands in eastern Malheur County, all managed as VRM Class II	VRM M1, M2, M4	Y
			Owyhee River Below the Dam ACEC	pp. 68-102	Tract of BLM-administered lands in Lower Owyhee Canyon in eastern Malheur County, all managed as VRM Class II	VRM M5	Y

Table R-2. Scenic Resources Identified as Significant or Important (continued)

Jurisdiction	Plan	Scenic Resources Identified? (Y/N)	Name of Scenic Resource	Location in Plan	Location of Scenic Resource	GIS ID No.	Analyzed in Exhibit R? (Y/N)
			Owyhee Views ACEC	pp. 68-102	Multiple tracts of BLM-administered lands adjacent to Lake Owyhee in eastern Malheur County, all managed as VRM Class I	VRM M6, M7	Y
BLM, Boise District, Owyhee Resource Area	Owyhee Resource Management Plan (1999)	Y	BLM-administered lands managed as VRM Class I and Class II	p. 44; Appendix VISL-1; Map VISL-1	Jump Creek Canyon area southwest of Marsing, within the Owyhee Resource Area and within the analysis area	VRM O1	Y
			Jump Creek Canyon ACEC	pp. 47-48, 81-85, Map ACEC-1	Portion of Jump Creek Canyon area managed as VRM Class I	VRM O1	Y
BLM, Boise District, Cascade Resource Area	Cascade Resource Management Plan (1999)	Y	BLM-administered lands managed as VRM Class II	pp. 59, 2-6, 3-26; Map 3-8	Oxbow-Brownlee Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), along east side of Brownlee Reservoir, within the analysis area	VRM C1 – VRM C2	Y
			Boise Front ACEC	pp. 31-37, Map 4	Tract of BLM-administered lands northeast of Boise in Ada and Elmore Counties, outside of the analysis area	N/A	N
BLM, Spokane District	Spokane Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (1987), Southeast Area Management Framework Plan (1981)	Y	Badger Slope	MFP Management Summary, Plan Area map; RMP pp. 16-17 (re: ACECs)	South of Yakima River between Prosser and Richland, outside of the analysis area	N/A	N
USFS, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (NF)	Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1990)	Y	NF lands managed as Visual Quality Objective (VQO) Preservation (none in analysis area) and Retention	Chapter Four, p. 4-42	Multiple areas of USFS-administered lands within the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and within the analysis area	VQO 1 – VQO 8	Y
USFS, Umatilla NF	Land and Resource Management Plan, Umatilla National Forest (1990)	Y	NF lands managed as VQO Preservation and Retention (none in either category in analysis area)	pp. 4-22, 49, 95-198	No lands with P or R VQO within analysis area	N/A	N

Table R-2. Scenic Resources Identified as Significant or Important (continued)

Jurisdiction	Plan	Scenic Resources Identified? (Y/N)	Name of Scenic Resource	Location in Plan	Location of Scenic Resource	GIS ID No.	Analyzed in Exhibit R? (Y/N)
Department of Defense, U.S. Navy, Naval Weapons System Training Facility, Boardman	Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan: Naval Weapons System Training Facility, Boardman, Oregon (1999; 2010 draft update)	N	None identified	N/A; scenic resources not addressed in plan	N/A	N/A	N
Bureau of Reclamation	Owyhee Reservoir Resource Management Plan (1994)	Y	The Honeycombs, Leslie Gulch, Painted Canyon, Three Fingers Gulch, Carlton Canyon	p. 2-49 through 2-55	BLM-administered lands adjacent to Owyhee River and Owyhee Reservoir within the analysis area; addressed above under BLM Vale District, Malheur Resource Area	N/A	Y
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge	Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (2007)	N	None identified	N/A; scenic resources not addressed in plan	N/A	N/A	N
FWS, McKay Creek National Wildlife Refuge	N/A; Comprehensive Conservation Plan in process, no plan prepared or adopted yet	N	N/A	N/A (no existing plan)	N/A	N/A	N
FWS, Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge	N/A; Comprehensive Conservation Plan in process, no plan prepared or adopted yet	N	N/A	N/A (no existing plan)	N/A	N/A	N

1 The following sections describe the applicable land use plans and the interpretation of the plan
2 content relative to identification of significant or important scenic resources in the analysis area.
3 Relevant land use plans are addressed in the following sequence: county plans, municipal
4 plans, state plans, tribal plans, and federal plans.

5 **3.4.1.1 Counties**

6 The following sections describe the scenic resources or values identified in the comprehensive
7 plans for the 11 counties within the analysis area, and whether such scenic resources or values
8 have been identified as significant or important.

9 **Morrow County, Oregon**

10 The Morrow County (1986) Comprehensive Plan was reviewed for information about designated
11 scenic resources or sites. In the Natural Resources Element, under the heading “Scenic Views;
12 Sites” (p. 96) is the statement, “Addressed in plan (p. 69) but none identified.” No information on
13 scenic views or sites is found in the indicated location. In the Goal 5 Resources section of the
14 Plan (p. 119) is the statement, “Morrow County contains a variety of landscapes, many of which
15 may be considered to be scenic. The County has not, however, designated any sites or areas
16 as being particularly high in scenic-resources value.” Morrow County planning staff indicated
17 that, while minor plan and/or code updates have occurred on occasion (usually associated with
18 approval of new mining operations), no major update or codification to the existing
19 Comprehensive Plan is currently planned (McLane 2012). Therefore, the review indicates the
20 Morrow County Comprehensive Plan does not identify any specific scenic resource or value as
21 important or significant, and no such County-defined scenic resources are addressed in this
22 Exhibit.

23 **Gilliam County, Oregon**

24 The Gilliam County (2011) Comprehensive Plan includes a separate chapter for each of the
25 14 statewide planning goals. The chapter addressing Goal 5, which is “To conserve open space
26 and protect natural and scenic resources,” includes a series of findings and policies. One of the
27 findings states that “The rock outcroppings marking the rim and walls of steep canyon slopes
28 are an important characteristic of the County’s landscape” (page 1). Another finding (pp. 2–3) is
29 that portions of the John Day River from the Wheeler County line to Tumwater Falls have been
30 classified as Scenic or Natural River areas by the State of Oregon under provisions of Oregon
31 Revised Statutes 390.805 through 390.925; also, within this area of the John Day River, from
32 the mouth up river for about 84 miles to Thirty Mile Creek, is the John Day State Wildlife
33 Refuge, which provides a resting area for ducks and geese and provides habitat for various
34 raptor species and other wildlife. Land uses, including structures, are regulated within this area
35 by the provisions of the Scenic Waterway designation, and no additional regulations on behalf of
36 the County are deemed necessary.

37 This part of the plan establishes 15 policies relative to Goal 5, two of which are applicable in
38 part to scenic resources. Policy 14 states that Gilliam County will publicize provisions of state
39 law relative to scenic waterways and render assistance in implementing state policy regarding
40 such waterways. Policy 13 primarily addresses Indian petroglyphs and other cultural sites, and
41 includes the direction that the County shall adopt specific zoning provisions designed to provide
42 a maximum level of protection for those limited natural and scenic resources identified within the
43 County.

44 Based on the specific content of the plan, IPC concludes that the John Day State Scenic
45 Waterway is the only scenic resource that Gilliam County has to date specifically identified as
46 important or significant. The John Day River is located more than 10 miles outside the analysis
47 area and will not be addressed further in this Exhibit. Gilliam County planning staff indicated that

1 the County has not formally inventoried any scenic resources. Specifically, with respect to the
2 rock outcroppings mentioned above, the County did not identify “all” rock outcroppings as
3 important resources, nor did it identify any specific rock outcroppings as scenic resources, such
4 that they could be considered important or significant. Finally, we have confirmed that Gilliam
5 County does not anticipate any amendments to the zoning ordinance or comprehensive plan
6 other than an update of the aggregate resources inventory (Anderson 2012). Therefore, no
7 scenic resources for Gilliam County are addressed in this Exhibit.

8 **Umatilla County, Oregon**

9 The Umatilla County (2008) Comprehensive Plan addresses the 14 statewide planning goals
10 adopted by the State of Oregon. Chapter 8 of the Plan addresses Goal 5, which is “To conserve
11 open space and protect natural and scenic resources.” The Plan states that, “there are areas
12 and views which are commonly recognized as striking in their effect on those who experience
13 them. Geological features, green vegetation, and water are major scenic features; human works
14 and dry, shrub-steppe landscapes are other attractions. So that areas do not lose their eye-
15 catching attributes, plans attempt to identify ‘commonly recognized’ scenic features, and
16 suggest uses for these areas that minimize conflicts with the valuable features” (p. 8-1). No
17 specific scenic resources are identified in this portion of Chapter 8.

18 Subsequent material in Chapter 8 documents the finding that “Umatilla County has a number of
19 outstanding scenic views and pleasant vistas” (p. 8-10). In response to the finding, the Plan
20 establishes a series of policies intended to protect scenic views in the county. In general, the
21 policies state the need to address and mitigate adverse visual effects of development and
22 discuss programmatic steps to address potential scenic conflicts that might be associated with
23 proposed changes in land use. (Please refer to Exhibit K for discussion of Project compliance
24 with local land use authorization provisions.) One of the policies states that a site known as the
25 “Elephant Rock” site (location not defined) shall be studied to determine if there is any scenic
26 significance. Another policy states that Wallula Gap (a prominent physiographic feature along
27 the Columbia River where it enters Oregon) has been recognized as a significant scenic
28 resource and the County shall enact special land use measures to protect this area (p. 8-12).

29 Based on the specific content of the plan, IPC concludes that Wallula Gap is the only scenic
30 resource that Umatilla County has to date identified as important or significant. Wallula Gap is
31 located more than 10 miles outside the analysis area and will not be addressed further in this
32 Exhibit. Umatilla County planning staff indicated they were not aware of any studies regarding
33 the visual significance of Elephant Rock, and that there are no planned updates or amendments
34 to the comprehensive plan at this time (Jennings and Alford 2012). Therefore, no scenic
35 resources for Umatilla County are addressed in this Exhibit.

36 **Union County, Oregon**

37 The body of the Union County (1979) Land Use Plan does not specifically discuss scenic
38 resources. The Preface section of the plan includes a statement that “The natural beauty of
39 Union County is worthy of preservation and should be preserved consistent with the stated
40 purposes of this Plan” (p. 9). The Plan Policies section acknowledges the state planning goal to
41 conserve open space and protect natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources and states a
42 policy that “development will maintain or enhance attractiveness of the area and not degrade
43 resources” (pp. 33–34). The Recommendations section of the plan (pp. 46–47) has a heading
44 for Open Spaces, Scenic and Historical Areas, and Natural Resources, but none of the five
45 recommendations under that heading address scenic resources.

46 There are 15 appendices to the plan, including Appendix J, Scenic Areas (p. 99). Appendix J
47 notes that “Several areas in the County have been considered by either State or Federal

1 agencies for inclusion into their respective scenic programs. The only two areas actually
2 designated are shown on the Plan Map as the Blue Mountain Forest Wayside and the Minam
3 River, both designated by the Oregon Transportation Commission.” Appendix J describes the
4 Blue Mountain Forest Wayside (a corridor of land approximately one-half mile wide west of La
5 Grande, along Interstate (I) 80N, with a purpose to preserve the scenic character of this portion
6 of the Grande Ronde River and provide a rest area for travelers) and the entire Minam River
7 from Minam Lake downstream a distance of approximately 45 miles to its confluence with the
8 Wallowa River (and included in the Oregon Scenic Waterways System). Appendix J also notes
9 that the Grande Ronde River from its confluence with the Snake River to the junction with the
10 Wallowa River and the entire Minam River were under study at the time for possible inclusion
11 into the national Wild and Scenic Rivers program.

12 Union County (1984) also prepared a supplement to the land use plan to provide additional
13 information about Goal 5 resources. Section IX of this document addresses Outstanding Scenic
14 Views and Sites (p. 44). This portion of the supplement likewise indicates that the Blue
15 Mountain Forest Wayside and the Minam River are given special consideration by the Oregon
16 Department of Transportation, and it indicates that no uses conflicting with these protected
17 resources are anticipated.

18 Based on the specific content of the existing plan documents, IPC concludes that Union County
19 has identified the Blue Mountain Forest Wayside and the Minam River as important scenic
20 resources. The Minam River is located more than 10 miles outside the analysis area and will not
21 be addressed further in this exhibit. The Blue Mountain Forest Wayside is within the analysis
22 area, and the Project effects on the scenic resource are addressed in the Exhibit. Union County
23 planning staff indicated there are no planned updates or amendments to the comprehensive
24 plan at this time (Jenkins 2012).

25 ***Baker County, Oregon***

26 Part 2, Section V of the Baker County (1993) Comprehensive Plan addresses open space,
27 scenic/historic areas, and natural areas. In the findings regarding Goal V Open Spaces and
28 Scenic Areas, the Plan states that “Scenic views and sites are a resource indigenous to Baker
29 County. Of particular significance are those scenic areas identified by the Oregon Department of
30 Transportation and mapped on Plate 10 in the *Technical Information and Inventory Data for*
31 *Land Use Planning in Baker County*. The County, in its application of the Goal 5 Administrative
32 Rule identifies these as 2A resources pursuant to OAR 660-10-000” (p. V-68). Applicable
33 conclusions and policies indicate that “Natural Areas identified as 2A sites are to be protected to
34 ensure the preservation of the resource site” (p. V-79) and that “Those resources collectively
35 known as scenic resources and sights are identified, after review, as not in known conflict with
36 other land uses and as having no impact areas. The County will promote land uses designed to
37 conserve the natural splendor of the region” (p. V-82).

38 The technical information background document referenced above is identified as Appendix I of
39 the Plan. Plate 10 in the appendix is a simple schematic map of scenic routes in Baker County.
40 The map identifies 11 highway segments within the County as scenic routes (Baker County
41 2010). The segments include portions of I-84; U.S. Highway 26; Oregon Highways (OR) 245,
42 203, and 86; and the Halfway-Cornucopia Highway. These highway segments are likewise
43 listed in the July 2000 re-adoption of the comprehensive plan (Baker County 2000), which
44 provides specific highway milepost references for the respective highway segments. They are
45 identified more specifically in Table R-2 and are addressed as important scenic resources in this
46 Exhibit. The maps in Attachment R-2 identify the resource locations based on the milepost
47 references.

1 Baker County planning staff indicated that the comprehensive plan was most recently amended
2 in August of 2012, to adopt an Urban Growth Boundary expansion for the city of Halfway (Long
3 2012). The scenic area designations indicated in Plate 10 of Appendix I, as discussed above,
4 have not been revised or replaced through subsequent amendments.

5 **Malheur County, Oregon**

6 The Malheur County (1982) Comprehensive Plan includes a section titled Natural Resources of
7 Unique Significance (pp. 101–113) that addresses open space, significant natural areas, scenic
8 areas, wilderness areas, and wild and scenic rivers. The Plan content on Scenic Areas states
9 that “Malheur County has no views and sites specifically identified as scenic areas. However,
10 there are an abundance of areas which fall within the category of ‘lands valued for their
11 aesthetic appearance.’ Most of these are components of natural resource lands and are
12 protected from destruction by the Bureau of Land Management and other managers of resource
13 lands” (p. 110). The Plan also states that the county should consider the aesthetic values of
14 areas when it is making land use decisions. (Please refer to Exhibit K for discussion of Project
15 compliance with local land use authorization provisions.)

16 The Plan establishes numerous goals and policies for the respective topical areas. Policies for
17 Natural and Scenic Areas are that (1) within the next 3 years, the Planning Department will
18 review The Nature Conservancy inventory of potential natural and scenic areas and identify
19 those sites that Malheur County believes are significant and should be protected as natural and
20 scenic areas; (2) the Planning Department will continue to inventory the location, quality, and
21 quantity of each area to be protected; and (3) the county will cooperate with agencies
22 responsible for the management of designated natural and scenic areas and encourage the
23 expanded protection of these resources on publicly owned land (p. 226). The Plan also includes
24 a subsequent policy that the county will cooperate with the state and the BLM in their efforts to
25 protect the segments of the Owyhee River designated as a scenic waterway.

26 Based on the specific content of the plan, IPC concludes that Malheur County has to date not
27 identified any scenic resources as important or significant. Malheur County planning staff
28 indicated that recent requests for plan and ordinance updates have not received funding and no
29 update to the plan is anticipated, although the staff will try to resolve some inconsistencies with
30 the state statutes (Beal 2012). Therefore, no scenic resources for Malheur County are
31 addressed in this Exhibit.

32 **Owyhee County, Idaho**

33 The Owyhee County (2010) Comprehensive Plan states that a land use goal is, “c. To protect
34 and maintain soil, water, air, wildlife and other natural environmental and scenic qualities so that
35 they may be utilized now and in the future” (p. 14). Section 8 of the plan addresses Scenic and
36 Natural Areas. The plan notes that “Owyhee County is rich in natural scenic areas. Some of the
37 more outstanding include the Bruneau River Canyon, Owyhee Mountains, Morley Nelson Snake
38 River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, and the Bruneau Sand Dunes State Park”
39 (p. 22).

40 Among the areas identified in the plan, the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National
41 Conservation Area and Bruneau Dunes State Park have defined administrative boundaries that
42 identify the geographic extent of the resource. While the Bruneau River Canyon is a
43 physiographic feature and does not have administrative boundaries, the geographic extent of
44 this feature could be reasonably defined based on the location of the canyon rim. All three of
45 these features are located more than 10 miles outside the analysis area and will not addressed
46 further in this Exhibit.

1 The Owyhee Mountains collectively comprise a physical feature that occupies a large majority of
2 the area within Owyhee County, as well as adjacent areas in Oregon. While there may be a
3 common, general understanding of the term “Owyhee Mountains” among residents of the
4 region, there is no defined boundary and no established construct for the geographic extent of
5 the area. Consequently, IPC concludes that the plan language is not sufficiently specific to
6 define the Owyhee Mountains as an important scenic resource to be considered in this Exhibit.
7 IPC also notes that lands in and near the Owyhee Mountains are predominantly federal lands
8 administered by the BLM, and that important scenic resources in this area have been identified
9 based on BLM visual resource management classifications (see Section 3.4.1.5).

10 **Canyon County, Idaho**

11 The Canyon County (2011) 2020 Comprehensive Plan was reviewed for content regarding
12 designated scenic resources or sites. The plan includes a Natural Resources Component
13 (Chapter 6) and a Special Areas, Sites and Recreation Component (Chapter 10).

14 The Natural Resources Component (pp. 43–48) addresses agricultural land, fish and wildlife
15 habitat, water, air, and mineral resources; it does not include background information or
16 planning guidance specific to scenic resources.

17 The Special Areas, Sites and Recreation Component (pp. 63–72) likewise does not include
18 background information or planning guidance specific to scenic resources. This chapter
19 presents an overview of the county’s history, followed by statements of goals, policies, and
20 implementation actions applicable to a lengthy list of recreation resources. On page 63 the Plan
21 states “For information regarding natural resource features, ecologic, wildlife or scenic
22 significance pertaining to special areas or sites, refer to Chapter 6 of this Plan.” As noted above,
23 however, Chapter 6 does not include information or guidance specific to scenic resources. In
24 addition, the goals, policies, and implementation actions stated in Chapter 10 refer to special
25 areas, recreational opportunities and facilities, and various types of cultural resources, but do
26 not refer specifically to scenic resources or sites. Therefore, interpretation of the applicable
27 language in Chapters 6 and 10 of the Plan indicates that the document does not identify
28 significant scenic resources in the county.

29 Chapter 10 of the Plan does include a 6-page table of recreational resources within the county
30 that are grouped according to the category of opportunity they provide (e.g., archeology, bird
31 watching, fishing, hiking, historic, and photography). Under the category “Scenic,” the table lists
32 six resources: the Boise River (which is bordered by lands under private and public ownership);
33 Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (under federal ownership); the Lower Dam and Upper Dam
34 Recreation Areas on Lake Lowell (County ownership); and Guffy Bridge and Lizard Butte (both
35 also under County ownership). The Plan includes a map of Recreation and Special Sites on
36 which the Boise River and Deer Flat are identified and labeled by name, the Lower and Upper
37 Dam areas as shown as parks, Guffy Bridge is labeled as a sportsman’s access and Lizard
38 Butte is identified as a geologic feature; no resources identified on the map are categorized as
39 scenic sites. The Plan does not prescribe scenic management direction for the recreation
40 resources listed under the Scenic category. Because the Plan does not state or suggest that the
41 recreational features identified in the Scenic category warranted specific resource protection,
42 IPC concluded that the Plan did not identify them as important scenic resources.

43 Based on the specific content of the plan, IPC concludes that there are no features within
44 Canyon County that are identified as important or significant scenic resources.

45 **Washington County, Idaho**

46 The Washington County (2010) Comprehensive Plan was reviewed for designated scenic
47 resources or sites. The Natural Resources section of the Plan (pp. 34–37) addresses animal,

1 vegetation, mineral and water resources; scenic resources are not discussed in this section of
2 the Plan. The Recreation section of the Plan (pp. 51–56) lists 11 objectives in support of the
3 goal to ensure the availability of adequate recreational facilities; one of the stated objectives is
4 that the County shall consider properly identifying recreation potential and scenic points of
5 interest. This part of the Plan also states (p. 53) that “Scenery ranges from mountain to desert,
6 for those artists who paint or use a camera. Indianhead Mountain is a landmark which has been
7 featured in many photographs and paintings, both by local and nationally known artists.”
8 However, the Plan does not prescribe scenic management direction for the area or indicate
9 interest in development of a scenic point of interest. For this reason, IPC has concluded that the
10 Plan did not identify it as an important scenic resource. Therefore, based on the specific content
11 of the plan, IPC concludes that there are no features within Washington County that are
12 identified as important or significant scenic resources.

13 ***Klickitat County, Washington***

14 Comprehensive planning direction for Klickitat County is incorporated into the County's zoning
15 ordinance, which was originally adopted in 1979 and has been amended more than 20 times
16 since. The zoning ordinance (Klickitat County 2012a) establishes a number of zoning districts,
17 based on use classifications, and does not specifically identify scenic resources. One of the
18 zoning districts is the Scenic Design (SD) district, for which the stated purpose is to protect
19 vistas, views, and aesthetics of the scenery of the county. Another district is the View Protection
20 District (VP), for which the stated purpose is to protect and preserve the view potential of
21 property owners with exceptionally scenic panoramas.

22 The analysis area includes only a small portion of Klickitat County, specifically a narrow band
23 along the Columbia River in the southeastern corner of the county. The county zoning map
24 (Klickitat County 2012b) does not identify any areas with the SD designation or the VP
25 designation within the analysis area.

26 The Shorelines Master Plan was prepared in 1996, adopted in 1998, and amended in 2001 and
27 2007 (Klickitat County 2007). The plan was developed in response to the Washington State
28 Shoreline Management Act of 1971 and supplements the Klickitat County Comprehensive Plan,
29 and was therefore considered in the review of local land use plans. The Shorelines Master Plan
30 applies to all streams with a mean annual flow greater than 20 cubic feet per second, and lakes,
31 impoundments and reservoirs larger than 20 acres, as well as to lands extending 200 feet from
32 the ordinary high water line or floodway, whichever is greater. It also applies to wetlands within
33 the 100-year floodplain, and to Shorelines of State-wide Significance. This plan acknowledges
34 the designations of the White Salmon and Klickitat rivers as national Wild and Scenic Rivers, as
35 well as the designation of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area; however, none of these
36 scenic areas are located within the analysis area.

37 Based on the specific content of the zoning ordinance and map and the shoreline master plan,
38 IPC concludes that no features within the Klickitat County portion of the analysis area are
39 identified as important or significant scenic resources.

40 ***Benton County, Washington***

41 The current Benton County (2006) Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2006; updates to the
42 plan are scheduled to occur every 7 years (Benton County 2012), indicating that the next update
43 could be expected in 2013. The plan includes chapters addressing Natural Resources, Goals,
44 Policies and Actions, and the various plan elements (e.g., Land Use, Rural Lands, and Parks
45 and Recreation). The topics covered in the Natural Resources and Parks and Recreation
46 chapters do not include scenic resources. The Plan establishes Goal 40-1 (p. 3-13) “To
47 conserve as undeveloped and unmarked for posterity the visually prominent naturally vegetated
48 ridges that define the Columbia Basin landscape and are uniquely a product of the Ice Age

1 Floods.” The corresponding policies include a statement that the County encourages public
2 and/or private acquisition of the prominent ridges within the unincorporated areas of the County
3 to preserve views, protect habitat and provide public access to these landscapes. Another policy
4 states that the County should be open to a variety of means to protect the natural landforms and
5 vegetative cover of the Rattlesnake uplift, specifically Rattlesnake, Red, Candy, and Badger
6 mountains at or above elevation 900 feet. The Plan content is somewhat ambiguous, but could
7 be considered to identify these mountains as important scenic resources.

8 The analysis area includes a small area in the southwestern part of Benton County, extending
9 westward from approximately I-82 near Plymouth to the boundary with Klickitat County. The
10 Rattlesnake uplift features referenced above are not included within this portion of Benton
11 County. IPC concludes that no features within the Benton County portion of the analysis area
12 are identified as important or significant scenic resources.

13 **3.4.1.2 Municipalities**

14 Seventeen (17) municipalities are located within the analysis area. Comprehensive plan
15 information related to scenic resources is summarized below for these cities, which are grouped
16 according to the county in which they are situated.

17 **City of Boardman**

18 Boardman is an incorporated community located on the Columbia River in the northwestern part
19 of Morrow County, with a population of approximately 3,220 persons (Portland State University
20 2011). The City of Boardman (2003) adopted its Comprehensive Plan and land use regulations
21 in 1976 and completed an initial review of the plan and regulations in 1988. The current
22 Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2003, following another review that began in 1999. The
23 plan includes 14 chapters; Chapter V, Natural Resources (p. 11) states: “Due to the City’s
24 topography, vegetation, and existing infrastructure development, the City believes there are
25 limited scenic views, none of which could be considered outstanding.” IPC concludes the City of
26 Boardman has not identified any features as important or significant scenic resources.

27 **City of Irrigon**

28 Irrigon is an incorporated community located on the Columbia River in the northeastern part of
29 Morrow County, with a population of approximately 1,825 persons (Portland State University
30 2011). The City of Irrigon (2005) initially developed a comprehensive plan as part of a technical
31 report that was completed in 1978 and updated in 1991 and 2005 (Oregon Secretary of State
32 2012). Chapter V of the Plan addresses the Natural Environment, while Chapter VI addresses
33 the Socio-Economic Environment; neither chapter includes topical coverage for scenic areas or
34 resources. Chapter IV, Goals and Objectives, includes a goal (p. A-2) to “Conserve open space
35 and protect natural and scenic resources.” The policy statement corresponding to that goal is to
36 “Examine any publicly owned lands including street rights-of-way for their potential open space
37 use before their disposition.”

38 Comprehensive planning guidance and zoning are integrated into the City’s development code,
39 which is documented as Title 10 of the Irrigon City Code (Sterling Codifiers, Inc. 2012). The land
40 use districts defined in Chapter 2 of the development code correspond to the Comprehensive
41 Plan designations and do not include any districts oriented to scenic resources. Chapter 3 of the
42 development code establishes community design standards that apply to proposed land use
43 actions; the standards include provisions that relate to the aesthetic aspects of development,
44 but not to geographic areas or features for which aesthetic concerns have been identified.

45 Based on the specific content of the comprehensive plan and development code, IPC concludes
46 that there are no features within the City of Irrigon identified as important or significant scenic

1 resources. City staff confirmed that no significant scenic resources were identified in the original
2 comprehensive plan or any subsequent updates (Breazeale 2012).

3 **City of Lone**

4 Lone is a small, incorporated community located in the west-central part of Morrow County, with
5 a population of approximately 330 persons (Portland State University 2011). The City of Lone
6 (1999) initially developed a comprehensive plan and implementing regulations that were
7 approved in 1979 and have been subsequently amended several times. Section 5 of the Plan
8 establishes Plan Goals and Policies for a series of topical areas corresponding to the statewide
9 planning goals. Section 5 states a policy for Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas, and
10 natural resources to “Examine any publicly owned lands including street rights-of-way for their
11 potential open space use before their disposition; and conserve the area’s natural resources
12 and protect open space and natural resources which should be preserved from urban
13 development.”

14 The lone zoning ordinance (Ordinance #158, as amended) implements the Comprehensive
15 Plan (City of Lone 1999). The ordinance defines land use districts and establishes corresponding
16 standards for the districts, along with other development standards.

17 Based on the available information about the content of the comprehensive plan and zoning
18 code, IPC concludes that there are no features within the City of Lone identified as important or
19 significant scenic resources.

20 **City of Umatilla**

21 Umatilla is a small city with approximately 6,905 residents (Portland State University 2011)
22 located on the Columbia River in the northwestern part of Umatilla County. The City of Umatilla
23 (2010) Comprehensive Plan includes an element titled Open Space, Scenic and Historic Areas,
24 and Natural Resources. This element of the Plan addresses fish and wildlife resources, aquatic
25 resources, drylands (sagebrush), ground water, gravel and historic sites, but includes no
26 substantive content regarding scenic areas. The Goals, Objectives, and Policies chapter of the
27 Plan (pp. 6-7) includes a goal “To protect and enhance through proper use and development the
28 open spaces, scenic and historic areas, and natural resources of the area.” The statements of
29 objectives and policies corresponding to that goal do not include any specific references to
30 scenic areas or resources. IPC concludes that there are no features within the City of Umatilla
31 identified as important or significant scenic resources.

32 **City of Hermiston**

33 Hermiston is a community of approximately 16,795 residents (Portland State University 2011)
34 located along I-84 in the northwestern corner of Umatilla County. The City of Hermiston (2012)
35 initially developed a comprehensive plan and supporting technical report in 1984, and the plan
36 is updated through amendments to the city development code. Chapter II of the Plan documents
37 Background Information and Findings. Under the heading Other Goal 5 Resources, this chapter
38 indicates: “According to Oregon State Parks and Recreation Division, there are no wilderness
39 areas, potential or approved Oregon wilderness trails, or state and federal wild/scenic
40 waterways within the Hermiston UGB. Other Goal 5 resources, including outstanding scenic
41 views/sites and indigenous energy resources, are discussed in the appropriate sections below.”
42 (City of Hermiston 1984). Subsequent content in Chapter II addresses air, noise, and water
43 quality; natural hazards and development limitations; energy resources and conservation; and
44 open space and recreation, but does not include specific information about scenic sites or
45 views.

1 Chapter III of the Plan identifies policies for the respective topical areas. Under the heading E.
2 Resources (Goals 5, 6, 7 and 13), Policy 7 (p. III-10), the Plan states: “The City of Hermiston will
3 protect natural resources to the maximum degree possible.” The subsequent discussion of
4 implementing actions references the Open Space designation applied to the 100-year
5 floodplain, wetlands in the northeastern part of the city, and the Oregon State University
6 Agricultural Experiment Station. A footnote related to Policy 7 states that “For other Goal 5
7 resources, see Policy 8: Surface and Groundwater Resources, Policy 9: Aggregate Resources,
8 Policy 10: Historic Resources, and Policy 16: Parks, Recreation and Open Space.” Policy 16 (p.
9 III-18) indicates that Hermiston will acquire and develop additional parks and will preserve as
10 open space city-owned land that possesses recreational, scenic and other environmental
11 qualities or is subject to natural hazards.

12 Based on the specific content of the comprehensive plan, IPC concludes that there are no
13 features within the City of Hermiston identified as important or significant scenic resources.

14 **City of Stanfield**

15 Stanfield is an incorporated community with a population of approximately 2,045 residents
16 (Portland State University 2011) located adjacent to I-84 in the in the northwestern part of
17 Umatilla County. The City of Stanfield (2001) initially adopted a comprehensive plan in 1983.
18 The technical report supporting the comprehensive plan was updated in 1984, and a zoning
19 ordinance was adopted in the same year. The plan and technical report include 14 goals
20 corresponding to the 14 statewide planning goals. Comprehensive planning guidance and
21 zoning are integrated into the City of Stanfield (2012) development code. The land use districts
22 defined in Chapter 2 of the development code correspond to the comprehensive plan
23 designations; they include an Open Space (OS) District, but do not include any districts oriented
24 to scenic resources. Chapter 3 of the development code establishes design standards that
25 include landscaping and screening provisions that relate to the aesthetic aspects of
26 development. The development code does not identify geographic areas or features for which
27 aesthetic concerns have been identified.

28 Based on the specific content of the comprehensive plan and development code, IPC concludes
29 that there are no features within the City of Stanfield identified as important or significant scenic
30 resources.

31 **City of Pilot Rock**

32 Pilot Rock is an incorporated community with a population of approximately 1,505 residents
33 (Portland State University 2011) located near the center of Umatilla County. The City of Pilot
34 Rock (1979) Comprehensive Plan addresses statewide Goal 5 concerning natural resources.
35 The Goals and Policies section of the Plan (p. V-3) establishes a goal: “To conserve open space
36 and protect natural, scenic, historic and cultural resources.” The first of eight policies defined in
37 support of that goal is to “identify open spaces; scenic, cultural and historic areas; and natural
38 resources which should be preserved from urban development.” The second policy is: “To
39 distribute open space throughout the urban area to insure visual relief within the urban
40 environment and to provide sufficient space for passive and active recreation.” Content
41 elsewhere in the Plan does not discuss or identify any specific scenic resources. The Natural
42 Environment (Chapter VII) and Socioeconomic Environment (Chapter VIII) sections of the plan
43 each address multiple topical areas, but scenic areas are not included in either chapter. A 2001
44 update of the plan includes the same content regarding Goal 5 resources (City of Pilot Rock
45 2001). IPC concludes that there are no features within the City of Pilot Rock identified as
46 important or significant scenic resources.

1 **City of Pendleton**

2 Pendleton is a community of approximately 16,605 residents (Portland State University 2011)
3 located along I-84 near the center of Umatilla County, and is the county seat. The City of
4 Pendleton initially developed a comprehensive plan as part of a technical report that was
5 completed in 1983 and updated in 1990. Chapter I of the Plan/technical report (p. TR-2)
6 identifies a goal “[t]o conserve open space and protect natural and scenic resources,” and
7 directs that “[p]rograms shall be provided that will (1) ensure open space; (2) protect scenic and
8 historic areas and natural resources for future generations; and (3) promote healthy and visually
9 attractive environments in harmony with the natural landscape character” (City of Pendleton,
10 1990). Chapter II of the Plan addresses Nature, and the Open Space section of that chapter
11 includes a discussion of Scenic Areas. The scenic areas content (p. TR-44, 45) indicates that
12 the Umatilla River and its tributaries constitute the most significant scenic area in the city, and
13 that any urban use that intrudes into the vegetation or alters the banks of the levee may conflict
14 with the scenic beauty of the waterway. Correspondingly, the Plan states that the city needs to
15 have a permit process to review all development within a specific distance of the floodway to
16 ensure compatibility of any development along the river and protect and enhance the scenic
17 values of the waterways.

18 Based on the specific content of the Plan, IPC concludes that the Umatilla River and its
19 tributaries within the City of Pendleton have been identified as an important or significant scenic
20 resource. Pendleton is located just within the 10-mile radius for the analysis area, and the
21 Umatilla River is addressed in this Exhibit.

22 **City of La Grande**

23 La Grande is a community of approximately 13,095 residents (Portland State University 2011)
24 located along I-84 near the center of Union County, and is the county seat. The City of La
25 Grande (2009) prepared its original Comprehensive Plan in 1973, and approved updates of the
26 plan in 1977, 1990, 1999, 2003, 2005, and 2009. The most recent update was documented as
27 Ordinance Number 3182. The section of the ordinance addressing Statewide Planning Goal 5 –
28 Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Natural Resources includes the following
29 information (pp. 23-24) regarding Scenic Views and Sites:

30 *The primary scenic resources under jurisdiction by the City are contained in the park*
31 *system. There are other scenic attractions in the area but most of these are seen from*
32 *La Grande and are not in La Grande. No official scenic viewpoints have been*
33 *designated. The City Land Development Code does contain building height restrictions*
34 *that serve to preserve views of the surrounding mountains. Developers have the option*
35 *to further regulate building heights by deed restriction in areas where views are*
36 *important.*

37 The ordinance also discusses the portion of the Grande Ronde River that has been designated
38 as a federal wild and scenic river and a state scenic waterway, and notes that this river segment
39 is some distance from La Grande and is not within the jurisdiction of the City.

40 The 2009 update to the plan addressed an expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary and
41 revisions to Chapter 9 on economic development. Planning staff indicated the City is currently in
42 the process of additional plan amendments, which will address the plan chapters on Goals 9, 11,
43 and 12, and expects adoption of those changes in 2013 (Boquist 2012). City staff also
44 confirmed that La Grande does not have any standards that protect viewsheds.

45 Based on the specific content of the comprehensive plan, IPC concludes that there are no
46 features within the City of La Grande identified as important or significant scenic resources.

1 City of Island City

2 Island City is an incorporated community located just northeast of La Grande in Union County,
3 with a population of approximately 440 persons (Portland State University 2011). Island City
4 (1984) initially developed a comprehensive plan in 1980 and replaced the plan in 1984. The
5 most recent plan update was adopted in 2001 (Oregon Secretary of State 2012). Chapter II of
6 the plan includes a section addressing Goal V: Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas, and
7 Natural Resources. With respect to Scenic Views and Sites, the plan (p. 19) states “There are
8 no specifically designated scenic views or sites to protect in the City.” The policy statements
9 applicable to Goal V indicate that public facilities will be designed and maintained to be visually
10 attractive, and identify concerns (such as maintaining vegetative cover and minimizing the size
11 of signs) that will be taken into account in protecting visual attractiveness. Based on the specific
12 content of the comprehensive plan, IPC concludes that there are no features within Island City
13 identified as important or significant scenic resources.

14 City of Union

15 Union is an incorporated community located southeast of La Grande in Union County, with a
16 population of approximately 2,130 persons (Portland State University 2011). The City of Union
17 (1984) Land Use Plan addresses the applicable statewide planning goals. With respect to
18 Scenic Views and Sites, the Section of the plan addressing Goal 5: Open Spaces, Scenic and
19 Historic Areas, and Natural Resources (p. 17) states “No specific sites have been identified
20 within the community by private or governmental sources. The hills flanking Catherine Creek to
21 the east and Craig Mountain to the west provide a peaceful backdrop for many areas of the
22 City.” However, there is no language suggesting that the plan intends that these hills should be
23 accorded any heightened protections. IPC concludes that there are no features within the City of
24 Union identified any important or significant scenic resources.

25 City of North Powder

26 North Powder is a small, incorporated community with a population of approximately 440
27 persons (Portland State University 2011) located at the southern edge of Union County. State
28 records indicate a comprehensive plan for the city was acknowledged in 1983 (Oregon
29 Secretary of State 2012). IPC has not been able to access a record of the plan. The City of
30 North Powder does not maintain a website and no City documents are on file with the statewide
31 repository for planning documents at the University of Oregon. IPC’s consultant submitted an
32 electronic mail request for a copy of the plan in June 2012 and received no response. A
33 subsequent attempted telephone contact also received no response. City staff ultimately replied
34 to an October 2012 voicemail message, indicating that the City’s plan had not been updated
35 since it was adopted but that the plan would be updated over the next 3 to 4 years (Wendt
36 2012). City staff also noted that the plan does not include specific language identifying scenic
37 resources. Based on the available information, IPC concludes that there are no features within
38 the City of North Powder identified as important or significant scenic resources.

39 City of Haines

40 Haines is a small, incorporated community located in the northeastern part of Baker County,
41 with a population of approximately 415 persons (Portland State University 2011). Part 2 of the
42 City of Haines (1979) Comprehensive Land Use Plan presents goals, policies, and
43 recommendations. With respect to Open Space, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Natural
44 Resources, the plan (p. 3) identifies a goal “To conserve open space and protect natural,
45 cultural, historical and scenic resources.” The goal is accompanied by a policy statement that
46 the significance of historical sites will be protected, and a recommendation that a zoning
47 ordinance be established to ensure continuation of the town character and visual attractiveness.

1 A portion of the plan document is titled “Technical Information and Inventory Data for Land Use
2 Planning.” Chapter 4 of that material addresses Historical, Recreational, Cultural, Scenic, or
3 Forest Areas; it includes statements that there are no wild or scenic waterways inventoried for
4 Haines and that there are no designated scenic areas either within the City of Haines or along
5 Highway 30 or Anthony Lakes Highway nearby but outside the town.

6 Based on the specific content of the comprehensive plan, IPC concludes that there are no
7 features within the City of Haines identified as important or significant scenic resources.

8 **City of Baker City**

9 Baker City, the county seat for Baker County, is located along I-84 near the center of the county
10 and has a population of approximately 9,830 persons (Portland State University 2011). The
11 introductory section of the City of Baker (1978) Comprehensive Plan restates the statewide
12 planning goals. With respect to Goal 5, “To conserve open space and protect natural and scenic
13 resources,” the Plan (p. 1) states “Refer to Public Facilities and Services – Parks and
14 Recreation, Existing Natural Features and Land Use, Land Suitability, Historic Preservation.”
15 None of the referenced sections of the Plan discusses scenic resources or identifies any such
16 features as significant or important. The City has made many minor revisions to the plan since it
17 was adopted, most recently in 2012; the revisions have been to implement specific changes in
18 zoning and the Urban Growth Boundary, and a full update of the plan is not anticipated (Long
19 2012).

20 Based on the specific content of the comprehensive plan, IPC concludes that there are no
21 features within Baker City identified as important or significant scenic resources.

22 **City of Huntington**

23 The City of Huntington is a small, incorporated community located in the southeastern corner of
24 Baker County, with a population of approximately 440 persons (Portland State University 2011).
25 State records indicate that a comprehensive plan for the city was acknowledged in 1980 and
26 reviewed in 1998 (Oregon Secretary of State 2012). To date IPC has been unsuccessful in
27 attempts to access or obtain a copy of the comprehensive plan. A Transportation System Plan
28 for the City indicates that a Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the City was approved in July
29 1987, but does not address comprehensive plan contents other than the transportation goal
30 (City of Huntington 2001). No other City planning documents are on file with the statewide
31 repository for planning documents at the University of Oregon. The City does not maintain a
32 website, and information about City policies and documents appears to have extremely limited
33 availability. IPC’s consultant submitted an electronic mail request for a copy of the plan in June
34 2012 and received no response. A subsequent attempted telephone contact also received no
35 response. IPC’s consultant again attempted to contact City staff by telephone on October 31,
36 2012, and left a voicemail request with the assistant city recorder for a return phone call. No
37 response to that request has been received to date.

38 Based on the content of comprehensive plans for other incorporated communities of
39 comparable size within the analysis area, IPC concludes that there are no features within the
40 City of Huntington identified as important or significant scenic resources.

41 **City of Vale**

42 Vale is an incorporated community with a population of approximately 1,875 residents (Portland
43 State University 2011) located in the northeastern part of Malheur County, and is the county
44 seat. The City adopted its original Comprehensive Plan in 1977, and completed updates of the
45 plan in 1992, 1998, and 2003 (City of Vale 2003). Chapter 5 of the plan addresses Natural and
46 Historic Resources; the discussion in that chapter and the corresponding strategies are limited

1 to geothermal resources and historic preservation, and do not include coverage of scenic
2 resources. Similarly, Appendix II: Land Capabilities and Natural Resources includes information
3 about soil characteristics, natural hazards, agricultural land, geothermal energy and gravel, with
4 no discussion of scenic resources. The City development code is available online, and the code
5 does not identify protection of scenic resources as the purpose for any of the zoning districts.

6 Based on the content of the Comprehensive Plan and development code, IPC concludes that
7 there are no features within the City of Vale identified as important or significant scenic
8 resources.

9 **City of Adrian**

10 Adrian is a small, incorporated community located near the Oregon/Idaho state line in the
11 northeastern part of Malheur County, with a population of approximately 175 persons (Portland
12 State University 2011). The City of Adrian (1978) prepared a draft Comprehensive Plan in 1978,
13 and a plan was adopted in 1980 (City of Adrian 1998). The draft plan includes a brief summary
14 of Land Capabilities and Natural Resources (p. 11) and a more detailed description of natural
15 resources in Appendix B; Appendix B addresses geology, soils, climate, and water resources,
16 but does not include information about scenic resources. Similarly, Appendix A documents
17 policy objectives that address environmental quality and wildlife habitat, but do not include
18 policies regarding scenic resources.

19 Based on the specific content of the comprehensive plan, IPC concludes that there are no
20 features within the city of Adrian identified as important or significant scenic resources.

21 **3.4.1.3 State Plans**

22 In response to the Project Order and related communications from ODOE, IPC reviewed
23 applicable management plans prepared by or on behalf of State of Oregon agencies for
24 potential identification of significant or important scenic resources. (IPC notes that state
25 management plans are not specifically referenced in OAR 345-021-0010(1)(r), defining the
26 requirements for Exhibit R in an Application for Site Certificate (ASC), or in OAR 345-022-
27 0080(1), defining the EFSC Scenic Resource Standard. IPC has nevertheless provided
28 information about state management plans as requested.) This review included plans for state
29 park system units, several state wildlife areas, state scenic waterways, and state scenic
30 byways. The results of this review are summarized below.

31 **State Park System Units**

32 OPRD is the state agency responsible for managing the state park system. The system includes
33 approximately 186 total units, which are variously classified as state parks, state trails, state
34 recreation areas or sites, state natural areas or sites, state scenic viewpoints or corridors, state
35 waysides, and state heritage areas or sites. To date, OPRD (2012a) has completed
36 approximately 43 master plans addressing approximately 186 state park system units, and is
37 currently developing master plans for an additional 5 units. The analysis area for scenic
38 resources includes seven park system units (the Emigrant Springs State Heritage Area, Blue
39 Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor, Hilgard Junction State Recreation Area, Red Bridge
40 State Wayside, Farewell Bend State Recreation Area, Lake Owyhee State Park, and Succor
41 Creek State Natural Area); none of these units are addressed by the completed or draft plans
42 that OPRD has prepared to date. Therefore, this Exhibit does not address any significant or
43 important scenic resources based on their specific identification as such features in applicable
44 state plans. IPC notes, however, that portions of the Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor
45 are identified in this exhibit as important scenic resources based on the content of Union County
46 and USFS plans. In addition, all seven state park system units listed above are represented by
47 KOPs used in the detailed impact analysis for scenic resources.

1 **State Wildlife Areas**

2 Portions of four wildlife areas (Coyote Springs, Ladd Marsh, Elkhorn, and Snake River Islands)
3 managed by ODFW are located within the analysis area for Exhibit R. To date, ODFW (2006,
4 2008a, 2008b) has prepared management plans addressing the Elkhorn, Coyote Springs, and
5 Ladd Marsh wildlife areas. Each plan includes a purpose and need statement; a description of
6 the wildlife area environment, including physical and biological resources, the social
7 environment and public use; and statements of goals, objectives, and strategies for ODFW
8 management of the unit. These plans focus on the wildlife and habitat resources present within
9 the respective wildlife areas, and how those resources are to be managed to meet the defined
10 purposes. Scenic resources or the visual qualities of the environment are not discussed in the
11 plans, either as an existing resource value or as a management objective for these areas. Each
12 plan identifies a goal to provide a variety of wildlife-oriented public recreational and educational
13 opportunities that are compatible with the wildlife and habitat goals identified for the units, but
14 those opportunities are not associated with scenic resources or visual qualities. Based on the
15 content of the respective wildlife area plans, IPC concludes that ODFW has not identified any
16 scenic resources as significant or important.

17 **State Scenic Waterways**

18 Under the Scenic Waterways Act of 1970, the State of Oregon has designated portions of 19
19 rivers and 1 lake as State Scenic Waterways. OPRD has administrative responsibility for the
20 designated river segments. While scenic waterways are located in or near counties within which
21 the Project would be sited, there are no State Scenic Waterways within the analysis area
22 defined for Exhibit R. Therefore, this Exhibit does not address any scenic resources based on
23 identification in management plans for State Scenic Waterways (OPRD 2012b).

24 **State Scenic Byways**

25 The Oregon Scenic Byways Program, administered by the Oregon Department of
26 Transportation (ODOT), currently includes 24 highway routes that have been designated as All-
27 American Roads, National Scenic Byways, Oregon State Scenic Byways, or Oregon Tour
28 Routes (ODOT 2012). Portions of four of those routes are located within the analysis area: the
29 Hells Canyon Scenic Byway All-American Road and the Journey Through Time, Blue Mountain,
30 and Elkhorn Drive State Scenic Byways. Byway designation occurs as a result of applications
31 submitted by local sponsor organizations that are reviewed by a Scenic Byways Advisory
32 Committee for consistency with established statewide criteria. A key provision of the byways
33 program is that roads designated as byways are to have corridor management plans developed
34 by the local applicant. IPC reviewed the following management plans prepared for scenic
35 byways within the analysis area to determine whether they identified scenic resources as
36 significant or important.

37 **Hells Canyon Scenic Byway All-American Road**

38 The Hells Canyon Scenic Byway was designated as a National Forest Scenic Byway by the
39 USFS in 1992, as an Oregon Scenic Byway in 1996, and as an All-American Road in 2000
40 (Hells Canyon Scenic Byway Committee 2004). The byway route includes portions of OR 82,
41 86, and 350, and Forest Road 39 in Union, Wallowa, and Baker counties. The corridor
42 management plan for the byway identifies five goals for the byway, of which Goal I (page 6) is to
43 "Showcase the unique, diverse and outstanding scenery in Northeast Oregon." Objectives
44 associated with that goal are to (a) apply scenic quality objectives within public land
45 management actions; (b) complete a viewshed management plan for the byway; (c) work with
46 county and state highway departments to help capture and maintain the characteristic
47 landscape of the byway; and (d) develop an interpretation plan that identifies specific
48 construction actions. The plan describes the intrinsic scenic quality of the area around the

1 byway as truly outstanding and of national significance, and references general characteristics
2 such as upland range, lush valleys, wild and scenic rivers, dramatic basalt formations, thick
3 forests, magnificent peaks, and several man-made elements that add to the scenic quality. In
4 regard to management and development strategies related to the intrinsic quality assessment,
5 the plan notes that the USFS, BLM, and Union, Wallowa, and Baker counties have the primary
6 responsibility to identify, evaluate, protect, document, manage, and review land use plans for
7 their jurisdiction along the route.

8 The existing conditions inventory of the plan includes a section addressing visual resource
9 management and recreation opportunities (Hells Canyon Scenic Byway Committee 2004). With
10 respect to visual resource management, this section describes the concepts of visual quality
11 objectives, landscape character type, distance zones, variety classes and sensitivity levels that
12 are employed in the USFS and BLM visual resource systems. A review of scenic views and
13 landmarks references 31 points or features of interest within the surrounding region that can be
14 accessed from the byway. Some of these places are defined rather specifically (e.g., Indian
15 Rock Viewpoint, the Lick Creek Guard Station and the Wallowa Mountains Visitor Center), while
16 others are much more general in nature (including all of the communities along the route,
17 “pastoral views,” and the Wallowa Mountains).

18 Although the corridor management plan includes discussion of the landscape and scenic
19 qualities within the byway region, it does not include language that clearly identifies specific
20 scenic resources as significant or important scenic resources. The plan recognizes the
21 responsibilities of the federal land management agencies and the counties for land use
22 planning, and appears to defer to those responsibilities regarding management of scenic quality.
23 Therefore, IPC concludes that this plan does not identify important or significant scenic
24 resources for the purpose of the Exhibit R analysis. Notwithstanding that conclusion, however,
25 IPC notes that multiple locations along the byway within the analysis area are identified as
26 KOPs in the assessment documented in Attachment R-1.

27 **Journey Through Time Scenic Byway**

28 The Journey Through Time State Scenic Byway is a 286-mile route through north-central
29 Oregon. The route extends from the Columbia River at Biggs to Baker City, and includes
30 segments of U.S. Highways 97 and 26 and OR 218, 19 and 7. The byway was originally
31 designated as a State Tour Route and subsequently became a State Scenic Byway.
32 Approximately 10 miles of OR 7 approaching Baker City, at the eastern end of the byway, are
33 within the analysis area.

34 A management plan for the Journey Through Time Tour Route was prepared in 1996. The plan
35 focuses on improvements that would be undertaken by participating counties, cities, and other
36 partner organizations to enhance the experience of people traveling the route (Michael Wetter
37 and Associates 1996). The plan is not a land management plan and does not grant or imply
38 authority for land use management for any lands including those within the highway rights-of-
39 way. The plan identifies goals to create jobs, maintain rural lifestyles, protect important values of
40 the region’s heritage, and build identity for the surrounding region. Objectives to support the
41 rural lifestyle goal are to interpret industry, support authenticity and attract quality visitors;
42 objectives to protect important values are to protect historical attractions and educate visitors.

43 Although the management plan lists 23 “highlights” along the route (some of which are quite
44 specific, such as the Sherman County Museum in Moro, and others that are quite general, such
45 as “unusual rock formations”) and includes references to scenic views (e.g., Picture Gorge and
46 the Strawberry Mountains), it does not identify specific scenic resources or views within the
47 Project analysis area. Therefore, this plan does not identify important or significant scenic
48 resources for the purpose of the Exhibit R analysis.

1 **Blue Mountain Scenic Byway**

2 The Blue Mountain State Scenic Byway is a 145-mile route through north-central Oregon,
3 extending from Arlington on the Columbia River to Baker City. The route includes part of OR 74
4 and segments of multiple county highways and USFS roads. The eastern end of the byway
5 overlaps with the Elkhorn Drive Scenic Byway. The Proposed Corridor crosses the byway twice
6 near Cecil in western Morrow County, and approximately 30 miles at the western end of the
7 byway are within the analysis area.

8 The Blue Mountain Byway was originally designated by the USFS as a National Forest Scenic
9 Byway in 1989. The USFS (1993) subsequently prepared a Blue Mountain National Scenic
10 Byway Interpretive Guide to provide direction for development of interpretive services and visitor
11 accommodations associated with the byway. The route was designated as a state scenic byway
12 in 1997. A corridor management plan for this byway was not prepared following the 1997 state
13 designation, however. While the USFS interpretive guide is not a management plan for the
14 byway, IPC nevertheless reviewed the document for potentially applicable information. The
15 document identifies six goals for interpretation, which include improving public understanding of
16 national forest programs and activities, recognition for the cooperative aspect of byway
17 administration, and encouraging appreciation for cultural resources and history of the region, but
18 do not address scenic resources (USFS 1993). Similarly, the interpretive guide includes a
19 resource inventory section that addresses the environment (geology, wildlife, vegetation, water
20 and fire), heritage, sites (the Oregon Trail, several communities, and facilities such as the
21 Fremont Powerhouse), and uses and events, but not scenic resources.

22 Based on the results of the review, IPC concludes that there is no official management plan for
23 the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway, and that the existing document that most closely resembles a
24 management plan does not identify any important or significant scenic resources. Therefore, no
25 important scenic resources specifically associated with the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway are
26 assessed in the Exhibit R analysis. IPC notes, however, that three locations along the byway
27 within the analysis area are identified as KOPs in the assessment documented in Attachment
28 R-1.

29 **Elkhorn Drive Scenic Byway**

30 The Elkhorn Drive State Scenic Byway is a 106-mile loop route west of Baker City through parts
31 of Baker, Union, and Grant counties. The route includes parts of U.S. Highway 30, OR 7,
32 multiple county highways, and Forest Road 73. The byway overlaps with parts of the Blue
33 Mountain and Journey Through Time Scenic Byways. The eastern part of the byway is within
34 the analysis area.

35 The history of the Elkhorn Drive is very similar to that for the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway, as
36 described above. The Elkhorn Drive was originally designated by the USFS as a National Forest
37 Scenic Byway in 1989. The route was designated as a state scenic byway in 1997. The USFS
38 prepared a visitor services and management plan for the Elkhorn Drive National Forest Scenic
39 Byway in 1994, to provide a strategy for development of visitor services and facilities associated
40 with the byway. The USFS plan was incorporated into a subsequent addendum prepared for the
41 Oregon Scenic Byway Committee (Pound and Koon 1996), evidently as part of the application
42 package for state scenic byway designation. A corridor management plan specific to the state-
43 designated scenic byway was not prepared following the 1997 state designation.

44 The USFS (1994) management plan identifies five goals for plan implementation; they include
45 promoting public understanding of ecosystem management and forest ecology, recognition for
46 the cooperative aspect of byway administration, and encouraging appreciation for cultural
47 resources and history of the region, but do not address scenic resources. Similarly, the plan
48 includes a resource inventory section that addresses the environment (location, climate,

1 topography, geology, water, vegetation, wildlife, and fire), heritage resources (Native
2 Americans, Euro-Americans, and Chinese), sites and features (several communities, and
3 facilities such as the Dooley Highway, Sumpter Valley Dredge, Fremont Powerhouse, and
4 Anthony Lakes Mountain resort), and uses and events, but not scenic resources.

5 IPC concludes that the Elkhorn Drive Scenic Byway management plan does not identify any
6 important or significant scenic resources. Therefore, no important scenic resources specifically
7 associated with the Elkhorn Drive Scenic Byway are assessed in the Exhibit R analysis. IPC
8 notes, however, that multiple locations along or near the byway within the analysis area are
9 identified as KOPs in the assessment documented in Attachment R-1.

10 **3.4.1.4 Tribal Plans**

11 The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) most recently adopted a
12 Comprehensive Plan for the Reservation in 2010. The plan indicates the Tribes' first
13 comprehensive plan was completed in 1979 and updated in 1996. In the current plan,
14 substantive policy direction is presented in Chapter 5 Plan Elements: Goals and Objectives. The
15 chapter addresses 15 elements, including Economy, Land Base Restoration, Community
16 Development, Natural Resources and Cultural Heritage (CTUIR 2010). The resources
17 addressed in Chapter 5 and other portions of the document do not address scenic resources.
18 Based on the content of the Comprehensive Plan, IPC concludes that the CTUIR have not
19 identified any features as significant or important scenic resources.

20 **3.4.1.5 Federal Lands**

21 Federal lands within the analysis area primarily include one national forest, administered by the
22 USFS, and extensive areas managed by the BLM. The BLM jurisdiction includes tracts of land
23 remaining from the original public domain or that have reverted to federal ownership. Smaller
24 areas of federal lands within the analysis area are under the jurisdiction of the DoD, BOR, and
25 the FWS.

26 The scenic resource management direction applied to the resources under the jurisdiction of
27 each agency is summarized in the following subsections.

28 ***Bureau of Land Management***

29 The analysis area overlaps with the geographic boundaries of the BLM Vale, Boise, and
30 Spokane Districts. BLM management plans for those districts have typically addressed planning
31 areas that comprised portions of a district. The review of area-specific BLM planning direction
32 for scenic resources applies to the BLM Baker and Malheur Resource Areas in the Vale District,
33 the Owyhee and Cascade Resource Areas of the Boise District, and the Spokane District.

34 The BLM manages scenic resources on the federal lands under its jurisdiction through
35 application of the Visual Resource Management (VRM) system. The VRM system includes
36 procedures for inventorying scenic values, establishing management objectives for those values
37 through the resource management planning process, and evaluating proposed activities to
38 ensure their compliance with the management objectives. The VRM system consists of two
39 stages: inventory and analysis. The inventory stage involves identifying the visual resources of
40 an area and assigning them to inventory classes using the BLM's visual resource inventory
41 process, as described in BLM Handbook H-8410-1, Visual Resource Inventory (BLM 2001a).
42 The process results in VRM classes that are specific within a BLM District (e.g., Baker or Vale)
43 and becomes an important component of the BLM's Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the
44 area. Lands are then placed into one of four VRM classes. These inventory classes represent
45 the relative value of the existing visual landscape and the level of impacts a proposed project
46 may have on these values. The objectives for VRM classes are as follows (BLM 2001a):

- 1 • Class I – To preserve the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the
2 characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.
- 3 • Class II – To retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the
4 characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should
5 not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic
6 elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the
7 landscape.
- 8 • Class III – To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change
9 to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract
10 attention, but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should
11 repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic
12 landscape.
- 13 • Class IV – To provide for management activities that require major modification of the
14 existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape
15 can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major
16 focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the
17 impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating
18 the basic elements.

19 The analysis stage involves determining whether the potential visual impacts from proposed
20 activities will meet the management objectives established for the area. As discussed in Section
21 3.3, the BLM utilizes guidelines described in BLM Handbook H-8431-1 (BLM 2001b) to rate the
22 degree of visual contrast associated with a proposed activity.

23 IPC reviewed the following federal plans to identify important scenic resources on BLM-
24 managed lands within the Project analysis area:

- 25 • BLM Baker Resource Management Plan (1989);
26 • BLM Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan (2001c);
27 • BLM Owyhee Resource Management Plan (1999)
28 • BLM Cascade Resource Management Plan (1987a)
29 • BLM Spokane Resource Management Plan (1987b).

30 Discussion of management direction for scenic resources documented within those plans is
31 summarized below.

32 **Vale District, Baker Resource Area**

33 BLM-administered lands in Umatilla, Union, and Baker counties are within the Baker Resource
34 Area of the Vale District. The BLM Vale District issued the current RMP for the Baker Resource
35 Area in 1989. Chapter 2 of the RMP provides direction for a wide range of resource topics,
36 including visual resources (BLM 1989). It also assigns the lands within the Baker area of the
37 district to 14 geographic unit management allocations, identified as the Lookout Mountain, Burnt
38 River, Keating, Pedro Mountain, Grande Ronde, Homestead, Pritchard Creek, Oregon Trail,
39 Unity Reservoir - Bald Eagle Habitat, Sheep Mountain, Hunt Mountain, Powder River Canyon,
40 Blue Mountain, and Baker County Miscellaneous units, and provides direction for management
41 of each geographic unit.

42 In general, RMP guidance for visual resources is to emphasize management of scenic
43 resources in selected areas of high visitor use and/or high visual quality. The plan indicates the
44 BLM will use the VRM system to retain or preserve scenic quality, to address visual resource
45 management issues, and to use the visual resource contrast rating system during project-level

1 planning to evaluate consistency of proposed management activities with visual resource
2 management objectives.

3 As is commonly done in RMPs, the plan assigns VRM class designations to all lands addressed
4 by the plan. No areas within the Baker Resource Area were assigned to VRM Class I through
5 prior VRM inventories, although the plan notes that lands (968 acres) within the McGraw Creek
6 Wilderness Area are managed as VRM Class I; the McGraw Creek area is within Hells Canyon
7 and is outside the analysis area. The RMP also indicates that lands within the river corridors of
8 the Grande Ronde and Powder Wild and Scenic Rivers will be inventoried and classified
9 appropriately for the protection of high scenic values. In addition, the plan states that activities
10 that will result in significant, long-term adverse effects will not be permitted in areas of high
11 scenic quality such as the Burnt River, Powder River, or Snake River canyons. Activities in other
12 areas of high visual quality might be permitted if they do not attract attention or leave long-term
13 visual changes on the land.

14 The RMP assigns nearly 152,000 acres of the Baker Resource Area (35 percent of the total
15 acreage) to VRM Class II, in which management activities cannot be visible to a casual
16 observer from any travel route. Map 5 of the RMP identifies the distribution of Areas of High
17 Visual Quality, which the map legend indicates represents BLM-administered lands managed as
18 VRM Class II.

19 The specific content of the Baker RMP references the Grande Ronde and Powder Wild and
20 Scenic River corridors and the Burnt, Powder, and Snake river canyons as areas of high scenic
21 values, and these areas can logically be presumed to be identified as important or significant
22 scenic resources. While administrative boundaries exist for the Wild and Scenic River corridors,
23 the Burnt, Powder, and Snake river canyons are only identified nominally and the geographic
24 extent of those areas has not been defined. IPC understands that the Oregon Department of
25 Energy (ODOE) considers BLM-administered lands managed as VRM Class I and II to be
26 important scenic resources, based on the level of visual resource protection afforded to those
27 lands. Consequently, lands within the Baker Resource Area currently designated as VRM Class
28 I and II are summarized in Table R-1 and identified on the maps in Attachment R-2 as important
29 scenic resources.

30 The Baker RMP also designates nine areas totaling 38,988 acres as Areas of Critical
31 Environmental Concern (ACEC). For each ACEC, the RMP identifies in general terms the
32 resource values that are to be protected through specific management for the area and
33 indicates the types of uses that will be limited or excluded. The RMP indicates that scenic
34 qualities or visual resources are identified among the primary reasons for designating five of the
35 ACECs: the Grande Ronde, Powder River Canyon, Oregon Trail, Sheep Mountain, and
36 Homestead ACECs. Based on the RMP information, IPC presumes that these five ACECs are
37 also identified as important or significant resources among BLM-administered lands in the Baker
38 Resource Area.

39 The Grande Ronde, Sheep Mountain, and Homestead ACECs are located outside of the
40 analysis area for Exhibit R, while the Powder River Canyon and Oregon Trail ACECs are
41 located within the analysis area. These ACECs are identified in Table R-2 and Project impacts
42 are addressed in Section 3.4.2.

43 **Vale District, Malheur Resource Area**

44 BLM-administered lands in Malheur County are within the Malheur Resource Area of the Vale
45 District. The BLM Vale District issued the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan
46 (SEORMP) and Final Environmental Statement in 2001 to provide management direction for the
47 Malheur and Jordan Resource Areas of the Vale District. The Jordan Resource Area includes
48 the southern part of the Vale District, while the Malheur Resource Area comprises the northern

1 part of the District. The Project analysis area includes a substantial portion of the Malheur
2 Resource Area and none of the Jordan Resource Area.

3 The SEORMP (BLM 2001c) identifies nine planning issues to be addressed in the planning
4 process, summarizes existing conditions within the planning area, discusses management
5 direction for the respective resources within the plan alternatives under consideration, and
6 assesses the resource impacts that would result from the respective alternatives. The general
7 objective for visual resources is to manage public land actions and activities in a manner to be
8 consistent with VRM class objectives. Additional guidance for visual resources is to emphasize
9 management of scenic resources in selected high-use areas to retain or preserve scenic quality,
10 to address visual resource management issues, and to use the visual resource contrast rating
11 system during project-level planning to evaluate consistency of proposed management activities
12 with visual resource management objectives.

13 Map VRM-PRMP in the document displays the assignment of VRM classifications under the
14 plan. In general, areas with special management direction for resource protection purposes are
15 to be managed as VRM Class I or II. These include wilderness and wilderness study areas (to
16 be managed under VRM Class I, subject to change following any Congressional action
17 releasing wilderness study areas from further wilderness consideration); designated national
18 wild and scenic river areas, and river segments eligible for wild river designation (also VRM
19 Class I); and some lands with ACEC designation (some to be managed under VRM Class I and
20 some under VRM Class II, while other ACECs would be managed as VRM Class III). Overall,
21 approximately 309,600 acres in the Malheur Resource Area (15 percent of the total acreage)
22 are to be managed as VRM Class I and 144,400 acres (7 percent of the total) are to be
23 managed as VRM Class II.

24 As noted above, IPC understands that ODOE considers BLM-administered lands managed as
25 VRM Class I and II to be important scenic resources, based on the level of visual resource
26 protection afforded to those lands. Consequently, lands within the Malheur Resource Area
27 currently designated as VRM Class I and II are summarized in Table R-1 and identified on the
28 maps in Attachment R-2 as important scenic resources.

29 The SEORMP also designates 20 areas totaling over 160,000 acres as ACECs. For each
30 ACEC, the RMP identifies in general terms the resource values that are to be protected through
31 specific management for the area and indicates the types of uses that will be limited or
32 excluded. The RMP indicates that scenic qualities or visual resources are identified among the
33 primary reasons for designating seven of the ACECs: the Castle Rock, Dry Creek Gorge, North
34 Fork Malheur River, Leslie Gulch, Oregon National Historic Trail (three separate segments),
35 Owyhee River Below the Dam, and Owyhee Views ACECs. Based on the RMP information, IPC
36 presumes that these seven ACECs are also identified as important or significant resources
37 among BLM-administered lands in the Malheur Resource Area.

38 The Castle Rock, Dry Creek Gorge, North Fork Malheur River, and Leslie Gulch ACECs are
39 located outside of the analysis area for Exhibit R, while the Oregon Trail, Owyhee River Below
40 the Dam, and Owyhee Views ACECs are located within the analysis area. These ACECs are
41 identified in Table R-2 and Project impacts are addressed in Section 3.4.2.

42 **Boise District, Owyhee Resource Area**

43 BLM-administered lands in Owyhee County, Idaho, are located at the southeastern end of the
44 analysis area for this Exhibit, within the Owyhee Resource Area of the Boise District. The BLM
45 issued the current RMP for the Owyhee Resource Area in 1999. (At the time, the area was
46 managed by the Boise Field Office within the Lower Snake River District. The Owyhee Field
47 Office of the Boise District currently manages the Owyhee Resource Area.)

1 The Owyhee RMP (BLM 1999) includes separate sections addressing objectives, management
2 actions, and allocations for a range of resources and management considerations. With respect
3 to visual resources, the RMP establishes the following objective for visual resources: “VISL 1:
4 Manage public lands for visual resource values under VRM Classifications” (p. 44). Subsequent
5 content in this section summarizes the RMP assignments of VRM class designations to all lands
6 addressed by the plan, without identifying specific geographic areas considered to have notable
7 scenic values. Approximately 71,000 acres (6 percent of the total acreage) are to be managed
8 as VRM Class I, and 242,000 acres (20 percent) are to be managed as VRM Class II. The RMP
9 also allocates 123,000 acres to VRM Class II-IMP; these are wilderness study areas considered
10 to be non-suitable for wilderness designation that will be managed as VRM Class II unless or
11 until released from wilderness consideration by Congress, in which case they would be
12 managed as VRM Class IV. Figure VISL-1 in the Plan displays the geographic distribution of
13 these classifications.

14 As noted above, IPC understands that ODOE considers BLM-administered lands managed as
15 VRM Class I and II to be important scenic resources, based on the level of visual resource
16 protection afforded to those lands. Consequently, lands within the Owyhee Resource Area
17 currently designated as VRM Class I and II are summarized in Table R-2 and identified on
18 Figure R-2-5 as important scenic resources.

19 The Owyhee RMP also designates 12 areas totaling over 167,000 acres as ACECs. For each
20 ACEC, the RMP identifies in general terms the resource values that are to be protected through
21 specific management for the area and indicates the types of uses that will be limited or
22 excluded. The RMP indicates that scenic qualities or visual resources are identified among the
23 primary reasons for designating seven of the ACECs: the Owyhee River Bighorn Sheep Habitat
24 Area, Boulder Creek, Cinnabar Mountain, Jump Creek Canyon, North Fork Juniper Woodland,
25 Sommercamp Butte, and The Badlands ACECs. Based on the RMP information, IPC presumes
26 that these seven ACECs are also identified as important or significant resources among BLM
27 lands in the Owyhee Resource Area.

28 The Owyhee River Bighorn Sheep Habitat Area, Boulder Creek, Cinnabar Mountain, North Fork
29 Juniper Woodland, Sommercamp Butte, and The Badlands ACECs are located outside of the
30 analysis area for Exhibit R, while the Jump Creek Canyon ACEC is located within the analysis
31 area. This ACEC is identified in Table R-2 and Project impacts are addressed in Section 3.4.2.

32 **Boise District, Cascade Resource Area**

33 Some BLM-administered lands located in Idaho along the eastern side of Brownlee Reservoir
34 are within the analysis area. These lands are currently managed by the Four Rivers Field Office
35 of the Boise District. The current RMP applicable to these lands is the RMP for the Cascade
36 Resource Area, which BLM issued in 1987. BLM initiated development of a new Four Rivers
37 RMP in 2008, but that planning process is still underway.

38 The Cascade RMP (BLM 1987a) indicates that guidelines for visual resource management are
39 to consider the scenic values of public lands whenever any physical actions are proposed on
40 BLM-administered lands, and that the degree of alterations to the natural landscape will be
41 guided by the VRM management classes and criteria. The plan states that objectives for visual
42 resource management are to protect the scenic values of the public lands, particularly along the
43 Payette River Scenic Route and along the South Fork of the Payette River, and to manage
44 specific lands within the resource area under VRM Classes II, III, and IV (no lands are allocated
45 to VRM Class I). Map 3-8 in the plan displays the allocation of lands to the VRM classes; the
46 Class II designation applies to a continuous band of lands along the eastern side of Brownlee
47 and Oxbow reservoirs. This classification corresponds to an area designated elsewhere in the
48 plan as the Oxbow-Brownlee Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).

1 The specific content of the Cascade RMP references the Payette River Scenic Byway and the
2 South Fork Payette River as corridors meriting protection of scenic values, and these areas can
3 logically be presumed to be identified as important or significant scenic resources. Both areas
4 are well beyond the analysis area for this Exhibit, however. As noted above, IPC understands
5 that ODOE considers BLM-administered lands managed as VRM Class I and II to be important
6 scenic resources, based on the level of visual resource protection afforded to those lands.
7 Consequently, the Cascade Resource Area lands within the analysis area that are currently
8 designated as VRM Class II are summarized in Table R-2 and identified on Figure R-2-4 as
9 important scenic resources.

10 The Cascade RMP also designates three areas totaling over 77,000 acres as ACECs. For each
11 ACEC, the RMP identifies in general terms the resource values that are to be protected through
12 specific management for the area and indicates the types of uses that will be limited or
13 excluded. The RMP indicates that scenic qualities or visual resources are identified among the
14 primary reasons for designating one of the ACECs, the Boise Front ACEC. Based on the RMP
15 information, IPC presumes that this ACEC is identified as an important or significant scenic
16 resource among BLM-administered lands in the Cascade Resource Area. The Boise Front
17 ACEC is located outside of the analysis area for Exhibit R, however. Potential Project impacts to
18 this ACEC are not applicable to the Exhibit R analysis.

19 **Spokane District**

20 The BLM issued the current Spokane District RMP in 1985 and adopted that plan through a
21 Record of Decision (ROD) issued in 1987. With respect to visual resources, the RMP indicates
22 that visual resources would continue to be evaluated as a part of activity and project planning;
23 the document does not discuss specific areas with high scenic values and does not indicate
24 where VRM classes have been assigned to lands within the District (BLM 1985). Similarly, the
25 ROD indicates that recreational activities and visual resources will be evaluated as part of
26 specific activity plans and will be evaluated in relation to land use allocations made in the RMP,
27 and does not indicate where VRM classes have been assigned (BLM 1987b).

28 In 2010, the BLM initiated a planning process to develop a new management plan for the BLM-
29 administered lands in the Spokane District and the San Juan Islands of Washington. A
30 background document prepared in support of that planning process explains that visual
31 resource inventory and management classes need to be determined for all Spokane District
32 BLM-administered lands, because this information has not been updated since a management
33 framework plan (MFP) was developed in 1982 and much of the MFP documentation has been
34 lost (BLM 2011a). The same document also notes that the Badger Slope area was designated
35 for management as VRM Class II through the Southeast Planning Area MFP prepared in 1981.

36 Based on the specific content of the available planning documentation for the Spokane District,
37 IPC concludes that the Badger Slope is the only area within the Spokane District that has been
38 specifically identified as an important or significant scenic resource, based on the prescribed
39 VRM classification. This area is located south of the Yakima River between Prosser and
40 Richland and is well beyond the 10-mile radius for the analysis area.

41 The Spokane RMP (BLM 1987b) indicates that 12 areas totaling approximately 8,500 acres are
42 designated as ACECs. Scenic qualities or visual resources are not identified among the primary
43 reasons for designating any of these ACECs. The Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS)
44 for the in-process Eastern Washington and San Juan RMP (BLM 2011a) indicates the Spokane
45 District includes 16 existing ACECs. Similar to the RMP, however, the resource values identified
46 for the ACECs do not include scenic values or visual resources for any of the areas. Therefore,
47 based on the RMP and AMS information, no scenic resources on BLM-administered lands in the
48 Spokane District are included in this Exhibit.

1 **U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service**

2 The analysis area overlaps with the geographic boundaries of the USFS Wallowa-Whitman and
3 Umatilla National Forests (NFs). The Proposed Corridor crosses lands within the Wallowa-
4 Whitman NF. Neither the Proposed Corridor nor any alternate corridor segments cross lands
5 within the Umatilla NF, but some Umatilla NF lands are within 10 miles of the Site Boundary.
6 Therefore, review of area-specific USFS planning direction for scenic resources applies to both
7 the Wallowa-Whitman NF and Umatilla NF.

8 The USFS uses a Visual Management System (VMS) established in *The National Forest*
9 *Management, Volume 2, Agricultural Handbook 462* (1974) to inventory, classify, and manage
10 lands for visual resource values. In 1995, the visual resource management guidelines and
11 monitoring techniques evolved into the Scenery Management System (SMS) as described in
12 *Landscape Aesthetics: A Handbook for Scenic Management, Agricultural Handbook 701* (USFS
13 1995). While the overall visual resource framework is essentially the same between the two
14 systems, the terminology within the SMS has been modified slightly, and it also provides best
15 science when combined with VMS because it provides for assessment of biological, physical,
16 and social/cultural resources within a geographic area. Pursuant to the West-wide Energy
17 Corridor EIS (USFS 2009), the USFS may utilize the SMS in addition to the VMS within the
18 Wallowa-Whitman NF; this national forest is within the analysis area. However, the Land and
19 Resource Management Plan (LRMP) covering the forest was written in 1990, prior to the
20 conversion to SMS, and therefore uses the former VMS provisions and classifications. Based on
21 an inventory and evaluation of visual resources associated with national forest lands, Visual
22 Quality Objectives (VQOs) are established to provide a measurable standard or objective form
23 for management of visual resources. VQOs for areas of land are assigned by combining the
24 variety class, distance zone, and sensitivity level. Each VQO indicates the acceptable degree of
25 landscape alteration and classifies land in one of five categories: Preservation, Retention,
26 Partial Retention, Modification, or Maximum Modification.

- 27 • Preservation – Allows for ecological changes only. Management activities, except for
28 very low visual-impact recreation facilities, are prohibited.
- 29 • Retention – Provides for management activities that are not visually evident. Under
30 retention, activities may only repeat form, line, color, and texture that are frequently
31 found in the characteristic landscape. Changes in their qualities of size, amount,
32 intensity, direction, pattern, etc., should not be evident.
- 33 • Partial Retention – Alterations to the natural landscape may be apparent, but they are
34 visually subordinate to natural features. Management activities such as timber harvest
35 and roading may occur but must be designed so they blend into the natural landscape.
36 This category includes areas where changes in the basic elements (form, line, color, or
37 texture) caused by a management activity may be evident in the characteristic
38 landscape. However, the changes should remain subordinate to the visual strength of
39 the existing character.
- 40 • Modification – Management activities may be visually dominant. They must be
41 harmonious with features of the natural landscape in their size, form, and linear
42 characteristics. Recreation developments, timber harvest units, and roads are examples
43 of elements that may be found in a landscape that meets this VQO. Alterations to the
44 landscape may not be in glaring contrast to natural forms. This applies to areas where
45 changes may subordinate the original composition and character; however, they should
46 reflect what could be a natural occurrence within the characteristic landscape.
- 47 • Maximum Modification – Management activities of vegetative and landform alternation
48 may dominate the characteristic landscape. However, when viewed as background, the
49 visual characteristics must be those of natural occurrences within the surrounding area

1 or character type. When viewed as foreground or middleground, they may not appear to
2 completely borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture. Alterations may
3 also be out of scale or contain detail that is incongruent with natural occurrences as
4 seen in foreground or middleground. Introduction of additional parts of these activities
5 such as structure, roads, slash, and root wads must remain visually subordinate to the
6 proposed composition as viewed in background.

7 The VQOs prescribed within the Wallowa-Whitman NF and Umatilla NF are defined by and
8 apply only to lands within the denoted Management Areas (MAs). Each MA has a specific
9 resource emphasis and management objective guidelines to provide protection to the resource.
10 The Project traverses several areas that have overlapping MAs. The LRMP states that within
11 the selected acreages where MAs overlap, the VQOs that provide the highest level of visual
12 quality protection take precedence. IPC addressed and reviewed the applicable VQO for all
13 management areas crossed by the Proposed Corridor or an alternate corridor segment.

14 IPC reviewed the following federal plans to identify important scenic resources on the National
15 Forests within the Project analysis area:

- 16 • Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (USFS 1990a)
- 17 • Land and Resource Management Plan, Umatilla National Forest (USFS 1990b)

18 The scenic resources identified in these plans are discussed below.

19 **Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan**

20 With respect to scenic resources, the Wallowa-Whitman LRMP (USFS 1990a) indicates that
21 “Management of the Forest’s scenic resources is emphasized within the viewsheds of federal
22 and state highways and major Forest roads. The visible land areas adjacent to selected travel
23 routes are managed for a variety of VQOs including retention, partial retention and
24 modification.” The Plan establishes a goal for landscape management to “manage all National
25 Forest lands to obtain the highest possible visual quality, commensurate with other appropriate
26 public uses, costs and benefits. Discussion of standards and guidelines for visual resources
27 addresses the assignment of VQOs, and indicates that viewshed plans will be prepared for all
28 Level I viewsheds.

29 The Plan allocates the lands within the Forest to management areas within 17 major categories
30 (e.g., MA 1, Timber Production Emphasis; MA 4, Wilderness; and MA 5, Phillips Lake Area). For
31 12 of the 17 management areas, the landscape management prescription is to manage
32 according to forest-wide standards and guidelines. The landscape direction for the other
33 management areas references Preservation or Retention VQOs, as applicable to specific areas
34 (e.g., Preservation for wilderness and Wild and Scenic River segments classified as wild). The
35 Plan also lists visually sensitive roadways in Appendix B.

36 The discussion of landscape conditions in the Plan does not identify specific features or
37 geographic areas as significant or important scenic resources. IPC understands, however, that
38 ODOE considers NF lands managed with Preservation (P) or Retention (R) VQOs to be
39 important scenic resources, based on the level of visual resource protection afforded to those
40 lands. Consequently, lands within the Wallowa-Whitman NF currently assigned a VQO of P or R
41 are summarized in Table R-2 and identified on Figures R-2-2 and R-2-3 as important scenic
42 resources.

43 **Umatilla National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan**

44 The chapters of the Umatilla LRMP (USFS 1990b) that summarize the current management
45 situation and the Plan’s response to issues, concerns, and opportunities do not address visual
46 resources. Chapter 4, which documents forest management direction, addresses visual
47 resource management as a subset of recreation. The discussion of resource objectives

1 indicates that wilderness areas will be managed for a Retention VQO, and that Retention and
2 Partial Retention VQOs will be emphasized in sensitive viewshed corridors that include state
3 highways, key Forest travel routes, and major water features. Table 4-5 identifies 13 viewshed
4 corridors classified as Sensitivity Level 1 and assigned a Retention VQO for the foreground
5 viewing zone.

6 The Plan also allocates the lands within the Forest to 25 categories of management areas.
7 Management areas that specifically reflect a scenic resource emphasis include A3 Viewshed 1,
8 A4 Viewshed 2, A7 Wild and Scenic Rivers, and A8 Scenic Area. All lands within one
9 management area (B1 Wilderness) are assigned a Preservation VQO, and all lands within six
10 other management areas are assigned a Retention VQO. The visual resource direction for most
11 of the other management areas specifies a range of VQOs that often includes Retention, as
12 applicable to specific sites areas.

13 The discussion of visual resource conditions in the Plan does not clearly identify specific
14 features or geographic areas as significant or important scenic resources. IPC understands,
15 however, that ODOE considers NF lands managed with P or R VQOs to be important scenic
16 resources, based on the level of visual resource protection afforded to those lands. There are
17 no Umatilla NF lands within the analysis area that are currently assigned a VQO of P or R.
18 Therefore, no Umatilla NF lands are identified in Table R-2 and Figure R-2-2 as important
19 scenic resources.

20 **Department of Defense**

21 The U.S. Navy administers the Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility (NWSTF) Boardman,
22 commonly known as the Boardman Bombing Range. The range was established through a
23 federal executive order in 1941. The facility includes more than 47,000 acres located south of
24 Boardman in Morrow County. It is used for training and testing by the Navy, Oregon National
25 Guard, and other federal, state, and local agencies (U.S. Navy 2012a).

26 The Navy has not developed a comprehensive plan for NWSTF Boardman that is comparable to
27 the BLM and USFS management plans. In compliance with the Sikes Act, however, the Navy
28 developed and implemented an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for
29 the facility. An INRMP was adopted in 1999 and a final draft of an updated plan was prepared in
30 2010 (U.S. Navy 2012b) and an updated plan was approved in 2012 (U.S. Navy 2012a). A draft
31 Navy environmental assessment (EA) of the 2010 updated plan indicates that the INRMP
32 identifies management goals that include the following: "Goal 1. Protect, conserve and manage
33 the watersheds, wetlands, natural landscapes, soils, forests, fish and wildlife and other natural
34 resources, as vital elements of a natural resources program." The EA indicates that the INRMP
35 management direction applies to vegetation management, wildlife, and fire management, and
36 does not mention scenic resources as an applicable subject for management direction.
37 Similarly, the resource conditions addressed in the EA do not include scenic or visual resources.
38 IPC also reviewed an environmental impact statement (EIS) addressing military training
39 activities at NWSTF that was issued by the Navy in September 2012. The EIS describes
40 existing conditions and expected environmental consequences for 12 resource categories;
41 scenic or visual resources are not represented among these 12 categories, nor are they
42 addressed in the EIS sections on land use and recreation or socioeconomics and environmental
43 justice (U.S. Navy 2012a).

44 Based on the specific content of these Navy documents, IPC concludes that that there are no
45 features associated with NWSTF Boardman identified as important or significant scenic
46 resources.

1 **Bureau of Reclamation**

2 Federal lands within the analysis area that are under the jurisdiction of the BOR are limited to a
3 small portion of the Owyhee River canyon in Malheur County, Oregon. This area consists of
4 federal project lands associated with Owyhee Dam and Reservoir, which are operated by BOR.
5 The current management direction for this area is contained in the Owyhee Reservoir Resource
6 Management Plan (BOR 1994).

7 The Owyhee Reservoir RMP describes a study area consisting of four management units, which
8 are the Lower Owyhee River, Lower Owyhee Reservoir, Upper Owyhee Reservoir, and Upper
9 Owyhee River. RMP Section 1.4 defines the scope of and goals for the plan; it does not
10 specifically address scenic or visual resources. The visual resources portion of the inventory
11 chapter states that the visual resource of the entire study area is considered outstandingly
12 remarkable, and notes that adjacent BLM-administered lands are managed as VRM Class II.
13 This section of the RMP describes the natural landscape character and human modifications in
14 each of the four management units. This material references landscape features known as the
15 Honeycombs, Leslie Gulch, Painted Canyon, Three Fingers Gulch, and Carlton Canyon as
16 "some of the most outstanding visual features;" the Honeycombs are also described as a
17 particularly outstanding visual resource. Several visually dominant peaks and buttes are also
18 identified.

19 The RMP direction for visual resources (p. 6-13) identifies a goal to "Preserve, protect and
20 enhance scenic resources," and objectives to "minimize development in areas that would
21 adversely impact special scenic or wilderness characteristics" and to "maintain primitive,
22 undeveloped character of landscape." Associated management guidelines and actions address
23 facility design, removal of trash dumps and other restoration actions, and aesthetic
24 requirements to be applied to leaseholders.

25 Interpretation of the specific content of the Owyhee Reservoir RMP suggests that the plan
26 identifies several specific landscape features as significant scenic resources. With some
27 exceptions (the general locations of Leslie Gulch and Carlton Canyon are labeled), the specific
28 locations of these landscape features are not identified on the RMP maps. Moreover, the maps
29 indicate that the BOR-managed lands comprise a narrow band along the immediate margins of
30 the Owyhee River and Reservoir, and that the specified landscape features are entirely or
31 predominantly located on the adjacent BLM-administered lands. Given that the adjacent BLM-
32 administered lands in this area are designated as VRM Class I or II, as discussed above, IPC
33 assumes that the scenic features referenced in the Owyhee Reservoir RMP are incorporated
34 within the important scenic resources identified through the BLM Malheur Resource Area
35 planning direction. Therefore, no additional scenic resources based on the specific content of
36 the Owyhee Reservoir RMP are identified in Table R-2 and Figure R-2-5.

37 **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

38 The FWS manages three national wildlife refuges that are partially or entirely located within the
39 Project analysis area. They are the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Morrow County,
40 the McKay Creek NWR in Umatilla County, and the Deer Flat NWR in multiple counties of
41 southwestern Idaho and southeastern Oregon. The primary mission of the FWS as manager of
42 the national wildlife refuge system is to provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife. Various
43 types of recreation are allowed or provided on many refuges, to the extent they are compatible
44 with the purposes of a specific refuge.

45 **Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge**

46 The Umatilla NWR, located to the north and northeast of Boardman, Oregon, encompasses
47 approximately 25,000 acres with a mix of open water sloughs, shallow marsh, seasonal

1 wetlands, cropland, island, and shrub-steppe upland habitats. The refuge is popular with bird
2 watchers, wildlife enthusiasts, and photographers. IPC reviewed the Umatilla National Wildlife
3 Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (FWS 2007) to identify potential scenic resources on
4 FWS-managed lands in the refuge. The plan identifies management direction relative to several
5 categories of wildlife species, multiple types of habitat present within the refuge, recreational
6 activities compatible with the refuge purposes, and cultural resources; the plan does not
7 prescribe management for visual resources or address visual resource conditions. Accordingly,
8 this plan does not identify any scenic resource or value within the analysis area for inclusion in
9 this Exhibit.

10 **McKay Creek National Wildlife Refuge**

11 The McKay Creek NWR includes 1,837 acres within and adjacent to McKay Creek Reservoir, a
12 small BOR water storage facility located between Pilot Rock and Pendleton in Umatilla County
13 (FWS 2012a). The refuge provides a variety of open water, riparian, and shrub-steppe habitat. It
14 supports considerable recreational use, primarily for fishing and upland bird hunting.

15 The FWS recently initiated a process to develop a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the
16 refuge. As of August 2012, a brief list of scoping comments appears to be the only public
17 information regarding the plan that is currently available. Based on the limited documentation
18 available to date and the lack of a plan specific to this refuge, IPC concludes that the FWS has
19 not identified any scenic resources or values associated with the McKay Creek NWR, and no
20 such resources are included in this Exhibit.

21 **Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge**

22 The Deer Flat NWR includes approximately 11,000 acres within two refuge units. The Lake
23 Lowell Unit consists of approximately 9,000 acres surrounding Lake Lowell, a reservoir located
24 west of Nampa in Canyon County, Idaho (FWS 2012b). The remaining acreage is within the
25 Snake River Islands Unit and is distributed among more than 100 islands within a long reach of
26 the Snake River from near Walter's Ferry in Idaho to Farewell Bend near Huntington, Oregon.
27 The refuge provides a variety of habitat types for more than 200 species of birds and 30 species
28 of mammals, and supports diverse, wildlife-oriented recreational opportunities.

29 In 2010 the FWS initiated a process to develop a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the
30 refuge. As of August 2012, the FWS has issued a variety of public information materials but has
31 not released a draft plan. The preliminary materials indicate the plan will likely address habitat
32 conservation and restoration, various actions to benefit migratory birds, inventory and
33 monitoring of priority species and habitats, and management for a variety of high-quality
34 recreational opportunities. Based on the documentation available to date and the lack of a plan
35 specific to this refuge, IPC concludes that the FWS has not identified any scenic resources or
36 values associated with the Deer Flat NWR, and no such resources are included in this Exhibit.

3.4.2 Significant Potential Adverse Impacts

OAR 345-021-0010(1)(r)(C)

A description of significant potential adverse impacts to the scenic resources identified in (B) including, but not limited to, impacts such as:

- (i) Loss of vegetation or alteration of the landscape as a result of construction or operation; and
- (ii) Visual impacts of facility structures or plumes.

A comprehensive analysis of visual impacts to the scenic resources within the analysis area identified in Table R-2 has been completed. Table R-3 presents a highly generalized summary of those results. The summary entries in the table are based on the area-specific discussion provided below. Impact levels for each scenic resource have been identified based on the impact assessment process outlined in Section 3.3.2 and the impact rating matrix presented as Table R-1. The discussion for each resource addresses the existing scenic quality, visibility, contrast rating, and viewer response factors that were applied to determine the impact rating.

The visual impacts identified through the assessment process are predominantly based on the visual contrast created by the Project transmission facilities (i.e., the structures and/or conductors) and, to a lesser extent, the associated access roads. Figure R-1 illustrates several terms and concepts that are key aspects of the visual impact assessment. The two photographs included in the figure provide examples of how viewing distance can influence the visibility of transmission facilities and their associated contrast. They also highlight the greater visibility and contrast when transmission facilities are seen above the skyline, rather than against a terrain backdrop.

The assessment also considered the visual impacts of the Project and its related and supporting facilities, primarily the proposed communication stations and the multi-use areas and fly yards that would be used during construction. Because the communication stations have a small footprint and low profile (the structures would be 12 feet in height), these facilities would be noticeable only at close viewing distances, and their visual contrast would be subordinate to that created by the transmission facilities. The multi-use areas and fly yards (if used by the contractor) will be larger in extent (up to approximately 20 acres each), and the equipment, materials and temporary structures at these sites would represent likely sources of contrast in the landscape. Nevertheless, the objects present within the multi-use areas and fly yards would be much shorter (likely a 30- or 40-foot maximum) than the Project transmission structures, and their visibility range would correspondingly be reduced. In addition, given the temporary nature of the multi-use areas and fly yards, it is unlikely that visual contrast from one of these facilities would contribute substantially to the Project visual impacts to a specific scenic resource. As a result, the influence of Project support facilities is specifically addressed in the discussion of impacts to scenic resources only where such facilities would be sufficiently close that they might represent a meaningful source of visual contrast from the Project.

The assessment results regarding impact levels for certain specific resources are preliminary, and based on the analysis that has been completed to date. In some cases impact analysis is continuing, particularly in those cases for which potentially significant impacts have been identified; in these instances, the ability to reduce impacts to a non-significant level through use of mitigation measures is still being evaluated.

The results of the visual analysis for locations specifically identified in local, tribal, and federal land use plans as containing significant or important scenic values are generally based on the specific evaluation of all Project KOPs that is presented in detail in Attachment R-1, Visual Resources Assessment Report. Attachment R-1 is supported by comprehensive mapping for the entire analysis area included in Attachment R-2, and by photosimulations of with-Project conditions for selected KOPs included in Attachment R-4.



1
2 **Figure R-1. Lattice Structure Potential Visibility Comparison**

1 In addition to assessing impacts to important scenic resources, as required under the applicable
 2 statutes and rules, the Project Order directs IPC to address scoping comments that ODOE
 3 received from the public and reviewing agencies. The content of the Project Order regarding the
 4 scoping comments is reproduced in Section 5.0, Table R-5. The manner in which IPC has
 5 addressed those comments is summarized as follows:

- 6 1. The visual impacts of transmission line towers and related and supporting facilities are
 7 documented in Exhibit R as they relate to important scenic resources, and in a
 8 comprehensive manner for the analysis area in Attachment R-1. IPC has not proposed
 9 to install lights on any of the transmission towers. Exterior lighting associated with the
 10 Project would only include limited lighting needed for safety and security purposes at the
 11 substations and communication stations; the visibility of those facilities has been
 12 appropriately considered in the assessment. Exhibit R and Attachment R-1 provide
 13 information regarding visual impacts and mitigation measures, including project design,
 14 siting and landscape measures.
- 15 2. Visual impacts in the area of the NHOTIC were a major consideration of the siting study
 16 for the Project, as is documented in Exhibit B. Exhibit R includes substantial information
 17 about visual impacts, mitigation and alternative routes relative to the important scenic
 18 resource that includes the NHOTIC, and Attachment R-1 includes supplemental
 19 information concerning multiple specific viewpoints in this area.
- 20 3. Because the Project is located more than 20 miles from the John Day River and would
 21 not be visible from the river, impacts to this resource are not addressed in Exhibit R.
- 22 4. Exhibit R does not specifically address any wilderness areas because there are no
 23 wilderness areas within the analysis area specified for Exhibit R; potential visual impacts
 24 to wilderness areas within 20 miles of the Project are addressed in Exhibit L, however.
 25 Roadless areas that are included within areas identified as important scenic resources
 26 are addressed in Exhibit R, and the site-specific visual assessment documented in
 27 Attachment R-1 includes numerous viewpoints within wilderness inventory units
 28 identified by the BLM. Exhibit R addresses designated scenic byways that are within the
 29 analysis area, and Attachment R-1 includes site-specific assessments for numerous
 30 viewpoints located along those scenic byways.

31 **Table R-3. Visual Impact Assessment Results**

Jurisdiction	Name of Scenic Resource	GIS ID / Figure No.	Summary of Assessment Results¹	Potentially Significant Impact? (Y/N)
COUNTIES				
Union	Blue Mountain Forest Wayside	SR U1 / R-2-2	Visual Impact: Low Project potentially visible along much of Wayside, with brief and intermittent views because of vegetation screening. Low or no impact in much of Wayside; impacts at two Proposed Corridor crossing locations both rated as moderate, and not significant.	N
Baker	OR Highway 203	SR B1 / R-2-3	Visual Impact: Low to Moderate Project potentially visible from most of this segment, at a minimum distance of 2 miles. Impacts rated as low in some areas and no more than moderate in others, and not significant in any areas.	N

32

Table R-3. Visual Impact Results (continued)

Jurisdiction	Name of Scenic Resource	GIS ID / Figure No.	Summary of Assessment Results¹	Potentially Significant Impact? (Y/N)
	OR Highway 86, Flagstaff Hill east	SR B2 / R-2-3	Visual Impact: Low, Moderate, Moderate to High, depending on location Proposed Corridor potentially visible from much of this segment, and crosses highway near the west end of the segment. Impacts rated as low or moderate, and not significant, in most areas; impacts rated as moderate to high (and potentially significant) at two key observation points. Flagstaff Alternate crosses highway near western end of scenic segment, likely visible along less than 1 mile of highway segment. Analysis of impacts pending.	Y
	OR Highway 245	SR B3 / R-2-4	Visual Impact: Low or None Proposed Corridor or Flagstaff Alternate likely not visible from this segment, because of views blocked by terrain. Impacts would likely be none; if Project visible in any locations, impacts would be low and not significant.	N
	Interstate 84, Pleasant Valley-Durkee area	SR B4 / R-2-3,4	Visual Impact: Moderate or less, depending on location Proposed Corridor would be a noticeable visual presence along about one quarter of this 12-mile segment, would have low visibility in another quarter, and likely not seen in about half of the segment. Based on intermittent visibility and variable contrast, and the viewing context for a landscape with substantial existing modification, overall impact on the viewer experience for this scenic resource would be moderate and less than significant	N
	Interstate 84, Huntington to Baker/Malheur County line	SR B5 / R-2-4	Visual Impact: Low or Moderate, depending on location Proposed Corridor potentially visible at a distance from much of this segment; impacts at specific locations rated as low or moderate and not significant. Willow Creek Alternate potentially visible at a distance of 1 to 3 miles from most of this segment; site-specific impacts rated as moderate to high and potentially significant in the northern part of the segment, and low or moderate in other locations. Based on the viewing context for a landscape with substantial existing modification and the nature of the viewer experience, overall impact for this scenic resource would be moderate and less than significant	N
MUNICIPALITIES				
Pendleton	Umatilla River and tributaries	SR P1 / R-2-2	Visual Impact: None Project not visible, no impacts.	N

Table R-3. Visual Impact Results (continued)

Jurisdiction	Name of Scenic Resource	GIS ID / Figure No.	Summary of Assessment Results¹	Potentially Significant Impact? (Y/N)
FEDERAL				
BLM, Vale District, Baker Resource Area	Keating Cutoff	VRM B1 / R-2-3	Visual Impact: Moderate or None Proposed Corridor potentially visible at a distance of 4 miles; impacts rated as no more than moderate, and not significant. Flagstaff Alternate not visible, no impacts.	N
	Powder River Canyon - Keating	VRM B2 / R-2-3	Visual Impact: Low Proposed Corridor or Flagstaff Alternate potentially visible in some locations, at a minimum distance of 4 or 8 miles, and blocked from view elsewhere. Where visible, impacts rated as low to moderate and not significant.	N
	Burnt River Canyon	VRM B3 / R-2-4	Visual Impact: Low or None Proposed Corridor potentially visible in the eastern part of the canyon, at a minimum distance of 4 miles, not visible in other areas. Impacts rated as moderate and not significant in a limited area, nonexistent in most of area.	N
	Lawrence Creek – Little Lookout Mountain	VRM B4 / R-2-3	Visual Impact: Low to Moderate or None Proposed Corridor potentially visible in some locations in the western part of the area, at a minimum distance of 6 miles, and blocked from view in other areas. Impacts rated as no more than moderate and not significant in a limited area, nonexistent in rest of area.	N
	Durkee – Manning Creek	VRM B5 / R-2-3, R-2-4	Visual Impact: Low to Moderate or None Proposed Corridor potentially visible in much of area, at a minimum distance of 3.5 miles, and blocked from view in some locations. Impacts rated as no more than moderate, where visible, and not significant.	N
	Snake River Canyon West	VRM B6 / R-2-3, R-2-4	Visual Impact: Moderate or None Proposed Corridor not visible from most of this area, potentially visible at a minimum distance of 3 miles in some locations. Impacts nonexistent in most of area, rated as no more than moderate and not significant in other locations.	N
	Brownlee Reservoir West	VRM B7 / R-2-4	Visual Impact: Low or None Proposed Corridor or Willow Creek Alternate not visible from most of this area, potentially visible at a minimum distance of 2.2 miles or 3 miles in some locations. Impacts nonexistent in most of area, low and not significant in other locations.	N

Table R-3. Visual Impact Results (continued)

Jurisdiction	Name of Scenic Resource	GIS ID / Figure No.	Summary of Assessment Results¹	Potentially Significant Impact? (Y/N)
	Oregon Trail ACEC	SR B6/ R-2-1, R-2-2, R-2-3, R-2-4	Visual Impact: None, Low to Moderate, or Moderate to High, depending on location Proposed Corridor would not be visible from Echo Meadows parcel, with no impact. Project potentially visible at varying distances from 5 parcels (Blue Mountain, White Swan, Straw Ranch 1, Straw Ranch 2, and Powell Creek), where impacts would be low to moderate or less and insignificant. Proposed Corridor and Flagstaff Alternate visible from NHOTIC parcel, with moderate to high (and potentially significant) impacts in either case.	Y (NHOTIC Parcel only)
	Powder River Canyon ACEC	SR B7/ R-2-3	Visual Impact: Low to Moderate or None Proposed Corridor would potentially be visible in only a limited area along the eastern edge of the ACEC, at distances of 3 miles or more. Impacts nonexistent in most locations, low to moderate and not significant in other locations.	N
BLM, Vale District, Malheur Resource Area	Birch Creek	VRM M1 / R-2-4	Visual Impact: Low or Moderate Proposed Corridor or Willow Creek Alternate potentially visible at a minimum distance of 8 miles or 3 miles. Impacts low or none for the Proposed Corridor, low or moderate and not significant for Willow Creek Alternate.	N
	Oregon Trail – Tub Mountain	VRM M2 / R-2-4	Visual Impact: Low or None Proposed Corridor or Willow Creek Alternate potentially visible in limited locations, at a minimum distance of 8 miles or 2 miles, and blocked from view in most locations. Impacts low or none and not significant for either alternative.	N
	Sugarloaf Butte	VRM M3 / R-2-4	Visual Impact: Pending. Proposed Corridor or Willow Creek Alternate potentially visible from most locations at a minimum distance of less than 1 mile. Analysis of impacts pending.	Pending
BLM, Vale District, Malheur Resource Area (cont.)	Oregon Trail – Keeney Pass	VRM M4 / R-2-5	Visual Impact: Low to Moderate or None, depending on location Proposed Corridor potentially visible in some locations at a minimum distance of 6 miles. Impacts nonexistent in some locations, low to moderate and not significant in other locations.	N
	Lower Owyhee River	VRM M5 / R-2-5	Visual Impact: Moderate to High or None, depending on location Proposed Corridor potentially visible in northern part of area, at a minimum distance of 0.4 mile, blocked from view elsewhere. Impacts moderate to high and potentially significant, where visible. Malheur S Alternate potentially visible in the foreground in a part of the canyon, blocked from view in other areas. Impacts also moderate to high and potentially significant in the vicinity of the crossing, nonexistent elsewhere.	Y

Table R-3. Visual Impact Results (continued)

Jurisdiction	Name of Scenic Resource	GIS ID / Figure No.	Summary of Assessment Results¹	Potentially Significant Impact? (Y/N)
	Dry Creek	VRM M6 / R-2-5	Visual Impact: None Project not visible, no impacts.	N
	Owyhee Views	VRM M7 / R-2-5	Visual Impact: None or Low Proposed Corridor not visible, no impact. Malheur S Alternate potentially visible in limited locations, at a minimum distance of 1 mile, and blocked from view elsewhere. Impacts rated as low and not significant, where visible.	N
	Succor Creek	VRM M8 / R-2-5	Visual Impact: None or Low, depending on location Proposed Corridor or Malheur S Alternate potentially visible in limited locations, at a minimum distance of 7 miles, and blocked from view elsewhere. Impacts nonexistent in most of area, rated as moderate or less and not significant elsewhere.	N
	Oregon Trail ACEC	VRM M1, M2, M4/R-2-4, R-2-5	See above summaries for Birch Creek, Tub Mountain, and Keeney Pass Areas	N
	Owyhee River Below the Dam ACEC	VRM M5/R-2-5	See above summary for Lower Owyhee River	Y
	Owyhee Views ACEC	VRM M6, M7/R-2-5	See above summary for Owyhee Views	N
BLM, Boise District, Owyhee Resource Area	Jump Creek Canyon/Jump Creek Canyon ACEC	VRM O1 / R-2-5	Visual Impact: Low to Moderate Proposed Corridor potentially visible in most locations at a minimum distance of less than 1 mile. Impacts rated as low to moderate and not significant.	N
BLM, Boise District, Cascade Resource Area	Brownlee Reservoir Southeast	VRM C1 / R-2-44	Visual Impact: None Project not visible, no impacts.	N
	Brownlee Reservoir Northeast	VRM C2 / R-2-4	Visual Impact: None Project not visible, no impacts.	N
USFS, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest	Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor	VQO 1 / R-2-2	Visual Impact: Low, Moderate or None, depending on location Proposed Corridor likely intermittently visible within foreground in some locations, with high visibility at a crossing location. Impacts nonexistent in some locations, low in some locations, moderate and not significant at one location.	N
	MA 17 Utility Corridor	VQO 2 / R-2-2	Visual Impact: Low to Moderate. Proposed Corridor likely intermittently visible within parts of area, including at close foreground distance in some locations, and screened from view in other locations.	N

Table R-3. Visual Impact Results (continued)

Jurisdiction	Name of Scenic Resource	GIS ID / Figure No.	Summary of Assessment Results¹	Potentially Significant Impact? (Y/N)
	OR 244 Corridor - Red Bridge West	VQO 3 / R-2-2	Visual Impact: None Proposed Corridor or Glass Hill Alternate not visible, no impacts.	N
	OR 244 Corridor - Red Bridge East	VQO 4 / R-2-2	Visual Impact: Low to Moderate or None, depending on location Proposed Corridor potentially visible in some locations, at a minimum distance of 2 miles, and blocked from view elsewhere. Impacts nonexistent in much of area, low to moderate and not significant elsewhere.	N
	FR 3120 Grandview Drive	VQO 5 / R-2-2	Visual Impact: Low to Moderate, Moderate or None, depending on location Proposed Corridor potentially visible in some locations, at a minimum distance of 7 miles, and blocked from view elsewhere. Impacts nonexistent in much of area, at most moderate and not significant elsewhere.	N
USFS, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (cont.)	Mt. Emily	VQO 6 / R-2-2	Visual Impact: Low to Moderate, Moderate or None, depending on location Proposed Corridor potentially visible in some locations, at a minimum distance of 9 miles, and blocked from view elsewhere. Impacts nonexistent in much of area, at most moderate and not significant elsewhere.	N
	OR 237 Corridor West	VQO 7 / R-2-3	Visual Impact: Low to Moderate or None, depending on location Proposed Corridor potentially visible in some locations, at a minimum distance of 11 miles, and screened from view in most locations. Impacts nonexistent in much of area, at most low to moderate and not significant elsewhere.	N
	OR 203 Corridor - Catherine Creek	VQO 8 / R-2-3	Visual Impact: None Project not visible, no impacts.	N

¹ See Section 3.4.2 text for more detailed information about results.

3.4.2.1 Union County

The Union County Land Use Plan (1979) identifies the Blue Mountain Forest Wayside (Wayside) within Union County as an important scenic resource that is within the analysis area. The impact analysis documented in more detail in Attachment R-1 includes information applicable to the area designated by the State of Oregon as the Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor, which includes the Wayside referenced by Union County and other Scenic Corridor segments outside of Union County. The scenic resource identified by Union County also overlaps with an area on the Wallowa-Whitman NF that is discussed below in Section 3.4.2.8. Exhibit L also addresses impacts to the Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor. The Old Emigrant Hill Scenic Frontage Road is the primary viewing platform within the Wayside/Scenic Corridor.

As displayed on Figure R-2-2, the Wayside (identified as SR U1 on the map) includes three discrete parcels within Union County. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates Project structures would potentially be visible from all areas within all three parcels. Mature forest vegetation is

1 extensive within this part of the Blue Mountains, however, indicating that views outward from the
2 frontage road toward the Project would likely be enclosed by trees in much of the Wayside
3 acreage. This would be the case for the northernmost of the three Wayside parcels, which is
4 separated from the Proposed Corridor by approximately 0.4 mile or more.

5 The Proposed Corridor is generally located parallel to the middle (Kamela – Bodie) portion of
6 the Wayside. The edge of the Site Boundary is adjacent to the Wayside boundary at the
7 northern and southern ends of this parcel, and at other locations is within approximately 1,500
8 feet or less. People traveling on the Old Emigrant Hill Scenic Frontage Road would likely have
9 brief, partially screened, peripheral views of Project structures and/or conductors at certain
10 locations within this part of the Wayside. Northbound travelers on the frontage road would also
11 have a direct view of the Project crossing their route of travel as they approached the northern
12 end of this parcel. KOP 4-6 is used in the Project visual analysis to represent this viewing
13 condition. Site-specific viewshed analysis indicates that viewers approaching the Project at this
14 location would potentially have a framed, unobstructed foreground view of one Project structure,
15 and that three or four additional towers would likely be visible behind a partial vegetation screen.

16 The Proposed Corridor is also located generally parallel to most of the southerly (Motanic –
17 Glover) portion of the Wayside, but crosses the Wayside at an angle approximately 0.5 mile
18 west of I-84. The edge of the Site Boundary is within approximately 500 feet of the Wayside in
19 this area, indicating that people traveling on the Old Emigrant Hill Scenic Frontage Road would
20 potentially have brief, intermittent, partially screened, peripheral views of Project structures
21 and/or conductors at several locations. Travelers on the frontage road would also have a direct
22 view of the Project in the vicinity of the Proposed Corridor crossing of the Wayside. KOP 4-4 is
23 used in the Project visual analysis to represent the viewing condition near the crossing location.
24 Review of Project plans and the terrain and vegetation conditions at this location indicates that
25 the two structures supporting the span across the valley (between MP 102 and 103) would be
26 situated on the crests of the ridges flanking the valley and outside of the Scenic Corridor
27 boundary, and well above the elevation of the frontage road. The slopes at the crossing location
28 are and would remain forested, and the trees would provide a screen for the structures.
29 Therefore, travelers approaching the crossing location would have a framed, foreground view of
30 the Project conductors spanning the road, but would have at most a brief, peripheral view
31 exposure to structures at the crossing. A proposed fly yard located approximately 1 mile
32 southeast of the eastern end of this Wayside segment would be blocked from view by terrain
33 and vegetation and would not contribute to Project visual impacts in this area.

34 Considering the range of conditions throughout the Wayside, the Project would likely have no
35 effect or a limited visual presence during much of a visit to this area. As indicated by the results
36 for KOPs 4-4 and 4-6, however, in two locations viewers would have a direct but partial
37 exposure to the Project within a foreground view. Based on the close viewing distance and
38 vegetative screening, the degree of contrast at these specific locations would likely be
39 moderate, although it could be considered strong at KOP 4-6. Because the existing scenic
40 quality is rated as low (see Attachment R-1 for more complete discussion), the overall resource
41 change would be no more than moderate. Viewer sensitivity in this area is considered to be
42 high, while the duration of the view at KOPs 4-4 and 4-6 would be short and viewer numbers are
43 low. Correspondingly, following the approach outlined in Section 3.3.2, the overall viewer
44 response is expected to be moderate. Based on the degree of resource change and viewer
45 response, the visual impacts at KOPs 4-4 and 4-6 were rated as moderate. The assessment
46 indicates that the site-specific impacts of the Project would not rise above moderate, and that
47 the Project would not have a significant adverse visual impact on the scenic resource
48 represented by the Wayside.

1 3.4.2.2 Baker County

2 The Baker County Comprehensive Land Use Plan identifies segments of I-84, U.S. Highway 26,
3 and OR 245, 203, and 86 within the analysis area as important scenic resources. Expected
4 Project effects for each segment are summarized below.

5 **Oregon Highway 203 (GIS ID No. SR B1)**

6 As indicated in Table R-2, the designated scenic segment of OR 203 extends for about 8 miles,
7 from milepost (MP) 22.9 (at the Baker/Union County line) to MP 31.09 (at Salt Creek, east of the
8 junction with Sunnyslope Lane); the entire segment is within the analysis area. The Proposed
9 Corridor does not cross Oregon 203 and is located over 2 miles from the southern end of the
10 scenic segment. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates that the Project would potentially be
11 visible from the majority of this highway segment, while the terrain would block the Project from
12 view within a stretch adjacent to the Powder River.

13 Two viewpoints used in the visual impact analysis, KOPs 5-34 and 5-35, are located within the
14 Highway 203 corridor. KOP 5-34 is located on BLM-managed lands within the Powder River
15 ACEC. The site is a short distance from Highway 203, is near the southern end of the scenic
16 segment, and is approximately 3.7 miles from the Proposed Corridor (and about the same
17 distance from the Flagstaff Alternate Corridor Segment). While some Project structures would
18 likely be visible from this location, the level of contrast was rated as weak as a result of the
19 viewing distance, the ability of the landscape in this area to absorb the contrast created by the
20 Project (which would have a terrain backdrop), and some view blockage by the terrain. The
21 existing scenic quality at this location is rated as Class B (medium); combined with a weak
22 contrast, the overall resource change at KOP 5-34 would be low to moderate. The overall
23 viewer response is rated as moderate, based on high viewer sensitivity, moderate view duration,
24 and low viewer numbers. The incremental visual impacts at KOP 5-34 were rated as low to
25 moderate (insignificant; see Attachment R-1), based on a low to moderate resource change and
26 moderate viewer response.

27 KOP 5-35 is located along Highway 203 at the Powder River, and is in the portion of the
28 highway segment in which views to the Project would be blocked by the terrain. The Project
29 would not have any visual impact at KOP 5-35.

30 Based on the location of KOP 5-34 near the southern end of the Highway 203 scenic segment,
31 impact results for this KOP (low to moderate impact) are representative of the maximum level of
32 impact at other locations along the highway where the Project would be visible. Because the
33 viewing distance at other viewing locations along this highway segment would be similar to that
34 at KOP 5-34 (3.7 miles) or greater, contrast levels at other locations would also likely be weak
35 or less. The viewer response rating for other locations would be the same as for KOP 5-34
36 (moderate). The assessment indicates that the visual impact of the Project would not rise above
37 moderate, and that the Project would not have significant visual impacts on the scenic segment
38 of OR 203.

39 **Oregon Highway 86 (GIS ID No. SR B2)**

40 The designated scenic segment of OR 86 that is applicable to the Project extends for
41 approximately 36 miles, from MP 4.81 (near Sunnyslope Lane) to MP 40.64 (Eagle Creek).
42 Approximately 13 miles in this segment are within the analysis area. The Proposed Corridor
43 crosses Highway 86 near the western end of this segment, in the Virtue Flat area east of the
44 entrance to the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTIC). The Flagstaff
45 Alternate crosses Highway 86 less than 1 mile east of the western end of the scenic segment,
46 between highway MP 5 and 6.

1 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates that transmission facilities on the Proposed Corridor
2 would potentially be visible from the majority of this stretch of Highway 86, particularly in the
3 area within approximately 4 miles to the east of the Project crossing of the highway. A multi-use
4 area and potential fly yard located 4 miles to the north would either not be visible from Highway
5 86 or would not create noticeable sources of additional contrast. While helicopter activity
6 associated with the fly yard might be visible from the highway, the temporary and intermittent
7 occurrence of such activity within a relatively developed area would not represent a meaningful
8 increase to the visual contrast created by the Project in the Highway 86 corridor. (The same
9 condition applies to a fly yard location for the Flagstaff Alternate that is located approximately 1
10 mile west of the western end of the Highway 86 scenic segment.)

11 Two viewpoints used in the visual impact analysis, KOPs 5-60 and 5-61, are located within the
12 Highway 86 corridor. KOP 5-60 is located just to the north of Highway 86 on the NHOTIC
13 entrance road and approximately 0.6 mile west of the Proposed Corridor crossing of the
14 roadway (see Attachment R-1 for additional discussion, and Attachment R-4, Figures R-4-23
15 through 26). Highway 86 viewers near KOP 5-60 would have an unobstructed view toward the
16 Project at a distance of approximately 0.6 mile. At this distance, the transmission towers in the
17 immediate vicinity of the highway crossing would be highly visible as vertical intrusions that
18 contrast with horizontal elements of the landscape. Some towers beyond the crossing vicinity
19 may be partially absorbed by the background mountain terrain, thereby reducing somewhat the
20 overall level of contrast of the Project. The existing scenic quality is rated as Class B (medium)
21 and the contrast as strong, resulting in a moderate to high overall resource change. The overall
22 viewer response is also rated as moderate to high, based on high viewer sensitivity, brief view
23 duration, and high viewer numbers. Based on the moderate to high visual resource change and
24 moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impacts at KOP 5-60 are rated as
25 moderate to high (and potentially significant).

26 Based on the location of KOP 5-60 near the western end of the Highway 86 scenic segment,
27 and near the Proposed Corridor crossing of the highway, impact results for KOP 5-60 are
28 representative of the maximum level of impact at other locations along the highway where the
29 Project would be visible. Similar conditions could be expected at other locations along Highway
30 86 within approximately 1 mile of the crossing. KOP 5-61, for example, is located approximately
31 1 mile east of the Project crossing of the scenic byway. At this location a portion of the Project
32 would also be highly visible because several towers north of the highway would be seen above
33 the skyline. While some of the Project facilities visible from KOP 5-61 would be seen against a
34 terrain backdrop, contrast levels for this location were rated as moderate to strong (see
35 Attachment R-1 for additional discussion and Attachment R-4, Figure R-4-26 for a simulation at
36 this location). Based on the Class B (medium) existing scenic quality, this would result in a
37 moderate to high overall resource change. With a moderate to high overall viewer response
38 (based on moderate to high sensitivity, brief view duration, and high viewer numbers), this
39 would result in visual impacts rated as moderate to high, and potentially significant at this
40 specific location on Highway 86.

41 Contrast and impact levels at other locations along the scenic segment of Highway 86 would not
42 rise above moderate for the Proposed Corridor, because the viewing distance at those locations
43 would be greater than at KOPs 5-60 and 5-61.

44 The Flagstaff Alternate would be visible to scenic highway travelers for a short distance near the
45 western end of the scenic highway segment. The Flagstaff Alternate is nearly perpendicular to
46 the highway at the crossing, and south of the highway the route runs through a low saddle
47 between two hills (see Attachment C-2, Map Sheet 92). Highway 86 curves around the north
48 sides of the two hills and follows a generally northwest-southeast alignment beyond the crossing
49 area, along the south edge of the NHOTIC parcel. Based on the local terrain relative to the
50 alignment of the highway and the Flagstaff Alternate, the area of Project visibility along Highway

1 86 would be less than 1 mile long, extending from approximately 0.3 mile west of the crossing
2 location to about 0.6 mile east of the crossing location.

3 IPC has not yet completed an analysis of impacts of the Flagstaff Alternate on Highway 86. The
4 analysis of impacts of the Flagstaff Alternate on Highway 86 will be included with the final ASC.

5 Considering the conditions summarized above, the visual impacts of the Project would not rise
6 above moderate and would not be significant along most of the scenic segment of OR 86.
7 Based on the analysis for KOPs 5-60 and 5-61, however, the Proposed Corridor would have a
8 moderate to high (potentially significant) visual impact in the western end of the scenic segment
9 of OR 86 near the NHOTIC. The visual impact for the Flagstaff Alternate is not yet complete, but
10 will be provided in the final ASC. Mitigation will be required to reduce the visual impacts for the
11 Proposed Corridor to a non-significant level, and IPC intends to develop measures to avoid,
12 reduce, or otherwise mitigate the visual impacts at this site so that the Project can be
13 constructed, operated, and maintained without a significant adverse impact (see Section 3.4.3).

14 ***Oregon Highway 245 (GIS ID No. SR B3)***

15 The designated scenic segment of OR 245 that is applicable to the Project extends for
16 approximately 37 miles, from the junction with OR 245 to the junction with U.S. Highway 26 near
17 Unity. Approximately 4 miles of this segment are within the analysis area.

18 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the terrain would likely block views toward the Project
19 along this scenic highway segment. In addition, the minimum distance to Highway 245 is
20 approximately 7 miles for the Flagstaff Alternate and 8 miles for the Proposed Corridor. If the
21 Project would be visible from any locations along the scenic segment, it would be seen at a
22 background viewing distance and the contrast level would be weak in locations where structures
23 might be visible. The assessment indicates that the visual impact of the Project on the Oregon
24 Highway 245 scenic resource would be at most low to moderate, and not significant.

25 ***Interstate 84, Pleasant Valley-Durkee Area (GIS ID No. SR B4)***

26 The northerly segment of I-84 that is identified by Baker County as a scenic highway extends
27 from MP 317.39 (at the Pleasant Valley Interchange) to MP 329.24 (1.8 mile southeast of the
28 Durkee Interchange), a distance of about 12 miles. The Proposed Corridor is roughly parallel to
29 the entire scenic highway segment. The distance between the Project and I-84 throughout this
30 highway segment ranges from approximately 0.4 mile to 1.75 mile.

31 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates that transmission facilities on the Proposed Corridor
32 would potentially be visible from most locations along this stretch of I-84. In some locations,
33 particularly where the Project would be relatively close to the freeway, the facilities would be
34 seen against a backdrop of low ridges flanking the highway. At other locations the Project
35 structures would be skylined along those ridges. There would be limited visibility of the Project
36 in other locations along this route, where the low ridges to the north of I-84 would block views
37 toward the Proposed Corridor.

38 A fly yard location has been identified near Hixon Road at MP 169; this facility would not be
39 visible from I-84 because of intervening terrain. A multi-use area along Hindman Road in the
40 eastern part of this I-84 scenic segment would have limited or no visibility. The presence of
41 activity associated with these facilities would not constitute a noticeable source of visual
42 contrast during the period when the facilities were in operation. Given that this activity would
43 occur within a major transportation and utility corridor (with I-84, Old U.S. Highway 30, a railroad
44 and 138-kV and 69-kV transmission lines in view) at a brief viewing duration and on a temporary
45 basis, it would not represent a meaningful component of the visual impact created by the Project
46 in this highway segment.

1 None of the viewpoints used for site-specific visual impact analysis are situated directly on I-84
2 within this scenic highway segment. Three viewpoints are located in the vicinity of the highway
3 segment, and the assessment results for these locations have varying degrees of applicability to
4 this segment of I-84. KOP 5-26 is a viewpoint on Hill Creek Road near I-84, about 2 miles from
5 the western end of the scenic highway segment. Viewers traveling along this particular portion
6 of I-84 would experience a low level of Project visibility due to the elevated terrain between the
7 viewpoint and the Proposed Corridor. Contrast levels at this location were rated as weak to
8 none; with existing scenic quality rated as Class C (low), the overall resource change would be
9 low, at most. The overall viewer response is rated as moderate, based on moderate viewer
10 sensitivity, brief view duration, and high viewer numbers. The incremental visual impact of the
11 Project at KOP 5-26 would be low to moderate (not significant).

12 KOP 5-15 is located on U.S. Highway 30 adjacent to the Alder Creek Road interchange and is a
13 short distance from I-84, and approximately 2 miles west of the western end of the scenic
14 highway segment. While it is not directly on the freeway, conditions for KOP 5-15 are similar to
15 those expected for I-84 locations where views are more open (unlike at KOP 5-26, for example)
16 and the Project would be located relatively close to I-84. At KOP 5-15 the Proposed Corridor is
17 0.3 mile from the viewpoint and the visual contrast created by the Project was rated as
18 moderate to strong, based on the skyline condition and foreground viewing distance. With a
19 Class B (medium) existing scenic quality, the overall resource change would be moderate to
20 high. The overall viewer response and incremental Project impact at KOP 5-15 were also rated
21 as moderate to high, indicating the site-specific impact would potentially be significant. KOP 5-
22 82 is located on Old Highway 30 in the small, unincorporated community of Durkee, less than
23 0.5 mile south of I-84 and near the eastern end of the scenic highway segment. The Proposed
24 Corridor is approximately 1.7 mile northeast of KOP 5-82 and 1.4 mile northeast of I-84. The
25 assessment for KOP 5-82 indicated that views of the Project would be blocked or screened from
26 view at many locations within the community, and where the Project was visible it would likely
27 be seen against a terrain backdrop. Overall, the visual contrast created by the Project was rated
28 as weak to moderate at most. With a Class C (low) existing scenic quality, the overall resource
29 change would be low. The overall viewer response at KOP 5-82 was rated as moderate to high,
30 reflecting high sensitivity for residential viewers. Based on the low visual resource change and
31 moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 5-82 was rated as no
32 more than moderate. Relative to KOP 5-82, the contrast and scenic quality conditions for I-84 in
33 this location would be the same, resulting in the same low overall resource change. The overall
34 viewer response for I-84 travelers would be moderate (based on moderate sensitivity, brief view
35 duration and high viewer numbers), and the incremental impact for the Proposed Corridor as
36 seen from I-84 would be low to moderate.

37 Impact results for KOPs 5-15, 5-26 and 5-82 are considered generally representative of the
38 range of impact conditions along this scenic segment of I-84. Given that the Project would be
39 within or near foreground viewing distance of the freeway in parts of this segment, contrast
40 levels would likely be similar to those indicated for KOP 5-15 in some locations. This condition
41 applies primarily to the area from Hill Creek Road (near Proposed Corridor MP 172) eastward to
42 about Holman Creek (near Proposed Corridor MP 175), where Old Highway 30 crosses under I-
43 84. In this 3-mile section of freeway the Project facilities would likely be continuously visible at a
44 distance of 0.4 to 0.7 miles, and some structures might be seen at least partially above the
45 skyline. In other locations on this highway segment, the Project would be blocked from view by
46 elevated terrain along the north side of I-84. This condition applies to approximately 3 miles at
47 the western end of the highway segment, from near Exit 317 almost to Hill Creek Road; 1.5 to 2
48 miles of highway from the overpass near Holman Creek to the more open terrain near Lawrence
49 Creek; and approximately 1.5 mile of highway from about Burnt River Canyon Lane to the
50 Durkee Creek area. Finally, in some locations along this highway segment the Proposed
51 Corridor would be visible at a middleground distance and seen against a terrain backdrop; this

1 condition would occur in the vicinity of Lawrence Creek (near Hindman Road), near Durkee
2 Creek, and in the Manning Creek valley at the eastern end of the scenic highway segment. In
3 the latter locations, visibility, contrast and impact conditions would be similar to those
4 determined for KOPs 5-26 and 5-82.

5 Overall, the Project would be a noticeable visual presence for many travelers on this segment of
6 I-84 for approximately one quarter of the length of the scenic highway segment, which would
7 represent a period of about 3 minutes of travel time. During much of this time exposure the
8 Project facilities would be in a peripheral view, although in selected locations views from I-84
9 would be oriented more directly toward the Project, particularly for westbound travelers. The
10 Project would be intermittently visible in several other locations that collectively account for
11 another one quarter of the length of the scenic highway segment, where the Project would
12 create weak contrast.

13 Based on the conditions summarized above, the Project would have a variable visual presence
14 along this scenic highway segment, with the degree of contrast at specific locations ranging
15 from none to moderate or strong. Viewed within a context limited to this 12-mile freeway
16 segment, there would be some degree of visual impact for approximately half of the identified
17 scenic resource. Throughout this highway segment, existing development features have had a
18 substantial influence on the character of the landscape. The freeway itself introduces
19 considerable contrast and often dominates the landscape. In addition, Old Highway 30 runs
20 directly adjacent to I-84 in most of the segment and is never more than about 0.5 mile distant; a
21 busy railroad line is similarly close for more than 10 miles of the highway segment; existing 69-
22 kV and 138-kV transmission lines are typically within 0.5 mile and are a nearly continuous visual
23 presence; and developed land uses are noticeable in the Durkee area and at several scattered
24 locations along I-84. In summary, the existing landscape surrounding the scenic highway
25 segment exhibits considerable modification as a result of human activity, and the incremental
26 change to that landscape as a result of the Project would be relatively minor. Considering the
27 range of Project viewing conditions and the context of the viewer experience, the assessment
28 indicates that the overall visual impact of the Project on the I-84 Pleasant Valley-Durkee scenic
29 resource would be moderate, and less than significant.

30 ***Interstate 84, Huntington Area (GIS ID No. SR B5)***

31 The southerly segment of I-84 that is identified by Baker County as a scenic highway extends
32 from MP 345.78 (at the Huntington Interchange) to MP 352.0 (at the Baker/Malheur County
33 line), a distance of about 6 miles. A short segment of the Proposed Corridor northwest of
34 Huntington approaches within about 1 mile of the northern end of the scenic highway segment,
35 before angling to the southwest and away from I-84. The Willow Creek Alternate Corridor
36 Segment is located roughly parallel to the entire scenic highway segment, at a distance ranging
37 from approximately 1 to 3 miles.

38 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates that Project facilities on the Proposed Corridor would
39 potentially be visible from virtually all locations along this stretch of I-84. In general, the Project
40 facilities in this case would be seen against a backdrop of low ridges in the area west of the
41 freeway. Given the viewing distance (about 1 mile at a minimum at the north end of the scenic
42 segment, and up to 7 miles at locations to the south) to the Project and the degree of existing
43 landscape modification in this area, visual contrast associated with the Project would generally
44 be weak and would be at most moderate. While there are no KOPs located directly on this
45 segment of I-84, assessment data for KOPs in the vicinity indicate that existing scenic quality in
46 this area is likely to be rated as Class B or Class C. Therefore, overall resource change ratings
47 at specific locations would likely be low or moderate. The overall viewer response for I-84
48 travelers would be moderate, based on moderate sensitivity, brief view duration and high viewer
49 numbers. The visual impact from the Proposed Corridor at specific locations on this scenic

1 highway segment would be at most moderate, and the Proposed Corridor would not have
2 significant visual impacts on this scenic resource.

3 Facilities on approximately the northerly 5 miles of the Willow Creek Alternate Corridor Segment
4 would also be visible along about 4 to 5 miles of this I-84 segment. In this case, the Project
5 facilities would potentially be skylined as seen from some locations along the I-84 scenic
6 segment, particularly in the area just south of Huntington. In other locations, such as near
7 Benson Creek and Malheur Line Lane, the facilities would be back dropped by ridges west of
8 I-84. The viewing distance would be variable, ranging from 1 to about 3 miles. As a result,
9 contrast ratings and corresponding impact levels along this scenic highway segment would also
10 be variable. In general, contrast ratings would likely be moderate, but might reach strong in
11 selected locations. As noted above, the overall viewer response rating would be moderate.
12 Impact levels would generally be moderate, but could be moderate to high (potentially
13 significant) at selected locations in the northern portion of the scenic highway segment near
14 Huntington; this result is based on the higher contrast created by skylined facilities and a closer
15 viewing distance. Contrast levels would be lower and viewing distance greater along the
16 southern portion of the scenic highway segment, resulting in low to moderate impacts that would
17 not be significant in this area.

18 A fly yard location has been identified 1 mile west of I-84 near Huntington (near Willow Creek
19 Alternate MP 1); this former facility would likely be visible from I-84, particularly for westbound
20 travelers. A multi-use area along would be located along U.S. Highway 30 opposite Farewell
21 bend State Recreation Area, approximately 1 mile east I-84 near the southern end of the scenic
22 segment; this facility would also likely be visible. Both of these temporary facilities apply to the
23 Willow Creek Alternate and not to the Proposed Corridor. The presence of equipment and
24 construction activity at these support facilities within middleground viewing distance of I-84
25 would be an additional source of visual contrast during the period when the facility was in
26 operation. Given that this activity would occur within a context of substantial existing
27 development (including I-84, U.S. Highway 30, local roads, a railroad, and agricultural,
28 residential and commercial uses) at a brief viewing duration and on a temporary basis, it would
29 not represent a meaningful component of the visual impact created by the Project in this
30 highway segment.

31 Considering the conditions summarized above, the visual impacts of the Proposed Corridor on
32 this scenic segment of I-84 would not rise above moderate and would not be significant. The
33 Willow Creek Alternate would likely be more visible in this area, however, and might create
34 contrast levels sufficient to result in moderate to high (potentially significant) visual impacts at
35 specific locations along the northern portion of the scenic highway segment. As noted previously
36 for the Pleasant Valley segment, the 6-mile segment of I-84 south of Huntington would
37 represent a relatively small portion of the trip for a typical traveler. Considering the range of
38 Project viewing conditions and the overall context of the viewer experience, the assessment
39 indicates that the overall visual impact of the Willow Creek Alternate on the I-84 Huntington
40 scenic resource would be moderate and less than significant.

41 3.4.2.3 City of Pendleton

42 The City of Pendleton Comprehensive Plan identifies the Umatilla River and tributaries within
43 the City as important scenic resources; these features are located within the analysis area.

44 Pendleton is located at the northern edge of the analysis area. The distance between the
45 Proposed Corridor and the Umatilla River in Pendleton (GIS ID no. SR P1) is at least 9 miles. In
46 addition, these water features are situated within a valley, and generally at the lowest points of
47 elevation within the Pendleton area. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Project would
48 not be visible from the Umatilla River in Pendleton. Therefore, the Project would have no visual
49 impacts on this scenic resource.

1 3.4.2.4 BLM, Baker Resource Area

2 **VRM B1 Keating Cutoff**

3 The VRM B1 identifier applies to a small (approximately 44 acres) parcel of BLM-administered
4 lands managed as VRM Class II located adjacent to Keating Road near OR 86. This site is
5 about 9 miles northeast of Baker City and 2 miles southwest of the community of Keating. It is
6 nearly 4 miles northeast from the Proposed Corridor, and about 6 miles northeast from the
7 Flagstaff Alternate.

8 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates that Project facilities on the Proposed Corridor would
9 potentially be visible at this site. To the extent that the Project might be visible (depending on
10 site-specific viewing conditions), the far middleground viewing distance and the presence of an
11 existing transmission line near this parcel indicate the Project would create weak contrast.
12 Given that Class B or C existing scenic quality would apply to this area, the visual resource
13 change would be low or low to moderate. The view duration in this location would presumably
14 be moderate and viewer numbers would be low; assuming high viewer sensitivity, the overall
15 viewer response would be moderate. The impact level at this location for the Proposed Corridor
16 would not rise above moderate, and would be less than significant.

17 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates that Project facilities on the Flagstaff Alternate would not
18 be visible at this site, and this alternative would have no visual impacts on the VRM B1 area.
19 Therefore, the applicable elements of the visual assessment support a conclusion that the visual
20 impact of the Project on this scenic resource would be moderate or less, and would not be
21 significant.

22 **VRM B2 Powder River Canyon – Keating**

23 This area includes multiple parcels of BLM-administered land within the Powder River Canyon
24 that are managed as VRM Class II, with a total area of approximately 5,500 acres. The area
25 also straddles OR 86 (the Baker-Copperfield Highway). The western end of this VRM polygon is
26 approximately 11 miles east of I-84, 8 miles east of the Flagstaff Alternate, and over 4 miles
27 east of the Proposed Corridor. The eastern end of this area is more than 15 miles from the
28 Proposed Corridor.

29 The VRM Class II parcels cover the roadway corridor and adjacent terrain near the Powder
30 River. Based on their location within a canyon, views toward the Project would be blocked by
31 the terrain at many locations within this VRM Class II area. In addition, the eastern part of this
32 area would be too far from the Proposed Corridor or Flagstaff Alternate for Project facilities to be
33 seen or identified. In general, the Project would likely be visible only from some locations within
34 the western part of this area, and it would be viewed at a background distance in any locations
35 where it was visible. Because of the viewing distance, the Project would create only weak visual
36 contrast in locations where it was visible, and the degree of overall resource change would be
37 low. The overall viewer response for this area would be moderate, based on the moderate to
38 high sensitivity for travelers on OR 86 (a scenic byway), a brief view duration, and moderate
39 viewer numbers. With the weak (or nonexistent) contrast and low resource change and
40 moderate viewer response, the impact level would be low to moderate or none. Visual impacts
41 that would occur within the VRM B2 area would not be significant.

42 **VRM B3 Burnt River Canyon**

43 Approximately 10,700 acres of BLM-administered lands in the Burnt River Canyon area are
44 managed to meet VRM Class II objectives. The eastern end of this area is located
45 approximately 2.6 miles west of the community of Durkee, and about 3.9 miles from the
46 Proposed Corridor (which parallels I-84 in this area). The Project visual impact analysis included

1 one viewpoint within this VRM Class II area, KOP 5-81, located on Burnt River Canyon Lane
2 about 3.5 miles from Durkee and 4.6 miles from the Proposed Corridor. Bare-earth viewshed
3 analysis shows the Proposed Corridor would potentially be visible from the easternmost portion
4 of the canyon, while the majority of the VRM Class II lands in the canyon would not have views
5 toward the Project due to the mountainous terrain. In the small portion of the VRM B3 area with
6 potential visibility, the Project would be seen in the background at a viewing distance of more
7 than 4 miles, and it would be seen against a backdrop of higher terrain to the east of I-84 and
8 the Project. Contrast created by the Project would be weak in locations where the Project would
9 be visible, and nonexistent elsewhere. Given Class B existing scenic quality (based on the
10 rating for KOP 5-81), the overall resource change would be low to moderate. The overall viewer
11 response would be moderate (again based on the rating for KOP 5-81), the resulting impact
12 level for these specific locations would not exceed moderate. The Project would have moderate
13 (insignificant) visual impacts in a limited portion of the VRM B3 area and no impact within most
14 of this area.

15 ***VRM B4 Lawrence Creek – Little Lookout Mountain***

16 The VRM B4 identifier applies to a group of nine parcels of BLM-administered lands managed
17 as VRM Class II located in the general vicinity of Lawrence Creek and Little Lookout Mountain.
18 In the northwestern part of this area, two small parcels of VRM Class II accessed via Sardine
19 Creek Road are located approximately 13 miles directly west of the community of Richland and
20 over 7 miles east of the Proposed Corridor. Another parcel of approximately 190 acres near
21 Lawrence Creek is located approximately 10 miles west of Richland and over 10 miles east of
22 the Proposed Corridor. Bare-earth viewshed analysis shows no Project visibility at these sites,
23 indicating the Project would not have visual impacts in this part of the VRM B4 area.

24 The primary cluster of BLM parcels in the VRM B4 area accounts for approximately 1,200 acres.
25 These parcels are located south of Lawrence Creek, on Little Lookout Mountain. At the closest
26 point these lands are more than 6 miles to the northeast from the Proposed Corridor. Bare-earth
27 viewshed analysis indicates that the terrain would block views toward the Project from most of
28 this area. The Project would potentially be visible from lands near the west end of the VRM B4
29 area that are relatively high in elevation and allow views oriented to the south and west. While
30 this area would provide a superior viewing position, Project facilities that might be visible from
31 this location would be seen against a backdrop of varied terrain and vegetation southwest of
32 I-84. Based on the background viewing distance and the potential for absorption within the
33 landscape, the contrast levels from this location would be weak and the overall resource change
34 would be low or low to moderate. The overall viewer response for this area would be moderate,
35 based on high sensitivity, moderate view duration and low viewer numbers. The resulting impact
36 level in this portion of the VRM B4 area would not rise above moderate.

37 Overall, the applicable elements of the visual assessment support a conclusion that the Project
38 would have no impacts in most of the VRM B4 area and would have at most moderate (less
39 than significant) impacts in a small portion of the area.

40 ***VRM B5 Durkee – Manning Creek***

41 The VRM B5 identifier applies to a group of four parcels of BLM-administered lands managed
42 as VRM Class II located in the general vicinity of Durkee and Manning creeks. Two parcels of
43 VRM Class II lands totaling approximately 238 acres at the western edge of this area are
44 located approximately 4.9 and 5.3 miles east of the Proposed Corridor. Bare-earth viewshed
45 analysis shows little visibility at this site. Because the viewing distance would be between 4 and
46 5 miles, there would be little contrast and low or low to moderate resource change. The overall
47 viewer response would be moderate (as discussed above for VRM B4), and the resulting
48 impacts in the limited areas where the Project would potentially be visible would not exceed

1 moderate. Therefore, the Project would have insignificant visual impacts in parts of these two
2 parcels and no impacts in the remainder of these parcels.

3 The remaining lands form an irregular, Y-shaped area that includes approximately 3,700 acres.
4 These lands are situated relatively high on slopes that generally allow views oriented to the
5 south and west, toward the Project and I-84. Bare-earth viewshed modeling indicates that the
6 terrain blocks views in some localized areas, but that the Project would potentially be visible in
7 most of this area. Distances from the VRM B5 area to the Proposed Corridor range from
8 approximately 3.5 miles (at the southern end) to 5 or 6 miles (near the northern end of the area).
9 While this area would provide a superior viewing position, Project facilities that would be visible
10 would be seen against a backdrop of varied terrain and vegetation southwest of I-84. Based on
11 the viewing distance and the potential for absorption within the landscape, the contrast levels
12 from this area would be weak and the overall resource change would be low or low to moderate.
13 The overall viewer response would be moderate, and the resulting impact level in this portion of
14 the VRM B5 area would not rise above moderate.

15 Overall, the visual assessment supports a conclusion that the Project would have no impacts in
16 parts of the VRM B5 area and would have at most moderate (less than significant) impacts in
17 much of the area.

18 ***VRM B6 Snake River Canyon West***

19 The VRM B6 identifier applies to a group of six parcels of BLM-administered lands managed as
20 VRM Class II located generally to the north and west of Brownlee Reservoir in southeastern
21 Baker County. This large area includes more than 20,000 acres; it ranges from about 1 to
22 6 miles wide and extends approximately 12 miles in a north-south direction. The nearest
23 communities are Weatherby in Oregon and Mineral in Idaho. The BLM-administered lands in
24 this area are primarily located on the slopes of Sugarloaf, Big Lookout, and Morgan mountains.

25 At the closest point to the Project, this VRM Class II area is located approximately 3 miles to the
26 northeast of the Proposed Corridor. Bare-earth viewshed analysis shows there would be no
27 Project visibility in a large majority of the VRM B6 area. Areas with potential visibility toward the
28 Project generally occur on west-facing slopes of Big Lookout Mountain and Morgan Mountain.
29 One of the KOPs used in the visual impact analysis documented in detail in Attachment R-1 is
30 located within the VRM B6 area. KOP 5-75 is at the site of a former fire lookout on Big Lookout
31 Mountain. Based on the viewing distance and the potential for absorption within the landscape,
32 the contrast levels from this KOP would be weak. The existing scenic quality is rated as Class A
33 and the overall resource change would be moderate. The overall viewer response for this KOP
34 was rated as moderate, based on high viewer sensitivity, moderate view duration, and low
35 viewer numbers. The resulting visual impact for this specific location would be moderate.

36 The impact analysis results for KOP 5-75 are representative of with-Project conditions in other
37 parts of the VRM B6 area with potential Project visibility. The assessment summarized above
38 indicates that the Project would have no impacts in most of the VRM B6 area and would have at
39 most moderate (less than significant) impacts in the west-facing locations with views toward the
40 Project.

41 ***VRM B7 Brownlee Reservoir West***

42 The Brownlee Reservoir West area (VRM B7) includes four parcels of BLM-administered lands
43 totaling over 4,200 acres located west of and directly adjacent to Brownlee Reservoir, northeast
44 of Huntington in southeastern Baker County. This area of VRM Class II lands extends for more
45 than 7 miles from north to south and is from about 1 to 3 miles in width. The southwestern edge
46 of this area is closest to the Project, at a distance of approximately 2.2 miles from the Proposed
47 Corridor and approximately 3 miles from the northern end of the Willow Creek Alternate.

1 Bare-earth viewshed analysis shows no Project visibility for most of this area, which primarily
2 consists of east-facing slopes adjacent to the reservoir. The impact results for KOP 5-59 in the
3 Spring Wilderness Characteristic Area are representative of conditions at locations within the
4 VRM B7 area where the Project might be visible. The Project would potentially be visible at this
5 location due to the relatively high elevation and superior viewing angle. KOP 5-59 is located
6 over 4.7 miles from the Proposed Corridor, however, and at this distance Project details would
7 not likely be discernible. The Project would create weak contrast as seen from this location, and
8 with a Class B scenic quality, the overall resource change would be low to moderate. The
9 overall viewer response for this area was rated as moderate, based on high viewer sensitivity,
10 moderate view duration, and low viewer numbers. As a result, visual impacts for this specific
11 location were rated as moderate (less than significant). Therefore, the visual assessment
12 supports a conclusion that the Project would have no impacts in most of the VRM B7 area and
13 would have at most moderate (less than significant) visual impacts in certain west-facing
14 locations with views toward the Project.

15 **Oregon Trail ACEC (GIS ID No. SR B6)**

16 The Oregon Trail ACEC includes approximately 1,500 acres distributed among seven separate,
17 widely-scattered parcels located in Umatilla, Union, and Baker counties. One of the parcels, the
18 Echo Meadows site, is located southwest of Stanfield in Umatilla County. The remaining six
19 parcels range from a northerly location in the Blue Mountains near Meacham in Umatilla County
20 to a southerly location near Weatherby in Baker County. The lands in this ACEC are managed
21 to preserve the historic resources and visual qualities of these areas. The current Baker
22 Resource Area RMP indicates that “[n]ew uses incompatible with maintaining visual qualities or
23 providing public interpretation will be excluded in a mile corridor” (BLM 1989). The individual
24 parcels within the analysis area and the potential visual effects of the proposed transmission
25 line on each parcel are described below, starting with the northern-most and proceeding south.

26 **Echo Meadows Parcel**

27 This small ACEC parcel is located southwest of Stanfield in Umatilla County; it is approximately
28 8 miles northeast of the Proposed Corridor and 10 miles east of the Longhorn Alternate Corridor
29 Segment. While bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates there would be a line of sight from this
30 parcel to the Project, at these background distances the Project facilities would not be
31 discernible and there would be no visual impacts on this ACEC parcel.

32 **Blue Mountain Parcel**

33 This ACEC parcel of 80 acres is located in the Blue Mountains on the northeast side of I-84
34 about 12 miles northwest of La Grande in Umatilla County. This parcel abuts the Wallowa-
35 Whitman NF and is accessed via Forest Road 308. It is located on a mostly forested ridge east
36 of California Gulch.

37 The Proposed Corridor is located 1.1 miles to the southwest of this ACEC parcel. Existing
38 coniferous vegetation on and around the ACEC parcel would screen or block many of the
39 potential outward views from this site. In addition, a ridge to the immediate west of the ACEC
40 parcel and coniferous trees on the west side of I-84 would partially or entirely screen potential
41 views of the proposed transmission line. Based on the viewing conditions, Project visibility
42 would be low and contrast would be weak. With a Class B existing scenic quality, the overall
43 resource change would be low. The overall viewer response would be moderate, based on high
44 sensitivity, moderate view duration and the evident low use of this parcel. Consequently, the
45 visual impacts to this resource would not exceed low to moderate, and may be nonexistent.

1 **NHOTIC Parcel**

2 The NHOTIC parcel is found along the north side of OR 86, 4 miles northeast of Baker City.
3 This is one of the largest of the ACEC parcels, at 507 acres (BLM 1989), and receives by far the
4 greatest level of recreational use. The Interpretive Center itself is located on the top of Flagstaff
5 Hill and has extensive views, including to the west across Baker Valley to the Blue Mountains
6 and to the southeast across Virtue Flat.

7 Facilities at the site include the main Interpretive Center building, with exhibit galleries, a theater
8 and a gift shop; outdoor exhibits, including a pioneer wagon encampment, a replica stamp mill
9 and an historic gold mine; picnic facilities; and 4 miles of interpretive trails, including a trail to a
10 mile-long stretch of Oregon Trail ruts (BLM 2012). BLM (2011b) reported over 66,000 visitors to
11 the Interpretive Center site in 2009.

12 At the closest point, the Proposed Corridor is located 1.1 miles to the southeast of the NHOTIC.
13 The proposed transmission line structures and conductors would be highly visible approximately
14 1.1 miles to the southeast of the NHOTIC and about 0.4 mile from the closest property line. A
15 multi-use area and potential fly yard located 4 miles to the north would either not be visible from
16 the NHOTIC or would not create noticeable sources of additional contrast. While helicopter
17 activity associated with the fly yard might be visible, the temporary and intermittent occurrence
18 of such activity within a relatively developed area would not represent a meaningful increase to
19 the visual contrast created by the Project in the NHOTIC vicinity. (The same condition applies to
20 a fly yard location for the Flagstaff Alternate that is located approximately 1 mile west of the
21 NHOTIC.)

22 The visual assessment documented in Attachment R-1 includes five specific locations within
23 KOP 5-25 on the NHOTIC property, plus KOP 5-60 at the NHOTIC entrance. KOPs 5-25a, 5-
24 25b, and 5-60 have views oriented toward the Proposed Corridor. The proposed transmission
25 line would have moderate to high visibility from these locations within the ACEC parcel.
26 Because of the elevated viewing position, however, the structures and conductors would be
27 seen mostly against a terrain backdrop, which would reduce their contrast. (Simulations of two
28 views of the Proposed Corridor transmission line are included in Attachment R-4, Figures R-4-
29 13, -14, -23 and -24). As a result, the contrast level would be moderate and, with a Class B
30 scenic quality, the overall resource change would be moderate. Viewer numbers and sensitivity
31 are high and the view duration would typically be moderate, resulting in an overall viewer
32 response rating of moderate to high. Consequently, the visual impact for the NHOTIC Parcel is
33 rated as moderate to high, and potentially significant and appropriate mitigation would be
34 needed to reduce impacts to less than significant.

35 The Flagstaff Alternate is located within a mile of the NHOTIC and within 1,200 feet of the
36 western boundary of this parcel. Approximately 1.6 miles (about seven or eight structures) of
37 this alternate route might be visible from various points on the NHOTIC parcel. KOPs 5-25c, 5-
38 25d, and 5-25e have views oriented toward the Flagstaff Alternate; simulated views from these
39 locations are contained in Appendix R-4, Figures R-4-15 through R-4-20. The Baker Valley and
40 mountainous landscape beyond would provide a backdrop for the Project, and the presence of
41 an existing 230-kV line would lessen some of the potential visual contrast for this alternate.
42 Overall visibility of the proposed transmission facilities would be moderate, as would the
43 contrast level. With a Class B scenic quality, the overall resource change would be moderate.
44 Based on a viewer response rated as moderate to high (as noted above), the overall visual
45 impact of the Flagstaff Alternate on the NHOTIC parcel would be moderate to high (potentially
46 significant) and appropriate mitigation would be needed to reduce impacts to less than
47 significant.

48 In addition to the above viewpoints, KOP 5-32 at the Kiwanis Club Historic Marker along OR 86
49 is located on the boundary of the ACEC. At this KOP the terrain (Flagstaff Hill) would block

1 eastward views toward the Proposed Corridor and there would be no impacts for this case. For
2 the Flagstaff Alternate, viewers looking toward the northwest would likely see up to three
3 existing and portions of three Project structures at a distance of 0.5 mile. The Project structures
4 would not dominate the view and would result in a moderate contrast. With a Class B scenic
5 quality, the overall resource change would be moderate. Based on a viewer response rated as
6 moderate, (based on moderate to high viewer sensitivity, brief view duration and moderate
7 viewer numbers), the overall visual impact of the Flagstaff Alternate at KOP 5-32 would be
8 moderate.

9 Based on a viewer response rated as moderate to high (as noted above), the overall visual
10 impact of both the Proposed Corridor and the Flagstaff Alternate on the NHOTIC Parcel would
11 be moderate to high and potentially significant. IPC plans to work with the appropriate federal,
12 state, and local agencies to develop a specific package to mitigate the visual impacts at this site
13 to a non-significant level.

14 **White Swan Parcel**

15 The White Swan parcel of the ACEC is 5 to 6 miles southeast of NHOTIC and south of the
16 Virtue Flat area in Baker County. It appears to include approximately 580 to 600 acres
17 extending for nearly 2 miles along White Swan Road (BLM 2011b). This parcel is approximately
18 2.7 miles from the Proposed Corridor near MPs 159 and 160, and 3.2 miles northeast of the
19 Flagstaff Alternate. The visual assessment does not include a KOP specific to this parcel.
20 Review of current conditions for the vicinity and viewshed mapping indicates that scenic quality
21 would likely be rated as Class B, visibility would be low or moderate, and contrast would be
22 weak. The overall viewer response for this area would likely be rated as moderate, based on
23 high viewer sensitivity, short view duration and low viewer numbers. With a low resource
24 change and moderate viewer response, the visual impact at this location for either alternate
25 would not exceed low to moderate.

26 **Straw Ranch 2 Parcel**

27 Another parcel of the Oregon Trail ACEC is located approximately 2 miles northeast of Pleasant
28 Valley, which is between Exits 313 and 317 (Hixon Road) on I-84. This parcel includes
29 approximately 230 to 240 acres and does not appear to be accessed by existing roads (BLM
30 2011b). The Proposed Corridor is located approximately 1.1 miles to the south of this ACEC
31 parcel, and the Flagstaff Alternate is 4.2 miles to the west.

32 Potential views southwest and south to the Proposed Corridor would be at least partially
33 blocked by topography. Views from this parcel to the west and northwest toward the Proposed
34 Corridor are not blocked; if Project structures in this area would be visible, they would be seen
35 at distances of about 4 miles or more and would not be distinct. The same condition would apply
36 to views toward the Flagstaff Alternate. Overall, viewing distance and existing landscape
37 conditions indicate that any visual contrast noticeable at this site for either Project alternate
38 would be weak and the resource change would be low. The overall viewer response for this
39 area would likely be rated as moderate, based on high viewer sensitivity, short view duration
40 and low viewer numbers. With a low resource change and moderate viewer response, the visual
41 impact at this location for either alternate would not exceed low to moderate.

42 **Straw Ranch 1 Parcel (Hill Creek Road)**

43 This parcel of the Oregon Trail ACEC is located about 2.2 miles southeast of Pleasant Valley on
44 the north side of I-84, approaching within 0.1 mile of the highway, and to the west of Straw
45 Ranch Creek. This parcel includes approximately 160 to 170 acres and has unimproved road
46 access to the south end of the parcel (BLM 2011b), although the nearest exit on I-84 is 4 to 5
47 miles away. Existing 69-kV and 138-kV transmission lines cross the property from east to west.
48 The Proposed Corridor is located 0.1 mile to the northeast of the parcel. A fly yard location has

1 been identified approximately 1.5 mile to the northwest. A fly yard at that location would not be
2 visible from the ACEC parcel, and intermittent, temporary helicopter activity in the vicinity would
3 not have a meaningful influence on the Project visual impact at this property.

4 The proposed transmission line would be evident in foreground views, particularly from locations
5 in the northern part of the property. Because the landscape on and near the property has
6 already been modified by two existing transmission lines and I-84, the degree of contrast
7 created by the Project would be weak and the resource change would be low. The overall
8 viewer response for this area would likely be rated as moderate, based on high viewer
9 sensitivity, short view duration, and low viewer numbers. Based on the degree of visual change
10 and viewer considerations, the visual impact would not exceed low to moderate.

11 **Powell Creek Parcel (Valentine Road)**

12 This parcel of the Oregon Trail ACEC is located slightly east of I-84 about 0.6 mile southeast of
13 Dixie and 5 miles north of Lime. This parcel includes approximately 70 acres and has direct
14 access via Chimney Creek Road (BLM 2011b). At this location the proposed 138-kV/69-kV
15 rebuild and the 500-kV line would be about 0.5 mile and 0.8 mile or more, respectively, from the
16 ACEC parcel.

17 The 138-kV/69-kV rebuild facility would be located at a lower elevation and views from the
18 ACEC of the rebuilt line would be partially screened by topography. The 500-kV line would be
19 on the west side of the highway and the Burnt River, along a hillside currently occupied by the
20 138-kV line. Views of the 500-kV line to the west would be back dropped by the hillsides that
21 rise several hundred feet above the valley. Views to the southwest would include some Project
22 structures on the skyline. With two sets of transmission structures replacing two existing sets,
23 the degree of visual contrast would be weak and the resource change would be low to
24 moderate. (A fly yard has been identified slightly more than 1 mile to the south of this ACEC
25 parcel. If a fly yard were developed at this location, it would be blocked from view by the hilly
26 terrain to the east of I-84.) The overall viewer response for this area would likely be rated as
27 moderate, based on high viewer sensitivity, short view duration and low viewer numbers.
28 Consequently, a low to moderate level of incremental impact is expected at this location.

29 **Powder River Canyon ACEC (GIS ID No. SR B7)**

30 The Powder River Canyon ACEC includes approximately 5,880 acres in the Keating Valley
31 between Thief Valley Reservoir and OR 203, nearly half of which are within the Powder Wild
32 and Scenic River corridor. The Proposed Corridor is located approximately 3 miles to the
33 southwest of the Powder River in this area.

34 Bare-earth viewshed analysis shows no Project visibility in virtually all of this ACEC, with a small
35 linear area of potential visibility in upland areas east of the river and in the eastern part of the
36 ACEC. Project facilities that might be visible in this limited area would be at a middleground or
37 background distance and would be seen against a terrain backdrop. Based on the viewing
38 distance and potential for absorption within the landscape, contrast levels would be weak. The
39 existing scenic quality would be Class B or C, depending on the specific location, and the
40 overall resource change would be low or low to moderate. The overall viewer response for this
41 area would likely be rated as moderate, based on high viewer sensitivity, moderate view
42 duration, and low viewer numbers.

43 Three of the KOPs defined for the Project visual analysis are located within or near the Powder
44 River and are generally indicative of expected visual conditions for this scenic resource. KOP 5-
45 34 is located in an upland setting on OR 203 near the southwestern edge of the ACEC and
46 more than 3 miles from the Proposed Corridor. KOP 5-35 is located on OR 203 within the river
47 corridor to the southwest of the ACEC and more than 5 miles from the Proposed Corridor. KOP

1 5-36 is located on Thief Valley Reservoir Road slightly north of the ACEC and 2.5 miles from the
2 Proposed Corridor. The assessments for these KOPs included contrast ratings of weak or none
3 and overall resource change of low or none. The overall viewer response was rated as
4 moderate for each KOP. The visual impacts at these locations were rated as low to moderate
5 for KOP 5-34, low for KOP 5-35, and none for KOP 5-36.

6 The assessment results for these KOPs and the preceding discussion indicate that the Project
7 would have no impacts in most of the Powder River Canyon ACEC and would have at most low
8 to moderate impacts in the west-facing locations with views toward the Project. Therefore, the
9 Project would not create significant adverse visual impacts to this scenic resource.

10 3.4.2.5 BLM, Malheur Resource Area

11 **VRM M1 Birch Creek**

12 The VRM M1 identifier applies to a small area of approximately 119 acres of BLM-administered
13 lands south of Farewell Bend. The area includes the Birch Creek Interpretive Site and is
14 managed to meet VRM Class II objectives. The southern boundary of this parcel is
15 approximately 3 miles from the Willow Creek Alternate and 8 miles from the Proposed Corridor.

16 Bare-earth viewshed analysis shows that transmission facilities on both the Proposed Corridor
17 and the Willow Creek Alternate would potentially be visible from a portion of the VRM M1 area,
18 including the interpretive site. If Project facilities on the Proposed Corridor would be visible from
19 this site, they would be seen in the background, against a backdrop of rugged terrain at a
20 viewing distance of more than 8 miles. The closest portion of the Willow Creek Alternate would
21 be seen at a middleground viewing distance of approximately 3 miles, and also against a
22 backdrop of rugged terrain. A fly yard location has been identified 1 mile west of I-84 near
23 Huntington (near Willow Creek Alternate MP 1), and approximately 5 miles northwest the VRM
24 M1 area. A multi-use area along would be located along U.S. Highway 30 opposite Farewell
25 Bend State Recreation Area, approximately 1.5 mile northeast of the VRM M1 area. Both of
26 these temporary facilities apply to the Willow Creek Alternate and not to the Proposed Corridor.
27 Based on the viewing distance, it is unlikely that any features at the fly yard would be noticeable
28 to viewers, although some viewers could observe intermittent helicopter activity. Features at the
29 multi-use area might be visible; if so, they would be seen at a middleground distance and within
30 a context of substantial existing development (including I-84, U.S. Highway 30, local roads, a
31 railroad, and agricultural, residential and commercial uses). Given that any contrast from these
32 temporary facilities would be very weak or nonexistent, it would not represent a meaningful
33 component of the visual impact created by the Project in this area.

34 The Birch Creek Interpretive Site is the location for KOP 8-3 used in the Project visual impact
35 analysis. Contrast levels created by the Project at this KOP were rated as weak or none for the
36 Proposed Corridor, and the resource change as low or none. The potential for the Willow Creek
37 Alternate to be visible is higher, although it likely would be partially screened from view by to the
38 rugged terrain near KOP 8-3. Contrast levels and resource change were rated as moderate for
39 this alternative. The overall viewer response for KOP 8-3 is rated as low to moderate, based on
40 high viewer sensitivity, short view duration, and low viewer numbers. Based on a low or
41 moderate resource change and a low to moderate viewer response, the visual impact at this
42 location would not exceed moderate for either alternative. Therefore, the Project would not have
43 significant visual impacts to this scenic resource.

44 **VRM M2 Oregon Trail – Tub Mountain**

45 This long, narrow area in northeastern Malheur County includes approximately 5,900 acres of
46 BLM-administered lands managed as VRM Class II. The Tub Mountain section of the Oregon
47 Trail is included within these BLM-administered lands, resulting in the designation of Oregon

1 Trail – Tub Mountain ACEC. The VRM M2 area extends for nearly 10 miles from north to south
2 and it ranges from 0.5 to 1.5 miles wide. It is situated between I-84 and U.S. Highway 26, and
3 the southern end of the area is approximately 13 miles north of Vale and 9 miles east of the
4 small community of Jamieson. At the closest points the Proposed Corridor is located more than
5 8 miles from the VRM M2 area and the Willow Creek Alternate is more than 2 miles distant.

6 Bare-earth viewshed analysis shows the Proposed Corridor or the Willow Creek Alternate would
7 potentially be visible from only limited locations within the VRM M2 area. KOP 8-24 in the Tub
8 Mountain ACEC is at the northern end of the VRM M2 area. The Proposed Corridor is not
9 expected to be visible at this location, and would have no visual impacts. Similarly, the terrain
10 would block views toward the Willow Creek Alternate, located 2 miles to the northwest from this
11 KOP. Therefore, the Project would not have adverse visual impacts at KOP 8-24.

12 KOP 8-1, the Alkali Springs Interpretive Site, is located near the south end of the VRM M2 area.
13 Bare-earth viewshed analysis shows the Proposed Corridor and the Willow Creek Alternate
14 would potentially be visible from this location. The viewing distance would be 10 miles or more
15 in each case, however, indicating that contrast levels would be weak if Project facilities were
16 actually visible from KOP 8-1. Therefore, visual impacts at this location would be either
17 nonexistent or low (and insignificant).

18 The assessment summarized above indicates that the Project would have no impacts in most of
19 the VRM M2 area and would have at most low impacts in the limited locations with potential
20 views toward the Proposed Corridor and/or the Willow Creek Alternate. Therefore, the Project
21 would not create significant adverse visual impacts to this scenic resource.

22 ***VRM M3 Sugarloaf Butte***

23 The VRM M3 area includes approximately 400 acres of BLM-administered lands north of Bully
24 Creek Reservoir that are managed to meet VRM Class II objectives. The southern edge of this
25 parcel is approximately 2.2 miles north of the reservoir and 12 miles northwest of Vale. At the
26 closest point this area is 0.7 mile from the Proposed Corridor and about 0.8 mile from the Willow
27 Creek Alternate.

28 Bare-earth viewshed analysis shows both the Proposed Corridor and the Willow Creek Alternate
29 would be visible from Sugarloaf Butte and the majority of the VRM M3 area. None of the KOPs
30 used in the Project visual analysis are located within the VRM M3 area or are in a sufficiently
31 similar setting that their analysis results could be applied directly to this area. The Project would
32 be seen in the middleground, at a viewing distance of at least 0.7 mile, however. Locations with
33 visibility would be in a superior (elevated) viewing position, indicating that the Project facilities
34 would likely be seen against a terrain backdrop. Based on the viewing and landscape
35 conditions, contrast levels created by the Project would likely be moderate, but could be strong
36 in selected locations. Viewers in this area would presumably be recreational visitors, with high
37 sensitivity to visual change. The view duration would likely be moderate and viewer numbers
38 would be quite low. IPC recognizes the need to have additional site-specific assessment for this
39 resource; IPC will conduct field review for a new KOP in this area during 2013, and will
40 document the results in the final ASC.

41 ***VRM M4 Oregon Trail – Keeney Pass***

42 The VRM M4 area includes approximately 1,015 acres of BLM-administered lands southeast of
43 Vale managed to meet VRM Class II objectives. This area forms a long, narrow corridor
44 extending for more than 6 miles in a generally northwest-southeast direction. Similar to the Tub
45 Mountain area discussed above, the VRM M4 area corresponds to the Oregon Trail Keeney
46 Pass ACEC designation. The southern boundary of this linear ACEC is approximately 6.3 miles
47 from the Proposed Corridor at its closest point.

1 Bare-earth viewshed analysis shows the Proposed Corridor would potentially be visible from
2 various locations within the ACEC. In these locations, the Project would be seen in the
3 background at a viewing distance of more than 6 miles, and it would be seen against a
4 backdrop of undulating terrain. Two viewpoints used in the Project visual impact analysis, KOPs
5 8-16 and 8-25, are located within this VRM Class II area. Field review indicated that the
6 Proposed Corridor would not be visible from either KOP because of intervening terrain. With a
7 distance of 6.5 miles from the Proposed Corridor and the landscape backdrop, contrast levels
8 created by the Project at other locations in this area would be weak (where visible). With a
9 Class C scenic quality (as evaluated for KOPs 8-16 and 8-25), the overall resource change
10 would also be low. The overall viewer response for this area would be moderate at most, based
11 on moderate to high viewer sensitivity, short viewing duration, and low viewer numbers.
12 Consequently, the impact level would not exceed low to moderate. Overall, the Project would
13 have no impact within much of this area and insignificant visual impacts in a limited part of this
14 scenic resource.

15 ***VRM M5 Lower Owyhee River***

16 The VRM M5 area includes three parcels of BLM-administered lands along the Lower Owyhee
17 River that are classified as VRM Class II. The downstream (northerly) end of this area is
18 approximately 6 miles west of Adrian, on the Snake River, and 16 miles south of Vale. The VRM
19 M5 area extends upstream (southwesterly) for approximately 8 miles to Owyhee Dam. The total
20 area is approximately 19,300 acres. The Proposed Corridor crosses the northern end of the
21 VRM M5 area, at the entrance to the Owyhee Canyon. The Malheur S Alternate Corridor
22 Segment crosses the southern part of this Class II area approximately 2 miles northeast of
23 Owyhee Dam.

24 Bare-earth viewshed analysis shows that potential visibility of transmission facilities on the
25 Proposed Corridor would primarily be limited to the northern part of the M5 area near the mouth
26 of the canyon. A multi-use area and an adjacent fly yard location are situated along the Lake
27 Owyhee Road approximately 0.5 mile northeast of the Proposed Corridor as it passes near the
28 eastern edge of the VRM M5 area. Features at these facilities would not be visible from the
29 VRM Class II lands within the canyon because the ridges near the mouth of the canyon would
30 block views in that direction, although some viewers in the eastern part of the canyon could
31 observe intermittent helicopter activity. Given the timing characteristics of this activity, it would
32 not represent a meaningful component of the visual impact created by the Project in this area.

33 Transmission facilities on the Malheur S Alternate would potentially be visible from a larger area
34 within the canyon, particularly within the vicinity of the crossing of the Lake Owyhee Road. A fly
35 yard location for the Malheur S alternate along haystack Rock Road is approximately 1 mile
36 northwest of the western edge of the VRM M5 area, while the closest multi-use area and
37 another fly yard are approximately 3 miles from the eastern edge of the M5 area. Any visibility of
38 these facilities would be limited to areas along the periphery of the VRM M5 area, although
39 some viewers within the canyon (where most visitor use occurs) could observe intermittent
40 helicopter activity. Given the middleground or background viewing distance and the timing
41 characteristics associated with these support facilities, they would not represent a meaningful
42 component of the visual impact created by the Malheur S Alternate in this area.

43 Two of the KOPs used in the visual impact analysis documented in detail in Attachment R-1 are
44 located within the VRM M5 area, and impact analysis results for those KOPs are representative
45 of with-Project conditions in some parts of the VRM M5 area. KOP 8-52, the Lower Owyhee
46 Interpretive Site, is located in the downstream end of the canyon and within 0.4 mile of the
47 Proposed Corridor. Viewers at this location currently see the large irrigation siphon that crosses
48 the mouth of the canyon and would have an enclosed and focal view of the Project (see
49 Attachment R-1 for additional discussion, and Attachment R-4, Figure R-4-42 for a simulation at

1 this location). Given the viewing distance, visual contrast at this location was rated as strong.
2 Based on the existing Class B (medium) scenic quality, the overall resource change would be
3 moderate to high. The expected viewer response would also be moderate to high, based on
4 high viewer sensitivity, short or moderate view duration (depending on whether travelers on the
5 Lake Owyhee Road stop at the interpretive site), and moderate or low viewer numbers. Based
6 on a moderate to high resource change and moderate to high viewer response, Project visual
7 impacts at this location were rated as moderate to high (potentially significant).

8 KOP 8-96 is located at an informal Owyhee River access site within the canyon approximately 1
9 mile southwest of the Malheur S Alternate. Viewers at this location would also have an enclosed
10 and focal view of the Project under this alternative (see Attachment R-1 for additional
11 discussion, and Attachment R-4, Figure R-4-44 for a simulation at this location). Based on the
12 existing Class B (medium) scenic quality and strong contrast, the overall resource change was
13 rated as moderate to high. With the expected moderate to high viewer response (as noted
14 above), Project visual impacts at this location were also rated as moderate to high (potentially
15 significant).

16 Viewshed analysis indicates that the Project would not be visible and would not create visual
17 impacts within substantial portions of the VRM M5 area. Conversely, however, the impact
18 results for KOPs 8-52 and 8-96 demonstrate that the Project would create moderate to high and
19 potentially significant adverse visual impacts at these specific reference locations in the canyon.
20 The site-specific results for KOPs 8-52 and 8-96 are also representative of the level of impact
21 that could be expected at selected other locations along the river where Project facilities could
22 be visible within the foreground. Therefore, the applicable elements of the visual assessment
23 support a conclusion that the Proposed Corridor or the Malheur S Alternate would create
24 potentially significant visual impacts to the identified scenic resources in specific portions of the
25 Lower Owyhee River canyon area. Mitigation would be required to reduce the visual impacts in
26 either location to a non-significant level, and IPC intends to develop measures to avoid, reduce,
27 or otherwise mitigate the visual impacts at this site so that the Project can be constructed,
28 operated, and maintained without a significant adverse impact (see Section 3.4.3).

29 **VRM M6 Dry Creek**

30 The VRM M6 area includes approximately 14,900 acres of BLM-administered lands west of
31 Owyhee Reservoir that are classified primarily as VRM Class I, with a small area of VRM Class
32 II. These lands are located a minimum of about 12 miles from the Proposed Corridor and nearly
33 6 miles from the Malheur S Alternate.

34 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates that intervening terrain would block views toward the
35 Project from all locations within this area. Therefore, the Project would have no visual impacts to
36 this scenic resource.

37 **VRM M7 Owyhee Views**

38 The VRM M7 area includes approximately 25,400 acres of BLM-administered lands west, east,
39 and south of Owyhee Reservoir that are classified primarily as VRM Class I, with a small area of
40 VRM Class II. These lands are located a minimum of about 1 mile from the Malheur S Alternate
41 and more than 5 miles from the Proposed Corridor.

42 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates that intervening terrain would block views toward the
43 Project from nearly all locations within this area. Project facilities on a short length of the
44 Malheur S Alternate would be potentially visible at and just north of the transmission line
45 crossing of the Owyhee Canyon. If visible, they would be seen at a middleground or background
46 viewing distance (depending on location). The degree of contrast would be weak as a result of
47 the viewing distance, landscape modification from the existing transmission line, and partial

1 view blockage by the terrain. The existing scenic quality can be assumed as Class B, and the
2 overall resource change in these locations would be low to moderate. The overall viewer
3 response would be moderate, based on high viewer sensitivity, moderate view duration and low
4 viewer numbers. Consequently, visual impacts in these limited locations would be low to
5 moderate, and insignificant. Therefore, the Project would not have significant visual impacts to
6 this scenic resource.

7 ***VRM M8 Succor Creek***

8 The Succor Creek area includes approximately 10,800 acres of BLM-administered land
9 classified as VRM Class II. The BLM-administered lands surround the Succor Creek State
10 Natural Area. The VRM M8 area is located adjacent to Succor Creek Road approximately
11 14 miles southwest of Homedale and 4 miles southwest of the Proposed Corridor.

12 Bare-earth viewshed analysis shows the Project would potentially be visible only in small
13 portions of the VRM M8 area. In the limited locations from which the Project might be visible, it
14 would be seen at a background viewing distance of 5 miles or more. Under those circumstances
15 contrast levels would be weak and, with Class B scenic quality, the resource change would be
16 low to moderate. The overall viewer response would be moderate (as for the Owyhee Views
17 area), and the impact levels would not rise above moderate. Therefore, the assessment
18 indicates the Project would not have significant visual impacts on this scenic resource.

19 ***Oregon Trail ACEC***

20 The Oregon Trail ACEC in the Malheur Resource Area includes separate tracts of BLM-
21 administered lands in the Birch Creek, Tub Mountain, and Keeney Pass areas. These lands are
22 managed as VRM Class II and the ACEC parcels are included within the VRM M1, M2, and M4
23 areas discussed above. Consistent with the preceding discussions, the Project would not have
24 significant visual impacts to these scenic resources.

25 ***Owyhee River Below the Dam ACEC***

26 The lands within Owyhee River Below the Dam ACEC are managed as VRM Class II and the
27 ACEC is consistent with the VRM M5 Lower Owyhee River area discussed above. Visual
28 impacts to the scenic resource represented by the ACEC would be the same as identified for
29 the VRM M5 area; as discussed previously, they would include moderate to high impacts in
30 selected locations. Mitigation would be required to reduce the visual impacts in either location to
31 a non-significant level, and IPC intends to develop measures to avoid, reduce, or otherwise
32 mitigate the visual impacts at this site so that the Project can be constructed, operated, and
33 maintained without a significant adverse impact (see Section 3.4.3).

34 ***Owyhee Views ACEC***

35 The lands within Owyhee Views ACEC are managed as VRM Class II and the ACEC is
36 consistent with the VRM M7 Owyhee Views area discussed above. Visual impacts to the scenic
37 resource represented by the ACEC would be the same as identified for the VRM M7 area, and
38 would not be significant.

39 ***3.4.2.6 BLM, Owyhee Resource Area***

40 ***VRM O1 Jump Creek Canyon***

41 The Jump Creek Canyon area includes two parcels of BLM-administered lands located in
42 western Owyhee County. Most of the VRM O1 area is managed as VRM Class II, while a
43 narrow band along Jump Creek is managed as VRM Class I. The latter area corresponds to the
44 linear Jump Creek Canyon ACEC. The VRM area is located approximately 7 miles southwest of

1 Marsing. The Proposed Corridor runs adjacent to the northern edge of the VRM O1 area, while
2 the southern end of the area is approximately 4 miles from the Proposed Corridor.

3 Bare-earth viewshed analysis shows the Project would potentially be visible from most locations
4 within the VRM O1 area. The area includes KOP 12-8 used in the Project visual analysis, for
5 which it was determined that several Project lattice towers would likely be visible in the
6 landscape at a middleground distance of approximately 1 mile. The contrast would be
7 diminished as a result of existing vertical elements in the landscape (a parallel existing
8 transmission line), a superior viewpoint, and background terrain that would likely absorb much
9 of the visual effect of the transmission structures. Consequently, the visual contrast at KOP 12-8
10 was rated as weak and, with a Class B scenic quality, the overall resource change would be low
11 to moderate. The overall viewer response would be moderate, based on high viewer sensitivity,
12 moderate view duration, and low viewer numbers. Consequently, visual impacts were rated as
13 low to moderate (not significant).

14 Based on the general viewshed results and the analysis for KOP 12-8, the assessment
15 indicates that the Project would not have significant visual impacts to this scenic resource.

16 ***Jump Creek Canyon ACEC***

17 The Jump Creek Canyon ACEC is entirely contained within the VRM 01 area discussed above,
18 and corresponds to the area managed as VRM Class I. The assessment provided above
19 indicates that the Project would not have significant visual impacts to this scenic resource.

20 ***3.4.2.7 BLM, Cascade Resource Area***

21 ***VRM C1 Brownlee Reservoir Southeast***

22 The VRM C1 area includes four parcels of BLM-administered lands located to the east of
23 Brownlee Reservoir in Idaho that are managed as VRM Class II. This area ranges from 1 to
24 3 miles wide and extends approximately 14 miles in a north-south direction. The nearest
25 communities are Huntington in Oregon and Eaton in Idaho.

26 At the closest point to the Project, this VRM Class II area is located approximately 6 miles to the
27 east of the Proposed Corridor. Bare-earth viewshed analysis shows no visibility of Project
28 structures in this location. A multi-use area would be located along U.S. Highway 30 opposite
29 Farewell Bend State Recreation Area, approximately 1 mile west of the western edge of the
30 VRM C1 area. Equipment and construction activity at the multi-use area would be temporarily
31 visible at a middleground viewing distance from some locations within the C1 area. The multi-
32 use area features would be viewed within a context of substantial existing development for
33 transportation, utility, agricultural, residential and commercial uses, and the incremental contrast
34 would be rated as weak or (more likely) none. The temporary presence of the multi-use area
35 would not represent a meaningful visual impact created by the Project. Therefore, the Project
36 would not create a significant adverse visual impact in the VRM C1 area.

37 ***VRM C2 Brownlee Reservoir Northeast***

38 The VRM C2 area includes three parcels of BLM-administered lands along the east side of
39 Brownlee Reservoir. These parcels are managed as VRM Class II lands and are located
40 between 7.5 and 9 miles east of the Proposed Corridor. Bare-earth analysis shows no potential
41 Project visibility within the VRM C2 area, and no visual impact on this scenic resource.

1 **3.4.2.8 USFS, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest**

2 **VQO 1 Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor**

3 The VQO 1 area is a linear corridor that includes approximately 185 acres of Wallowa-Whitman
4 NF lands managed as VQO Retention. This area overlaps with a portion of the Blue Mountain
5 Forest Wayside identified by Union County (as discussed in Section 3.4.2.1), and includes some
6 additional areas along the Old Emigrant Hill Scenic Frontage Road that are not included within
7 the Union County designation.

8 The Proposed Corridor is located generally parallel and adjacent to the VQO 1 area. The edge
9 of the Site Boundary is adjacent to the frontage road corridor in some places, and at other
10 locations is within approximately 1,500 feet or less. People traveling on the Old Emigrant Hill
11 Scenic Frontage Road would likely have intermittent, partially-screened, peripheral views of the
12 Project at certain locations within the VQO 1 area. The Proposed Corridor crosses the frontage
13 road at an angle approximately 0.5 mile west of I-84, and travelers on the frontage road would
14 have a direct view toward the Project in the vicinity of this crossing. KOP 4-4 is used in the
15 Project visual analysis to represent the viewing condition near the crossing location. As noted in
16 Section 3.4.2.1, review of Project plans and the terrain and vegetation conditions at this location
17 indicates that the two structures supporting the span across the valley (between MP 102 and
18 103) would be situated on the crests of the ridges flanking the valley and outside of the Scenic
19 Corridor boundary, and well above the elevation of the frontage road. The slopes at the crossing
20 location are and would remain forested, and the trees would provide a screen for the structures.
21 Therefore, travelers approaching the crossing location would have a framed, foreground view of
22 the Project conductors spanning the road, but would have at most a brief, peripheral view
23 exposure to structures at the crossing.

24 Considering the range of conditions throughout the VQO 1 area, the Project would likely have
25 no effect or a limited visual presence during much of a visit to this area. As indicated by the
26 results for KOP 4-4, however, at this location viewers would have a direct exposure to the
27 Project within a foreground view. Based on the close viewing distance and the vegetative
28 screening, the degree of contrast at this specific location would be moderate. Because the
29 existing scenic quality is rated as low, the overall resource change would be low to moderate.
30 Viewer sensitivity in this area is considered to be high, while the duration of the view at the KOP
31 would be short and viewer numbers are low. Correspondingly, the overall viewer response is
32 expected to be moderate. Based on the degree of resource change and viewer response, the
33 visual impact at KOP 4-4 was rated as moderate. Therefore, the assessment indicates that the
34 Project would not have a significant adverse visual impact on this scenic resource.

35 **VQO 2 MA 17 Utility Corridor**

36 The VQO 2 identifier applies to approximately 4,800 acres of the Wallowa-Whitman NF
37 allocated in the LRMP as MA 17, Utility Corridor. These lands are managed as VQO Retention.
38 The area is located in northwestern Union County, is approximately 8 miles long, and is typically
39 from 1 to 2 miles wide. The VQO 2 area spans I-84 and includes several recreation sites. The
40 Proposed Corridor generally runs along or near the west edge of this area for approximately 7
41 miles, from Project MP 100 to 107.

42 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates Project transmission facilities would potentially be visible
43 from virtually all locations within the VQO 2 area. This area includes extensive forest habitat,
44 however, indicating that views outward toward the Project would likely be screened in many
45 locations. This would particularly be the case for many locations in the eastern part of the VQO
46 2 area. A potential fly yard location is situated adjacent to the west side of the Proposed
47 Corridor near MP 104. The facility itself would have limited visibility as a result of flanking ridges
48 and surrounding forest cover. Helicopter activity associated with the fly yard would be visible

1 intermittently within a portion of the VQO 2 area. Given that this activity would occur within a
2 major transportation and utility corridor and on a temporary and intermittent basis, it would not
3 represent a meaningful component of the visual contrast created by the Project in the VQO 2
4 area.

5 Multiple viewpoints located within the VQO 2 area are used in the Project impact analysis. The
6 photosimulation of KOP 4-40 at the Spring Creek Campground provides an example of with-
7 Project viewing conditions at a location very close to the Proposed Corridor (see Attachment R-
8 4, Figures R-4-9 and R-4-10). At this KOP the Project would be visible in the immediate
9 foreground at a distance of 0.1 mile, although it would be partially screened by surrounding
10 vegetation. Because of the close viewing distance and partial screening the contrast level would
11 be moderate to strong. With a Class C scenic quality, the overall resource change would be
12 moderate. The overall viewer response would be moderate, given high viewer sensitivity,
13 moderate view duration, and low viewer numbers. Therefore, the visual impact at this location
14 would be moderate, and not significant.

15 KOPs 4-4, 4-24 and 4-32 are also located within the VQO 2 area, and KOP 4-19 is on state-
16 owned land immediately adjacent to the VQO 2 area. Assessment results for these viewpoints
17 (as are documented in detail in Attachment R-1, Table R-1-6 and Section 4.2.4) are
18 summarized as follows:

- 19 • KOP 4-4, at the Blue Mountain Crossing Sno-Park, is located 0.3 mile from the
20 Proposed Corridor. The existing scenic quality at this KOP is Class B and the Project
21 would have limited or no visibility, resulting in a weak (at most) contrast rating and low to
22 moderate resource change. The overall viewer response is rated as moderate, as is the
23 incremental visual impact of the Project.
- 24 • KOP 4-24, at I-84 Exit 248 near Meacham, is located 0.3 mile from the Proposed
25 Corridor. The existing scenic quality at this KOP is Class C. The Project would be visible
26 in the foreground but would be partially screened, resulting in a moderate contrast rating
27 and low to moderate resource change. The overall viewer response is rated as
28 moderate, as is the incremental visual impact of the Project.
- 29 • KOP 4-32, at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Park, is located 1.1 mile from the Proposed
30 Corridor. The existing scenic quality at this KOP is Class B and the Project would have
31 limited or no visibility, resulting in a weak (at most) contrast rating and low resource
32 change. The overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high, and the incremental
33 visual impact of the Project is rated as moderate.
- 34 • KOP 4-19, at Hilgard Junction State Park adjacent to the VQO 2 area, is located 0.9 mile
35 from the Proposed Corridor. The existing scenic quality at this KOP is Class B. The
36 Project would be visible in the middleground but would be partially blocked from view by
37 terrain and screened by forest vegetation. The contrast with the Project at KOP 4-19 is
38 rated as weak, resulting in a low to moderate resource change. The overall viewer
39 response is rated as moderate to high, and the incremental visual impact of the Project
40 is rated as moderate.

41 Considering the range of conditions throughout the VQO 2 area, the Project would likely have
42 no effect or a limited visual presence throughout much of this area. As indicated by the results
43 for KOP 4-40, in at least one location viewers would have a direct exposure to the Project within
44 a foreground view. Despite the close viewing distance, the overall resource change and visual
45 impact for KOP 4-40 were rated as moderate. At KOPs 4-4 and 4-24, the Project would also be
46 within foreground distance of the KOP and the impacts at both locations were again rated as
47 moderate. Moderate impact ratings also apply to KOPs 4-19 and 4-32, where the Project would
48 be at a near middleground viewing distance. Given that these five KOPs are representative of

1 the most likely viewing locations within the VQO 2 area, IPC expects that visual impacts at other
2 locations within the VQO 2 area would not exceed moderate and would not be significant.

3 **VQO 3 OR 244 Corridor – Red Bridge West**

4 The VQO 3 area includes five parcels of NF lands within foreground viewing distance along the
5 corridor of OR 244, also known as the Union-Hilgard Highway. OR 244 generally follows the
6 Grande Ronde River in this area. These parcels are located west of the Red Bridge State
7 Wayside, include approximately 283 acres, and are classified as VQO Retention. The eastern
8 end of this area is located approximately 4 miles west of the Proposed Corridor and 5 miles
9 from the Glass Hill Alternate Corridor Segment.

10 The Grande Ronde River flows through a narrow, winding valley in this area. The highway
11 corridor includes mature forest habitat and high-relief terrain, indicating that views are likely to
12 be enclosed in most locations. Bare-earth viewshed analysis shows no visibility in this area for
13 the Proposed Corridor or the Glass Hill Alternate. Therefore, the Project would not create visual
14 impacts within the VQO 3 area.

15 The closest viewpoint used in the Project visual impact analysis is KOP 4-3, located to the east
16 of the VQO 3 area and approximately 3.3 miles from the Project. The Project would not be
17 visible at this location due to screening by surrounding vegetation and terrain. This condition is
18 consistent with the conclusion of no visibility or visual impact on the USFS VQO Retention
19 parcels farther to the west.

20 **VQO 4 OR 244 Corridor – Red Bridge East**

21 Three additional parcels of NF lands managed as VQO Retention within the OR 244 corridor are
22 identified for this analysis as VQO 4. These parcels total approximately 588 acres and are
23 located to the east of the Red Bridge State Wayside.

24 Terrain and vegetation conditions within this area are similar to those for the VQO 3 area. Bare-
25 earth viewshed analysis indicates the Proposed Corridor would potentially be visible within parts
26 of the area, although views toward the Proposed Corridor would likely be screened by
27 vegetation in some locations. The closest viewpoint used in the Project visual impact analysis is
28 KOP 4-3, located at the Bird Track Springs Interpretive Trailhead. This viewpoint is within the
29 VQO 4 area and 3.3 miles southwest of the Proposed Corridor. Field review indicates the
30 Project would not be visible at this location, due to the distance and the screening provided by
31 surrounding vegetation and the terrain.

32 In locations that have potential visibility, the Project would be at a middleground distance of
33 2 miles or more. With a view orientation perpendicular to the Proposed Corridor, the varied
34 terrain and extensive forest cover would limit potential views to relatively small fragments of the
35 Project (i.e., viewers would not see a long expanse of the line running along a ridge. Based on
36 the viewing distance and limited view exposure, the degree of contrast would be weak. With
37 weak contrast and Class B scenic quality, the resource change would be low to moderate. The
38 overall viewer response would be low to moderate, based on moderate sensitivity, brief view
39 duration, and moderate viewer numbers. Therefore, visual impacts in this area would also be
40 low to moderate, and insignificant.

41 **VQO 5 FR 3120 Grandview Drive**

42 Forest Road 3120, also known locally as Grandview Drive, is a secondary road that provides
43 access to NF lands north of La Grande and west of Mount Emily. Forest Road 3120 passes
44 through an area named Fiddlers Hell and eventually travels to Indian Rock viewpoint. The
45 foreground area along the road includes approximately 1,280 acres and is classified as VQO
46 Retention.

1 This area includes mature forest habitat and high-relief terrain, indicating that views outward
2 toward the Project would likely be screened in many locations. Bare-earth viewshed analysis
3 indicates the Proposed Corridor would potentially be visible from parts of the VQO 5 area.
4 These locations are all more than 7 miles from the Project. At such a background viewing
5 distance, texture in the landscape disappears, color has flattened, and the landscape has been
6 simplified; large forest openings and rock or vegetation patterns can still be distinguished (USFS
7 1995). Therefore, in locations with a line of sight to the Project, the structures would not be
8 discernible. It is possible the Project right-of-way (ROW) clearing could be detected, but it would
9 be unlikely to attract the attention of the viewer at this distance. In addition, if the ROW were
10 visible, it would be seen within the context of other notable landscape modifications such as
11 I-84, other roads, railroads, and urban developments. Consequently, in locations where the
12 Project might be visible, the degree of contrast would be weak at most. The overall resource
13 change would be no more than moderate (if locations with visibility had Class A scenic quality).
14 Viewers in this area would be travelers or recreationists, with moderate or high sensitivity.
15 Viewer numbers in this area could range from low to moderate, and view duration could be brief
16 or moderate. The overall viewer response rating would be variable among specific locations, but
17 would be no more than moderate (e.g., high sensitivity, moderate duration and low numbers, or
18 moderate sensitivity, brief duration and moderate numbers). Given that the resource change
19 and viewer response would not exceed moderate, visual impacts in this area would be
20 nonexistent in many locations and no more than moderate in others. Therefore, visual impacts
21 in this scenic resource would not be significant.

22 **VQO 6 Mt. Emily**

23 The VQO 6 area includes approximately 1,060 acres around Mt. Emily that are classified as
24 VQO Retention. This parcel includes the Grandview Picnic Area and Indian Trail Canyon.

25 This area includes mature forest habitat and high-relief terrain, indicating that views outward
26 toward the Project would likely be screened in many locations. Bare-earth viewshed analysis
27 shows the Proposed Corridor would potentially be visible from the southern part of the VQO 6
28 area. The locations that have potential visibility would be more than 9 miles from the Project,
29 however. The factors applicable to overall resource change and viewer response for the VQO 6
30 area would be the same as described above for the VQO 5 area. Consequently, visual impacts
31 in this area would be nonexistent in many locations and no more than moderate in others.
32 Therefore, visual impacts in this scenic resource would not be significant.

33 **VQO 7 OR 237 Corridor West**

34 The VQO 7 area includes two parcels of NF lands within the foreground area along the OR 237
35 corridor west of North Powder and south of the Elkhorn Wildlife Area. The two parcels include
36 approximately 336 acres and are classified as VQO Retention.

37 This area includes mature forest habitat and high-relief terrain, indicating that views outward
38 toward the Project would likely be screened in many locations. Bare-earth analysis shows partial
39 visibility in this area for the Proposed Corridor. The locations within this area that have potential
40 visibility of the Project would be more than 11 miles distant, however. At this long distance it is
41 questionable whether Project facilities would be detectable even where a direct line of sight
42 existed, and the degree of contrast would be weak or none. Based on a weak contrast and
43 Class B scenic quality, the resource change would be low to moderate. The overall viewer
44 response would be low to moderate, based on moderate sensitivity, brief view duration, and
45 moderate viewer numbers. Therefore, visual impacts in this area would be either low to
46 moderate (insignificant) or nonexistent.

1 **VQO 8 OR 203 Corridor – Catherine Creek**

2 The VQO 8 area includes approximately 590 acres of NF land in two parcels along OR 203 near
3 Catherine Creek State Park. These lands are classified as VQO Retention, and are
4 approximately 9 miles east of the Proposed Corridor. Bare-earth viewshed analysis shows the
5 Proposed Corridor would not be visible from this area; therefore, the Proposed Corridor would
6 have no visual impact on this scenic resource.

7 **3.4.3 Mitigation**

8 **OAD 345-021-0010(1)(r)(D)**

9 The measures the applicant proposes to avoid, reduce or otherwise mitigate any significant adverse
10 impacts.

11 As discussed above in Section 3.4.2, IPC concludes that, in the absence of mitigation, the
12 Project would likely cause significant adverse impacts to several important scenic resources
13 within the analysis area.³ IPC intends to develop measures to avoid, reduce, or otherwise
14 mitigate these potentially significant impacts so that the Project can ultimately be constructed,
15 operated, and maintained without a significant adverse impact. Accordingly, IPC will develop a
16 mitigation plan that (1) to the extent possible, is consistent with visual quality objectives
17 identified by BLM and other stakeholders; and (2) identifies site-specific mitigation measures,
18 such as refinements to Project siting during final design, structural design measures, and ROW
19 vegetation management measures. These detailed mitigation measures will be included in the
20 final Application for Site Certificate.

21 **3.4.3.1 Project Siting**

22 IPC conducted an extensive siting study and a supplemental siting study to balance multiple
23 constraints and opportunities in determining the location of the Proposed Corridor and the
24 alternate corridors. Avoidance and minimization of potential visual impacts were prominent
25 objectives in the Project siting work. In the siting process for the Project, IPC identified more
26 than 35 location-specific constraints related to sensitive viewers and scenic resources (see
27 Table A-1 in Exhibit B, Attachment B-1 [2010 Siting Study]). Sensitive viewers and viewing
28 locations addressed in the siting study included scenic byways, intact segments of the Oregon
29 National Historic Trail, ACECs, community parks, and local communities. Sensitive resources
30 included Wild and Scenic Rivers, Oregon State Scenic Waterways, Wilderness lands, and BLM
31 VRM Class I and II inventoried lands. In addition, existing utility and transportation corridors
32 were identified as potential opportunities for Project location because use of areas already
33 subject to landscape modifications minimizes overall visual impact of the Project. As shown in
34 Appendix D of the Siting Study, these factors were included in the analysis of alternate routes,
35 the comparative analysis of the West, Central, and Eastern Corridors, and the selection of a
36 Preferred Corridor.

37 For example, one of the factors involved in identifying the Longhorn Alternate was that it
38 avoided a crossing of the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway. Conversely, constraints involving other
39 resources resulted in the Proposed Corridor and the Horn Butte Alternate crossing the Blue
40 Mountain Scenic Byway in two locations. In particular, the locations of the Naval Weapons
41 Systems Training Facility Boardman, the Boardman Grasslands Conservation Area and multiple
42 existing wind farms were important factors that influenced Project siting in this area.

³ IPC concludes that the Project is likely to cause significant adverse impacts to five important scenic resources within the analysis area: Oregon Highway 86, the Oregon Trail ACEC – NHOTIC Parcel, and Lower Owyhee River/Owyhee River Below the Dam ACEC.

1 As a result of the extensive work done in the Siting Study, options for further changes to the
2 locations for the Proposed Corridor or alternate corridor segments are limited. Nevertheless, it is
3 possible that micrositing changes (minor shifts in alignment or relocation of individual structures)
4 could be employed to reduce visual contrast and impact in selected locations.

5 3.4.3.2 Project Design

6 Exhibit B describes in detail the characteristics of the Project facilities, including a description for
7 the proposed transmission structures, conductors, substations, access roads, and other
8 supporting facilities.

9 Design measures are often considered to reduce the potential visibility and visual impacts of
10 transmission lines. Those measures typically include the type of structures used to support the
11 transmission line; the types of materials used for the structures, conductors and other hardware;
12 and the color and texture of the surface finishes on these facilities. Similar measures are
13 sometimes considered for substation equipment, access roads, and other support facilities.

14 For a variety of reasons, IPC has followed standard utility practice in proposing to use lattice
15 towers constructed of galvanized steel to support the 500-kV line. In the planning process, IPC
16 has incorporated some design features that are intended to reduce the visual contrast that
17 would be created by the transmission facilities. Specifically, the lattice-steel transmission towers
18 will be constructed from deglared galvanized steel, which is a finish treatment that provides a
19 duller appearance than is typically associated with galvanized steel. The deglared steel is
20 darker and less reflective, and is better able to recede into the landscape when seen against a
21 terrain backdrop. In addition, the conductors will have a non-specular finish that will reduce
22 reflectivity and the potential for glare.

23 IPC will consider the use of alternative structure types in selected locations, as discussed in
24 Exhibit B. Such locations could include cases where such a change would demonstrably reduce
25 the level of visual contrast that would otherwise result with lattice-steel structures. Scoping and
26 agency consultation input for the Project has included suggestions to use steel monopoles
27 (single, tubular steel structures) to support the conductors in visually sensitive areas. IPC notes
28 that monopoles must be relatively tall and large in diameter to support a 500-kV line, and has
29 reservations that monopoles would actually result in less overall contrast. Another potential
30 design option is to use H-frame structures composed of double steel poles. Structures of this
31 type can be designed with a lower overall height than either lattice towers or monopoles and
32 have a thinner profile than monopoles, and they are similar in character to the wood H-frame
33 structures often used for transmission lines of 115-kV to 230-kV. Design measures to reduce
34 the visual contrast created by the Project facilities will be considered in developing the mitigation
35 plan for the Project.

36 IPC recognizes that scoping comments included suggestions to consider underground
37 installation of the proposed transmission line, either as a standard approach or in certain
38 locations. IPC's Revised Plan of Development (POD) for the Project (IPC 2011) provides a
39 thorough discussion of underground alternatives that addresses underground technologies,
40 construction requirements, operation and maintenance factors and other considerations.
41 Underground installation and the transitions between underground and overhead sections of a
42 line present substantial challenges in project design, construction, and maintenance. On a per-
43 mile basis underground installation is approximately 12 to 17 times more expensive than is
44 overhead installation. Underground systems also create reliability issues, primarily because
45 outage durations are typically longer, and create needs for reactive power compensation. Based
46 on these limitations, IPC does not consider underground installation to be a viable option for the
47 Project. For additional discussion regarding IPC's evaluation of the possibility of undergrounding
48 the transmission line, see the POD and Exhibit BB.

1 3.4.3.3 Vegetation Management

2 Landscape treatment measures that are considered to reduce the visual impacts of
3 transmission lines typically involve construction or postconstruction actions that can help to
4 screen facilities from view or soften their appearance. They can include vegetation clearing
5 practices used in construction, landscape plantings in specific locations following construction,
6 and practices used in long-term operation and maintenance of transmission line features.

7 Options for transmission line postconstruction visual mitigation are limited due to the height of
8 the towers and safety requirements that necessitate removal of vegetation above a certain
9 height directly under the conductors. IPC has adopted landscaping or vegetation management
10 measures that would help to reduce visual impacts from the Project. Similar to design
11 measures, some landscape treatment measures may be specific to a visual concern for certain
12 portion of the alignment, while others will be applied on a Project-wide basis. Landscape
13 treatment measures that have been proposed for the Project are summarized as follows:

- 14 • IPC has developed a draft Vegetation Management Plan (Exhibit P, Attachment P-5)
15 that includes measures for rehabilitation of impacts related to vegetation clearing.
16 Among other provisions in the plan, vegetation clearing and ground disturbance will be
17 limited to the area necessary to safely and efficiently install the Project facilities.
- 18 • Where applicable and permissible in forested settings throughout the Project, vegetation
19 within the ROW could potentially be “feathered” (trimmed to produce a more gradual
20 tapering of vegetation heights with distance from the lines) to reduce visual contrast by
21 softening the transition from cleared ROW to standing forest. IPC is proposing to
22 manage vegetation within the ROW to maintain a maximum height of 20 feet in the wire
23 zone portion of the ROW (the area under the conductors and extending 10 feet outside
24 the outermost conductors, which is approximately 76 feet wide for the Project; see
25 Exhibit P, Attachment P-5, Figure 1) and a maximum height of 34 feet in the adjacent
26 border zone area (approximately 87 feet on either side of the wire zone). This will result
27 in a somewhat U-shaped vegetation profile within the ROW, rather than a distinct wall of
28 vegetation at the edge of the ROW. Vegetation management will need to maintain
29 compliance with applicable regulatory requirements (e.g., the North American Electrical
30 Reliability Corporation [NERC], the Western Electricity Coordinating Council [WECC],
31 and the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration
32 [OSHA] requirements).
- 33 • Tree removal in hilly, forested areas would be limited to areas in which the mature trees
34 would come within 50 feet of the conductors, to maintain the minimum required safety
35 clearances. This would result in leaving forested stands within the ROW under high
36 spans across canyons or ravines, rather than clearing the entire ROW width and length
37 as is often done. This would reduce the contrast from ROW clearing and thereby lessen
38 the overall visibility of the Project on the landscape.
- 39 • Survey crews will remove all stakes and flagging from the construction area following
40 construction.
- 41 • Access roads and other areas of ground disturbance will be watered during construction,
42 as needed, to remain compact and to avoid the creation of dust plumes.
- 43 • Planting of vegetation screening along roads or around tower bases could be considered
44 on a case-by-case basis where it would be practical and effective in reducing the
45 visibility of Project facilities.

3.4.4 Map of Scenic Resources

OAR 345-021-0010(1)(r)(E)

A map or maps showing the location of the scenic resources described under (B).

Scenic resources are shown in Attachment R-2, Figures R-2-1 through R-2-5.

3.4.5 Monitoring Program

OAR 345-021-0010(1)(r)(F)

The applicant's proposed monitoring program, if any, for impacts to scenic resources.

The vegetation management measures discussed above would occur as a standard component of long-term Project maintenance activities, and include ongoing monitoring to determine when vegetation treatment was needed at specific locations along the Project. Aside from changes to the surrounding vegetation, visual impacts typically do not change over time and monitoring would not result in a change to IPC operation and maintenance procedures. Accordingly, IPC does not propose any additional monitoring activities for visual impacts independent from monitoring associated with long-term Project maintenance activities.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

In this Exhibit, IPC has provided the evidence to demonstrate that the Project, including mitigation, will comply with the approval standard in OAR 345-022-0080 and the submittal requirements in OAR 345-021-0010(1)(r). As stated above, measures to mitigate potential significant visual impact may or will be required at Oregon Highway 86, the Oregon Trail ACEC – NHOTIC (for both the Proposed Corridor and Flagstaff Alternate), and the Lower Owyhee River/Owyhee River Below the Dam ACEC (for the Proposed Corridor and Malheur S Alternate). IPC will include detailed and site-specific mitigation measures in its final Application for Site Certificate.

5.0 SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVAL STANDARDS

Tables R-4 and R-5 provide cross references between the Exhibit submittal requirements of OAR 345-021-0010 and the Council's Approval standards of OAR 345-022-0080 and where discussion can be found in the Exhibit.

Table R-4. Submittal Requirements Matrix

Requirement	Location
OAR 345-021-0010(1)(r)	
(r) Exhibit R. An analysis of significant potential impacts of the proposed facility, if any, on scenic resources identified as significant or important in local land use plans, tribal land management plans and federal land management plans for any lands located within the analysis area, providing evidence to support a finding by the Council as required by OAR 345-022-0080, including:	Section 3

1 **Table R-4. Submittal Requirements Matrix (continued)**

Requirement	Location
(A) A list of the local, tribal and federal plans that address lands within the analysis area.	Section 3.4.1
(B) Identification and description of the scenic resources identified as significant or important in the plans listed in (A), including a copy of the portion of the management plan that identifies the resource as significant or important.	Section 3.4.1, Attachment R-5
(C) A description of significant potential adverse impacts to the scenic resources identified in (B), including, but not limited to, impacts such as:	Section 3.4.2
(i) Loss of vegetation or alteration of the landscape as a result of construction or operation; and	
(ii) Visual impacts of facility structures or plumes.	
(D) The measures the applicant proposes to avoid, reduce or otherwise mitigate any significant adverse impacts.	Section 3.4.3
(E) A map or maps showing the location of the scenic resources described under (B).	Figures R-2-1 through R-2-5
(F) The applicant's proposed monitoring program, if any, for impacts to scenic resources.	Section 3.4.5
Project Order Section VI (s) Comments	
The application should include visual depictions (photo-simulations) of the project's impact on scenic resources within the analysis area, especially protected areas identified in Exhibit L. Photo-simulations and visual impacts assessments should include towers and substations, in addition to the transmission lines and towers. For the purposes of Exhibit R, "local" land use plans include state, county and city planning documents or inventories. The applicant should also describe the measures it will take to minimize significant adverse impacts to important scenic resources identified by reviewing agencies (see Section VII of this order).	Attachment R-4 Section 3.4.2 Section 3.4.3
The Department is aware that the applicant has formed a visual impacts workgroup consisting of state, tribal and federal agencies. Please incorporate into Exhibit R a description of the workgroup, its purpose, its membership, and any agreements among the various agencies related to the inventory and assessment of visual resources, including visual impacts to cultural resources identified in Exhibit S.	Section 3.3.1

2

3

1 **Table R-5.** Approval Standard

Requirement	Location
OAR 345-022-0080 Scenic Resources	
(1) Except for facilities described in section (2), to issue a site certificate, the Council must find that the design, construction and operation of the facility, taking into account mitigation, are not likely to result in significant adverse impact to scenic resources and values identified as significant or important in local land use plans, tribal land management plans and federal land management plans for any lands located within the analysis area described in the project order.	Section 3.4.2
(2) The Council may issue a site certificate for a special criteria facility under OAR 345-015-0310 without making the findings described in section (1). However, the Council may apply the requirements of section (1) to impose conditions on a site certificate issued for such a facility.	N/A

2 **6.0 RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM REVIEWING AGENCIES AND**
3 **THE PUBLIC**

4 Table R-6 provides cross references between comments cited in the Project Order from
5 reviewing agencies and the public and where discussion can be found in the Exhibit.

6 **Table R-6.** Reviewing Agency and Public Comments

Comments Related to General Standard of Review (OAR 345-022-0000)	Location
Commenters expressed concern about the visual impacts of towers and lights associated with the transmission line towers and related and supporting facilities. Exhibit R should address potential visual impacts of the proposed facility, and should discuss proposed mitigation measures (including the use of lattice versus monopole structures, co-location with existing lines, coating/painting options, placement of transmission towers below ridgelines, and a discussion about the use of underground installation in areas of high sensitivity).	Section 3.4.2, Section 3.4.3
Commenters expressed particular concern about avoiding visual impacts in the area of the National Oregon Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Baker County. Exhibit R should address this area specifically and discuss proposed alternative routes and mitigation measures to reduce visual impacts.	Section 3.4.2, Section 3.4.3
Commenters also expressed concern about visual impacts on the John Day River, wilderness and roadless areas, and designated scenic byways. Exhibit should include analysis of visual impacts and proposed mitigation measures for these areas, unless visual impacts to a particular area are already included in Exhibit L (Protected Areas).	Section 3.4.2, Attachment R-1

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ATTACHMENT R-1
VISUAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Attachment R-1

Visual Resources Assessment Report

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project



*1221 West Idaho Street
Boise, Idaho 83702*

Preliminary Application for Site Certificate

February 2013

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1 1.0 INTRODUCTION

2 Idaho Power Company (IPC) is proposing to construct and operate a new transmission line
3 known as the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (Project). The Project would
4 include a 500-kilovolt (kV) single circuit line, and a rebuild of an existing 138-kV and 69-kV
5 double circuit lines between Boardman, Oregon, and the Hemingway Substation (located
6 approximately 30 miles southwest of Boise, Idaho). The Project includes ground disturbing
7 activities associated with the construction of above-ground, single- and double-circuit
8 transmission lines involving towers, access roads, staging areas, fly yards, pulling sites as well
9 as associated substations, communication sites, and electrical supply distribution lines.

10 This Draft Visual Resources Assessment Report documents a comprehensive assessment of
11 visual impacts undertaken in support of the Project Application for Site Certificate (ASC). The
12 document has been prepared as an attachment to Exhibit R of the ASC that IPC is submitting to
13 the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) for the Project. Exhibit R focuses specifically
14 on resources identified as important scenic resources according to guidance provided in the
15 Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 345-021-0010(1)(r). Based on the OAR guidance, IPC
16 identified 38 specific sites or areas within the Project analysis area that were determined to be
17 important scenic resources. Exhibit R provides an assessment of Project visual impacts on
18 those specific resources, which are distributed in various parts of the analysis area and
19 collectively account for a relatively small share of the analysis area acreage.

20 Attachment R-1 documents a more wide-ranging assessment of Project visual impacts
21 throughout all parts the analysis area, based primarily on existing and with-Project conditions at
22 a large number of specific viewpoints distributed geographically to provide representative
23 coverage of the Project as proposed and the alternate corridor segments that have been
24 identified. In addition to meeting the OAR requirements, Attachment R-1 is intended to address
25 documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related
26 requirements of interest to federal agencies, primarily the U.S. Department of the Interior,
27 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
28 (USFS). Consistent with terminology commonly used in the context of NEPA and management
29 of resources on BLM-administered lands, Attachment R-1 and related documents typically use
30 the term "visual resources." Consistent with the applicable OAR provisions, Exhibit R
31 predominantly uses the term "scenic resources." The two terms are often used interchangeably
32 in Attachment R-1, Exhibit R and elsewhere in the IPC documentation for the Project.

33 Based on the objectives and scope for Attachment R-1, the contents of the document are
34 organized as follows:

- 35 • The existing visual setting of the Analysis Area;
- 36 • The methods used to conduct the visual impact assessment;
- 37 • The results of the visual impact assessment for the Project;
- 38 • Mitigation measures proposed by IPC or available for consideration to address identified
39 visual impacts; and
- 40 • References cited in the document.

1 **2.0 EXISTING VISUAL CONDITIONS**

2 This section discusses those aspects of the visual environment that may be affected by the
3 Project. It starts with a discussion of the analysis area, and characterizes the key components of
4 the existing visual environment within the analysis area.

5 The Project extends from the Boardman Substation in Oregon to the Hemingway Substation in
6 Idaho. The route would cross Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Baker, and Malheur counties in Oregon,
7 and Owyhee County in Idaho. The Project will cross through a mixture of federal, state, and
8 private lands supporting a wide variety of land uses and natural landscape settings. The
9 majority (approximately 72 percent) of the Proposed Corridor, with the exception of Malheur and
10 Owyhee counties, crosses privately owned land. The remainder of the route crosses or is
11 adjacent to public lands. Lands managed by federal agencies account for 26 percent of the
12 route. These lands are primarily managed by the USFS and BLM, with smaller acreages under
13 the jurisdiction of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). Approximately 1 percent is located on
14 land owned by the state or local governments.

15 **2.1 ANALYSIS AREA**

16 Pursuant to the Project Order, the analysis area for Exhibit R is the area within the Site
17 Boundary and within 10 miles of the Site Boundary. The Site Boundary is defined in OAR 345-
18 001-0010(55) as “the perimeter of the site of a proposed energy facility, its related or supporting
19 facilities, all temporary laydown and staging areas, and all corridors and micro-siting corridors
20 proposed by the applicant.” The Site Boundary for the Project includes the following related and
21 supporting facilities in Oregon:

- 22 • Proposed Corridor: 277.2 miles of 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line corridor, 5.0 miles
23 of double circuit 138/69-kV transmission line corridor, and 0.3 miles of 138-kV
24 transmission line corridor.
- 25 • Alternate Corridor Segments: Seven alternate corridor segments consisting of
26 approximately 134.1 miles that could replace certain segments of the Proposed Corridor.
27 IPC has proposed these alternate corridor segments in order to allow flexibility for IPC
28 and EFSC, as well as federal agencies, to reconcile competing resource constraints in
29 several key locations.
- 30 • One proposed substation expansion of 3 acres; two alternate substation sites (one 3-
31 acre substation expansion and one new 20-acre substation). IPC ultimately needs to
32 construct and operate only one substation expansion or substation in the Boardman
33 area.
- 34 • Eight communication station sites of less than one acre each in size; four alternate
35 communication station sites along alternate corridor segments.
- 36 • Temporary and permanent access roads.
- 37 • Temporary multi-use areas, pulling and tensioning sites, and fly yards.

38 The features of the Project are fully described in Exhibit B and the Site Boundary for each
39 Project feature is described in Exhibit C, Table C-21. The location of the Project (Site Boundary)
40 is outlined in Exhibit C. The extent of the analysis area for scenic resources is identified on the
41 maps provided in Attachment R-2.

2.2 REGIONAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The proposed Project spans portions of the Columbia Plateau, Blue Mountains and Northern Basin and Range areas of eastern Oregon and a short segment of the Snake River Plain in southwest Idaho (see Figure R-1-1). These areas include multiple component units, each of which has characteristic land, water, and vegetation attributes. The general characteristics of these ecoregions within the analysis area are summarized below. The discussion uses the classifications and descriptions developed by Thorsen et al. (2003), who compiled a map of ecological regions in Oregon identified through analysis of spatial patterns and biotic, social, and physical characteristics. These factors include geology, physiography, vegetation, climate, soils, land use, wildlife distributions, and hydrology. The ecoregion classifications for Oregon and Idaho were designed to fit with a comparable, hierarchical system for the United States published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA 2003).

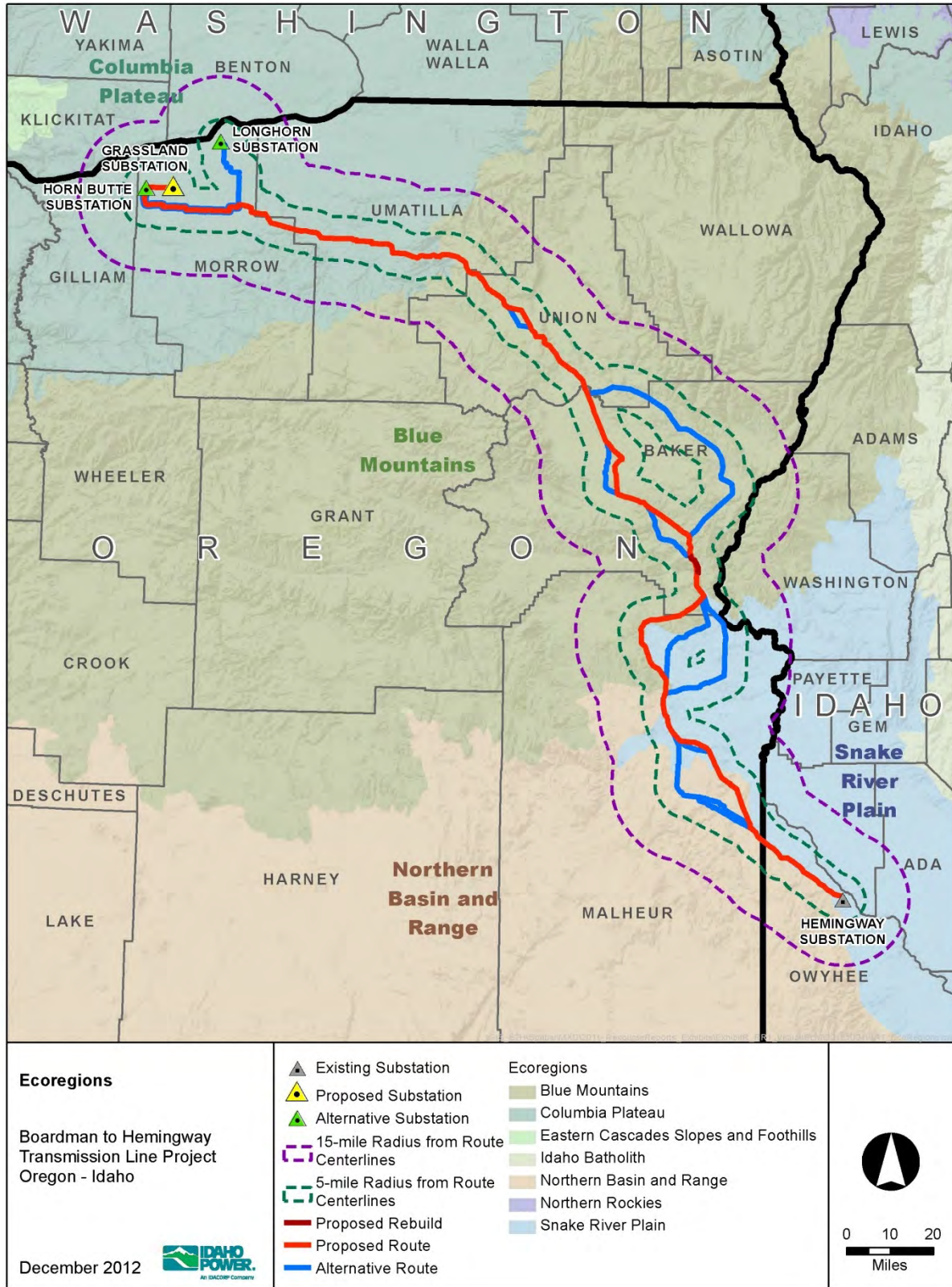
Scenic/visual resources traversed by the route are a function of geology, climate, and historical processes and are influenced by topographic relief, vegetation, water, wildlife and land use. Human uses such as industrial, timber, agriculture, and urban development activities also contribute to the scenic integrity of these regions. The topography within the analysis area includes interior plateaus, river canyons, and mountain and foothill areas in and adjacent to the Blue Mountains and the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons. Elevation along the Proposed Corridor varies from approximately 300 feet above sea level at the western terminus near Boardman to nearly 7,500 feet in the Blue Mountains and back down to approximately 2,200 feet above sea level in the eastern part of the analysis area.

2.2.1 Columbia Plateau

The Columbia Plateau (Ecoregion 10) is an arid area with sagebrush steppe and grassland native vegetation communities. The region is flanked by moister, predominantly forested, mountainous ecoregions, primarily the Cascades to the west and the Blue Mountains to the south and southeast. Geologically, the Columbia Plateau is known for a deep foundation of multiple layers of volcanic basalt up to 2 miles thick. Parts of the plateau are covered by thick deposits of loess (wind-blown silt from the surfaces of the continental ice sheets). The areas of deep loess soils support extensive cultivation, primarily of wheat, where precipitation is sufficient for agriculture. The Columbia River bisects the plateau and is the dominant water feature in the ecoregion.

The Columbia Plateau embraces about 100,000 square miles in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. It is, in the main, built up of nearly horizontal sheets of lava, the surface of which is flat or rolling, but there are many variations to this character. The province is bounded on the west by the Cascade Mountains and on the north and east by the Rocky Mountain Province. On these three sides the surface abuts against higher land and the boundaries of these provinces are evident. On the south it is bordered by the Great Basin which has much in common with this province (Fenneman 1931: 225).

The analysis area includes parts of three subregions within the Columbia Plateau. Gilliam, Morrow, and Umatilla counties are contained within the Pleistocene Lake Basins, an area that extends along the Columbia River from approximately Wallula Gap, near the Oregon/Washington border, to just west of The Dalles. This area was once covered by vast temporary lakes that were created by flood waters from glacial lakes Missoula and Columbia. Today, this old lake basin area is the driest and warmest part of the Columbia Plateau, with mean annual precipitation varying from 7 to 10 inches. Bunchgrass and sagebrush communities are found where native vegetation persists, although much of the subregion has been converted to irrigated agriculture.



1

2 **Figure R-1-1. Ecoregions**

1 The Umatilla Plateau subregion lies to the south of the Pleistocene Lake Basins. The terrain in
2 this area is nearly level to rolling, and treeless. As discussed above, the area is underlain with
3 basalt and has areas of deep surface deposits of loess. Agriculture occurs in the loess areas,
4 primarily involving dryland wheat farming and alfalfa and barley production where irrigation has
5 been developed. Rangeland, typically grasslands of bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue
6 without associated sagebrush, dominates in the more rugged areas where loess deposits are
7 thinner or nonexistent. Mean annual precipitation in the Umatilla Plateau ranges from about 9 to
8 15 inches and increases with increasing elevation.

9 Along the southern and eastern margins of the Umatilla Plateau is the Umatilla Dissected
10 Uplands subregion, which is a relatively narrow transitional band between the plateau and the
11 Blue Mountains. This area includes hilly, dissected uplands with a terrace-like appearance that
12 are covered primarily with fescue, wheatgrass and bluegrass, while north-facing slopes near the
13 Blue Mountains have some Douglas fir and ponderosa pine tree cover. Because this subregion
14 lacks the thick loess deposits that support cultivation in the Umatilla Plateau, it is used primarily
15 as rangeland. Mean annual precipitation in the Umatilla Dissected Uplands ranges from about
16 15 to 25 inches and increases with increasing elevation.

17 **2.2.2 Blue Mountains**

18 This region is a mountainous area located chiefly in northeastern Oregon but extending a short
19 distance into southeastern Washington. The Blue Mountains Ecoregion includes several
20 mountain ranges that are mostly volcanic in origin, and that are lower and more open than the
21 neighboring Cascades and Northern Rockies. The Wallowa and Elkhorn mountains are the
22 highest of the ranges and form the core of the region. These mountains are composed of
23 granitic intrusives, deep sea sediments and metamorphosed rocks rising 9,000 feet above sea
24 level and 3,000 feet above the dissected plateau surface. Grazing is common over much of the
25 ecoregion.

26 The Proposed Corridor cuts across parts of four subregions within the Blue Mountains
27 Ecoregion. The Mesic Forest Zone includes the highest forested areas in the western Wallowas
28 and the Blue Mountains. The Mesic Forest is marine-influenced with higher precipitation than
29 other forested Blue Mountains ecoregions. The ashy soil holds moisture during the dry season
30 and supports a productive spruce-fir forest. The Maritime-Influenced Zone is the portion of the
31 Blue Mountains ecoregion that directly intercepts marine weather systems moving east through
32 the Columbia River Gorge. In addition, loess and ash soils over basalt retain sufficient moisture
33 to support forest cover at lower elevations than elsewhere in the Blue Mountains. A dense and
34 diverse shrub layer grows beneath the relatively open canopy of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir
35 that may delay tree regeneration following logging (EPA 2010).

36 To the east beyond the Maritime-Influenced Zone is the Blue Mountain Basins subregion. This
37 area includes the Grande Ronde and Baker valleys, which receive stream flow from the
38 surrounding mountains. The Grande Ronde Valley has a climate with more marine influence,
39 while the Baker Valley is in the rain shadow of the Elkhorn Mountains and is therefore drier.
40 Much of the valley floor area in this subregion is now used for agriculture. Finally, the
41 Continental Zone Foothills subregion occupies the southeastern part of the Blue Mountains
42 region. This area has a continental climate and experiences wide temperature variations and
43 high evapotranspiration rates. Natural vegetation consists primarily of desert shrubs, including
44 bitterbrush and mountain mahogany.

2.2.3 Snake River Plain

The plains and low hills of the Snake River Plain are part of the xeric intermontane west. It is considerably lower and less rugged than surrounding ecoregions. Irrigation water is plentiful in many areas. Many of the alluvial valleys bordering the Snake River are in agriculture and principally grow sugar beets, potatoes, alfalfa, small grains, and vegetables. The remainder of the Snake River Plain in both Oregon and Idaho is covered by sagebrush–grassland and is used for cattle grazing. The Unwooded Alkaline Foothills ecoregion of the Snake River Plain is shrub and grass-covered. This area contains rolling foothills, hills, benches, alluvial fans, and scattered badlands that are characteristically underlain by alkaline lacustrine deposits. The terrain is higher and more rugged than the neighboring Treasure Valley. Perennial streams are rare. The Unwooded Alkaline Foothills is valuable as rangeland and wildlife habitat. Land use is generally distinct from the irrigated agriculture of the neighboring Treasure Valley. Vegetation is dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush and associated grasses. Salt tolerant shrubs, including black greasewood, fourwing saltbush, inland saltgrass, and shadscale, occur on alkaline outcrops (EPA 2010).

The Treasure Valley ecoregion flanks the Snake and Malheur rivers as well as the Unwooded Alkaline Foothills ecoregion and is underlain by alluvial fan deposits. Soils have an aridic moisture regime and they originally supported sagebrush/grass associations before the valley was converted to agriculture. Canals and diversions in this portion of the Snake River Plain supply water to pastureland and cropland as well as municipalities. Crops, as in the Unwooded Alkaline Foothills ecoregion, include wheat, sugar beets, alfalfa, potatoes, and onions. Population density is greater than in neighboring ecoregions. Vegetation outside of agricultural areas is dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, and cheatgrass. In saline areas, greasewood and saltgrass occur (EPA 2010).

2.2.4 Northern Basin and Range

A portion of the analysis area in central Malheur County is within the Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion, and from about Lake Owyhee eastward to Hemingway the Proposed Corridor is essentially located in the transition zone between the Northern Basin and Range and Snake River Plain ecoregions.

The Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion spans a wide area of the interior Northwest. It includes roughly the southwestern quarter of Oregon, the southern tier of Idaho below the Snake River Plain, a swath across northern Nevada, and smaller areas in northwestern Utah and northeastern California. The region contains dissected lava plains, rolling hills, alluvial fans, valleys, and scattered mountains. The Owyhee Uplands and Canyons is the only one of nine Northern Basin and Range subregions within the analysis area. This area includes a mixture of deep river canyons, barren lava fields, badlands, and tuffaceous rock outcrops. The area is somewhat higher and cooler than the Snake River Plain, the natural vegetation is sagebrush steppe, and most of the area is rangeland.

2.3 LAND USE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Land use patterns within the analysis area are influenced by the distribution of land ownership. The parts of Morrow and Umatilla counties that are within the analysis area are almost exclusively with private ownership. Union County is predominantly (about 85 percent) within private ownership, while federal lands managed by the USFS comprise most of the remaining area. Baker County is also mostly (about 70 percent) in private ownership, with most of the remaining area being federal lands divided between BLM and USFS management. The parts of

1 Malheur and Owyhee counties that are within the analysis area are predominantly (nearly 80
2 percent) federal lands under BLM management.

3 Principal land uses within the analysis area include rangeland in shrub/grass areas, with
4 cultivated agriculture and forestland a distant second and third, respectively. Relatively small
5 portions of the route cross barren (including disturbed and extractive mining areas), developed
6 (including commercial, residential, and existing ROW), woodlands or wetlands, and open water
7 areas.

8 **2.3.1 Morrow County**

9 The predominant land uses in western Morrow County near the Boardman terminus of the
10 Project are dryland farming and rangeland. Several utility uses are also present, including the
11 Boardman Generating Plant, existing transmission lines (e.g., the Boardman to Slatt 500-kV
12 line), and extensive wind energy development near the small community of Cecil. The Proposed
13 Corridor also passes along the western and southern boundary of the Boardman Grasslands
14 Conservation Area, designated by the State of Oregon and managed by The Nature
15 Conservancy as part of the sale agreement for a 93,000-acre land transfer. The Proposed
16 Corridor also passes along the southern boundary of the NWSTF, Boardman. The NWSTF
17 consists of 95,986 acres of land in a 12-mile by 12-mile square area bounded on the north by I-
18 84, on the south by Immigrant Road, and to the east and west by irrigated farmlands. The
19 Department of the Navy currently manages the eastern half, consisting of 46,722 acres, as an
20 active target range. The State of Oregon owns the western half and leases a large portion to the
21 Boeing Agri-Industrial Company, whose future plans include developing the entire leased area
22 into irrigated farmland.

23 The conditions described above also generally apply to the Horn Butte Alternate, which is
24 coincident with the Proposed Corridor. The alternative Longhorn Substation would be located on
25 private agricultural land east of the town of Boardman. The initial part of the 19.0-mile Longhorn
26 Alternate is parallel to an existing transmission corridor with three transmission lines. South of I-
27 84 this route includes 17 miles across agricultural lands, consisting of irrigated center pivots,
28 dryland farming, and a commercial poplar plantation.

29 **2.3.2 Umatilla County**

30 The Proposed Corridor in Umatilla County crosses privately owned land. In the western part of
31 the county, generally from the Morrow/Umatilla county line east to U.S. Highway 395 northeast
32 of Pilot Rock, nearby land use is mostly dryland farming. East of U.S. Highway 395 the
33 Proposed Corridor progresses through primarily rangeland, then rangeland with scattered
34 stands of trees, and mostly forested land for roughly 10 miles to the vicinity of Meacham in the
35 Blue Mountains. While no concentrated areas of developed uses are located near the route,
36 there are a number of identified point-specific land uses such as residences, cabins, and
37 recreation facilities located within the vicinity.

38 **2.3.3 Union County**

39 The Proposed Corridor traverses Union County for nearly 40 miles, including about 6 miles of
40 the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (NF), 1 mile of BLM-managed lands in the Vale District,
41 and 33 miles of privately owned lands. Most of the Wallowa-Whitman NF portion is within a
42 designated utility corridor, where the Proposed Corridor is also parallel to I-84, a railway, a 230-
43 kV electric transmission line, a petroleum products pipeline, and two large natural gas pipelines.
44 The Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor and Hilgard Junction State Park are also
45 located in this area, and the Wallowa-Whitman NF lands in the vicinity of the utility corridor
46 support a wide range of recreation activities and several developed recreation facilities.

1 Near Hilgard Junction, the Proposed Corridor angles to the southeast away from the existing
2 transportation and utility facilities and passes through a mix of rangeland and forested areas,
3 with some scattered rural residences and cabins. A large private ranch, the Eastern Oregon
4 University Rebarrow Research Forest, and the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area are located in this
5 portion of the analysis area. An extensive area of developed land uses in and near La Grande is
6 located several miles to the east and north of the Proposed Corridor.

7 In the southeastern part of Union County the route proceeds along the northeast side of the
8 Clover Creek Valley, generally parallel to an existing IPC 230-kV line and crossing mostly
9 rangeland to the Union County/Baker County line. There are a number of center pivot irrigation
10 systems and farms in this area, but not any substantial areas of more intensive development.
11 The Elkhorn Valley Wind Farm is located near the Proposed Corridor and the southern edge of
12 Union County.

13 Two alternatives are under evaluation within or partially within Union County. The Glass Hill
14 Alternate is a 7.6-mile route located west of the Proposed Corridor across private land to the
15 south of Hilgard Junction and north of Clover Creek Valley. The first 5 miles are located on
16 rangeland following a ridge to the west of Graves Creek, and the remainder of the alternative
17 crosses forest land interspersed with rangeland.

18 **2.3.4 Baker County**

19 The Proposed Corridor crosses Baker County for approximately 69 miles, including nearly 18
20 miles across BLM-managed lands in the Vale District, about 3 miles across state land, and 54
21 miles cross private land. The Baker County part of the analysis area includes several areas
22 where intensive agricultural use occurs. Baker Valley, located along I-84 spanning north from
23 Baker City into Union County, is intensively farmed with flood and center-pivot irrigation. The
24 Durkee Valley, located approximately 22 miles south of Baker City along I-84, is another area
25 with substantial irrigated agriculture.

26 Once across the Powder River and into Baker County, the Proposed Corridor crosses about 13
27 miles of rangeland before reaching some irrigated farmland lying along the eastern edge of the
28 Baker Valley. The route then angles to the southeast, south, and southwest, skirting Flagstaff
29 Hill and crossing the west end of the Virtue Flat area. This part of the route passes relatively
30 close to the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTIC), which represents a
31 major recreational attraction and an area developed for public institutional uses. It also crosses
32 the Virtue Flat OHV area, which covers nearly 6 square miles of rolling hills managed by BLM
33 for year-round recreational activities including OHV use, mountain biking, and horseback riding.

34 South from Virtue Flat the Proposed Corridor proceeds through mostly rangeland, with some
35 farmland at several locations and little or no development, for approximately 40 miles. Through
36 most of this area the route is parallel to I-84. Near Huntington, in the southeastern corner of
37 Baker County, the Proposed Corridor leaves the general I-84 corridor and proceeds southwest
38 for 7 miles through an area of steep topography and rangeland to the Baker/Malheur County
39 line.

40 One alternative under evaluation is within or partially within Baker County. The Flagstaff
41 Alternate traverses Baker County for about 15 miles in a valley between mountain peaks along
42 the Prospects range. With the exception of a small area of BLM-managed land, the Flagstaff
43 Alternate crosses privately owned land. Land use in this area is primarily a mix of rangeland and
44 irrigated agricultural land, with transportation and utility uses in and near the I-84 corridor at the
45 southern end of the alternative. The Flagstaff Alternate passes near several farmsteads or farm
46 complexes, and also passes within about 1 mile of the NHOTIC.

2.3.5 Malheur County

The Proposed Corridor crosses northeastern Malheur County for approximately 72 miles, of which about 21 miles are privately owned, 51 miles are managed by BLM, and 1 mile is across lands managed by BOR. Most of the land along the route in Malheur County is rangeland and sagebrush, with little or no development. Typical rural land uses such as residences, reservoirs, canals, barns, silos, and outbuildings occur in a scattered pattern in the vicinity of the Project. There are also several areas of mining use or gravel pits. The Proposed Corridor and/or alternatives cross several infrastructure facilities, including U.S. Highways 20 and 26, some state and county roads, a utility corridor designated under the Vale District BLM's Southeastern Oregon RMP, irrigation canals, the Union Pacific Railroad, and several existing transmission lines of varying size.

Southwest of the community of Adrian, the Proposed Corridor passes near the entrance to the Owyhee River Canyon. BLM manages an 11,000-acre area in the canyon as an ACEC and a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA); this area includes two developed recreation sites supports a variety of dispersed recreation activities. Other lands within the canyon are managed by the BOR as part of the Owyhee Project, completed in 1939 to furnish irrigation water to over 105,000 acres of land in southeastern Oregon and southwestern Idaho. The project includes Owyhee Dam and Reservoir, a long, narrow reservoir with about 150 miles of shoreline that experiences heavy recreational use. The BLM, BOR, state, county, and other agencies cooperatively manage and protect the resource values and recreation opportunities within the river canyon.

Three alternatives are under evaluation within Malheur County. The Willow Creek Alternate crosses into Malheur County south of Huntington toward McCarthy Ridge, angles southwest to cross U.S. Highway 26 between Brogan and Jamieson, and proceeds south to rejoin the Proposed Corridor near Sugarloaf Butte. The route crosses predominantly rangeland and sagebrush with very little or no development, although there is a band of cultivated agriculture along U.S. 26 that is crossed. The Double Mountain Alternate separates from the Proposed Corridor a few miles south of the U.S. Highway 20 crossing and follows a parallel route in a southeasterly direction for approximately 8 miles; landscape conditions along this alternate corridor segment are similar to those described for the Proposed Corridor in this area.

The Malheur S Alternate leaves the Proposed Corridor at U.S. Highway 20 between Vale and Harper and proceeds south and southeast in Malheur County for 34 miles, rejoining the Proposed Corridor in the Succor Creek area south of Adrian. This alternative crosses BLM-managed land almost exclusively, with about 1 mile of private land and a very small area of BOR-managed land. The area around the Malheur S Alternate is characterized by rangeland and sagebrush with severe topography and very little or no development. The eastern part of this alternative is parallel to an existing 500-kV transmission line and within the Vale District designated utility corridor. This route crosses the Owyhee River Canyon and the ACEC/SRMA lands discussed above. The Malheur S Alternate crosses the Owyhee River approximately 5 miles downstream from Owyhee Dam; this area experiences heavy river-oriented recreational use along the length of the ACEC/SRMA.

2.4 VIEWER TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS

This section provides a general description of the key viewer groups in the analysis area who might experience visual effects of the proposed Project. Distinctions among user groups and their expected sensitivity to landscape changes, based on activity types and viewing characteristics, are standard components of visual impact assessment.

1 Viewer concern can vary depending on the characteristics and preferences of the viewer group.
2 For example, residential viewers are expected to have high concern for changes in views from
3 their residences. Motorists' concern generally depends on when and where travel occurs and
4 the type of travel involved (e.g., commuting vs. recreational travel). The duration of view (the
5 estimated length of time of the view from a viewer to a proposed project or project feature) is a
6 key consideration in assessing the sensitivity of various types of viewers.

7 Scenic views designated in land use plans adopted by federal, state, or local government
8 entities typically formalize a widely recognized visual value of a resource and the public's desire
9 to protect that value (e.g., a designated wilderness or scenic area). Where such official
10 designated lands exist, the public expectation is that the view at the location or of the identified
11 resource will be preserved, and the viewer concern is considered high.

12 In general, the types of viewers present within the analysis area are classified as local residents,
13 travelers, and tourists and recreational users. The following discussion summarizes the
14 composition of these groups and their characteristics that are relevant to the visual assessment.

15 **2.4.1 Local Residents**

16 The local residential viewer groups consist of people who live and work within the analysis area.
17 Many local residents are present on a year-round basis, whereas some have permanent
18 residences elsewhere and are seasonal residents of the analysis area. Generally, they view the
19 landscape from their yards and homes, and often from places of employment while engaged in
20 daily activities. Residents of primary interest for the analysis are concentrated in the
21 communities that are located close to the Proposed Corridor or an alternative route, such as
22 Boardman, Pilot Rock, La Grande, Baker City, Brogan, Homedale, and Givens Hot Springs.
23 There also are local residents who own rural property located outside of towns. Most of these
24 local residents are distributed along or near primary and secondary roads within the analysis
25 area.

26 Regardless of their residence or work location, local residents may have similar reactions to
27 views of the proposed Project facilities. Residents' sensitivity to visual quality can be variable
28 and may be tempered by the visual character and setting of their neighborhoods or workplace.
29 For example, residents with a view of existing commercial or industrial facilities may be less
30 sensitive to landscape changes than those with a view of open farmland or forested areas. It is
31 assumed, however, that local residents are generally familiar with the local landscape and may
32 be more sensitive to changes in particular views that are important to them.

33 **2.4.2 Travelers**

34 Travelers passing through an area typically view the landscape from motor vehicles on their way
35 to work or other destinations. Travelers include daily commuters and people engaged in
36 business or personal travel.

37 Commuters traveling within the analysis area view the landscape from motor vehicles on their
38 way to work or other business destinations. This viewer group is likely to be relatively small
39 because of the small population and limited employment centers within the analysis area.
40 Commuting activity is likely concentrated around the larger communities in the analysis area,
41 including the Boardman area in Morrow County, Pendleton in Umatilla County, La Grande and
42 nearby towns in Union County, Baker City in Baker County, and the Nampa and Ontario areas
43 in Canyon County. Commuters do not tend to stop along their travel routes, have a relatively
44 narrow field of view because they are focused on road and traffic conditions, and are
45 destination-oriented. Passengers in commuter vehicles would have greater opportunities for

1 prolonged off-road views toward landscape features and, accordingly, may have greater
2 perception of changes in the visual environment.

3 Through travelers are typically moving, have a relatively narrow field of view and are
4 destination-oriented. They would be concentrated on the major roads that traverse the analysis
5 area, including I-84, U.S. Highways 20/26, 30 and 395, and State Highways 203, 237, and 86 in
6 Oregon. Generally, drivers in this group are focused on driving and on the road and traffic
7 conditions, but do have the opportunity to observe roadside scenery. As noted above, these
8 travelers (both passengers and drivers) would have greater opportunities for prolonged views
9 toward landscape features and may take more notice of changes in the visual environment.
10 State Highway 86 is designated as the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway. Travelers along the byway
11 may have a heightened sensitivity to visual change because they anticipate a higher level of
12 scenic quality. Other notable scenic routes include the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway adjacent to
13 Cecil, the Grande Tour Route adjacent to La Grande and Union, the Elkhorn Scenic Byway
14 adjacent to Baker City and North Powder, and the Journey through Time Scenic Byway
15 adjacent to Baker City.

16 **2.4.3 Tourists and Recreational Users**

17 This viewer group includes local and seasonal residents engaged in recreational activities, and
18 tourists and recreational users visiting from out of the local area. These users can be involved in
19 outdoor recreational activities at parks and other developed recreational facilities or in
20 undeveloped natural settings such as forests, fields, and water bodies. Tourists and recreational
21 users come to the area for the purpose of experiencing its cultural, scenic, and/or recreational
22 resources. Some, such as weekend and seasonal homeowners, may spend additional time in
23 the area. They may view the landscape while traveling to these destinations on local roads, or
24 from the sites themselves.

25 The recreational user group includes those involved in active recreation (e.g., bicyclists, hikers,
26 joggers, hunters, recreational boaters) and those involved in more passive recreational activities
27 (e.g., picnicking, sightseeing, wildlife observation or walking). For some of these viewers,
28 scenery is a very important part of their recreational experience, and recreational users often
29 have continuous views of landscape features over relatively long periods of time. However,
30 most recreational viewers would only view the surrounding landscape from ground-level or
31 water-level vantage points. Recreational users' sensitivity to visual quality and landscape
32 character would be variable, depending on their reason for visiting the area. For example, an
33 off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation user is considered less sensitive to visual change than a
34 wildlife viewer or a recreator looking for a cultural experience. However, recreators are generally
35 considered to have relatively high sensitivity to scenic quality and landscape character.

36 Within the analysis area, likely locations for this group to be concentrated include along the
37 Hells Canyon Scenic Byway and other scenic routes; within the Wallowa-Whitman NF area;
38 adjacent to the NHOTIC and at numerous other Oregon Trail interpretive sites scattered
39 throughout the analysis area; and at river-oriented recreation sites, such as in the Owyhee River
40 Canyon.

41 As distinguished from recreational visitors, tourists may be just passing through the local area or
42 staying for a period of varying duration to enjoy local attractions. Tourists typically come to the
43 area for activities such as visiting historic or geologic sites, taking sightseeing tours, visiting
44 friends and family, and attending festivals or events, but they may also engage in recreational
45 activities while they are present. Consequently, there is a considerable degree of overlap
46 among recreational and tourist visitors in terms of activity patterns and user characteristics.

1 Tourists' activity would likely be concentrated on and near the major travel routes as identified
2 above.

3 **3.0 VISUAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**

4 The methodology for use in evaluating the potential impact on lands crossed by the Project is
5 defined in the Visual Resources Study Plan (issued by IPC in June 2012). Section 3.1
6 summarizes the development of the study plan and Section 3.2 reviews the key steps in the
7 visual assessment process.

8 **3.1 STUDY PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

9 Staff from the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), BLM, USFS, IPC, and consultants to IPC
10 and the federal agencies functioned as a visual resources workgroup to define the study
11 approach. The workgroup process included facilitated meetings on July 27, 2011, and May 30
12 and June 25, 2012. IPC's consultant presented an initial draft of a visual resources study plan at
13 the first meeting in July 2011. Workgroup participants provided comments on the initial study
14 plan and a revised study plan. Substantive review questions were resolved at the May 2012
15 meeting, and IPC issued a final study plan subsequent to the June 2012 meeting. The final
16 visual resources study plan is provided as Attachment R-3).

17 **3.2 VISUAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

18 The study plan defines an assessment process that includes six key components. The approach
19 used for each component is summarized below. The assessment process incorporates
20 substantial elements and key concepts from the BLM Visual Resource Management (VRM)
21 system and the USFS Scenery Management System (SMS).

22 **3.2.1 Define the Visual Environment**

23 A regional landscape is typically created and described by characteristic combinations of larger
24 physiographic components. The specific visual environment upon which an assessment is
25 based is defined by landscape units and Project viewsheds. A landscape unit is a defined
26 portion of a regional landscape that is usually enclosed by clear landform or landcover
27 boundaries and may be thought of as an outdoor room. The USFS SMS equivalent is called an
28 ecological unit description (EUD), where the physical EUD combined with the landscape
29 character defines a sense of place. A Project viewshed is a portion or subset of a landscape unit
30 and is defined by the surface areas visible from an observer's viewpoint. The absolute limits of a
31 viewshed are defined as the extent of surface views from the proposed Project, or anywhere a
32 viewer could see the Project.

33 The setting for a Project is also defined in political or legal terms by jurisdictional laws,
34 ordinances and regulations that pertain to visual quality considerations. Federal, state, and local
35 laws, ordinances and regulations were evaluated for consistency with the Project. Provisions
36 that designate specific landscape areas or features as scenic resources requiring special
37 attention were addressed. Examples of such provisions include the designation of scenic vista
38 points, scenic highways and trails; protection of ridgelines or other landscape features; and
39 specific design guidelines pertaining to visual protection or enhancement. Of particular
40 importance for evaluation of federal lands is the identification of the visual resource
41 management objectives, i.e., SIOs for SMS compliance on NFS lands, and VRM classes for
42 VRM system compliance on BLM-administered lands. These federal land management
43 objectives are documented within the USFS LRMPs for the Wallowa-Whitman NF (USFS 1990)

1 and the BLM RMPs for Baker, Southeastern Oregon, and Owyhee (BLM 1989, 2001, and
2 1999).

3 **3.2.2 Identify Key Observation Points and Viewsheds**

4 With an understanding of the areas from which the proposed transmission line would be visible,
5 a determination can be made regarding selection of Key Observation Points (KOPs) and
6 identification of the viewer groups who would experience views of the Project. The KOPs were
7 identified through evaluation of two types of information. Many candidate locations for KOPs
8 were identified through review of federal, state and local land use and resource plans; land use
9 data available in Geographic Information System (GIS) format; protected areas identified by the
10 State of Oregon; the federal and state public scoping process performed for the Project; and
11 consultation with federal, state and county agencies and organizations. Additional KOPs were
12 identified through viewshed analysis (see discussion below) to ensure the visual assessment is
13 sufficiently representative of the range of potential viewing conditions for the Project.

14 KOPs include representative sensitive viewing locations such as:

- 15 • Residences and developed areas;
- 16 • Parks and recreation areas;
- 17 • Sensitive travel routes, including proposed or designated scenic byways, historic
18 highways, trails and rivers or other water travel routes;
- 19 • Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, or rivers eligible for such designation; and
- 20 • Protected areas, as defined by the State of Oregon.

21 Prior to field assessment, a GIS-based, bare-earth viewshed analysis was conducted to identify
22 areas from which the Project (including alternative routes) might be visible, to define the
23 maximum potential geographic extent of visual impacts, and assist in selecting KOPs. Based on
24 Project locations and a digital elevation model representing the terrain in the analysis area, this
25 analysis essentially “looks outward” from the Proposed Corridor and alternative route segments
26 to identify and map the points on the landscape from which any portion of one or more Project
27 transmission towers could be viewed. Next, a viewshed map was developed for each KOP to
28 define the scope of landscape and extent of the Project that could potentially be viewed. This
29 analysis indicated distance zones from each location. Where forest vegetation is common,
30 supplemental viewshed analysis can be conducted to account for the screening effects of tall
31 vegetation using available data on tree heights.

32 The field inventory of KOPs included three components: (1) identification and photo-
33 documentation of viewing areas and potential KOPs, (2) classification of visual sensitivity of
34 KOPs and (3) description of Project visibility from the KOPs. Approximately 300 potential KOP
35 locations were initially identified. Following consultation with IPC and agencies and further
36 investigation, eventually, 146 KOPs (including one with multiple specific viewpoints) were
37 selected for detailed study.

38 Members of the Tetra Tech visual resources team completed initial field visits of the Project
39 analysis area between May 1 and September 28, 2011. There were additional visits to specific
40 areas and as requested by cooperating agencies. These visits provided an understanding of the
41 Project setting and produced photographic documentation of the landscape character for the
42 analysis area. Table 1.1-1 identifies the locations and summarizes key attributes for the KOPs.

43

44

Table R-1-1. List of Key Observation Points (KOPs)

Location Name	KOP Number	Project Component, Viewing Direction	KOP Category/Viewer Group	Direct Distance to Route from KOP (miles)
Gilliam County				
Oregon Trail Fourmile Canyon Interpretive Site	1-5	Proposed/Horne Butte Alt., NE	Recreation Site	4.1
Morrow County				
Blue Mountain Scenic Byway, Cecil	2-1	Proposed, S	Travel Route	<0.1
Blue Mountain Scenic Byway, North of Cecil	2-2	Proposed & Horn Butte, SE	Travel Route	0.09
Boardman Generating Plant	2-10	Proposed, N	Project Feature	0.1
State Highway 74 Oregon Trail Crossing, Cecil	2-11	Proposed & Horn Butte, N	Recreation Site	0.4
Boardman Conservation Area, Immigrant Lane	2-15	Proposed & Horn Butte, S	Protected Area	0.6
Lindsay Prairie Preserve	2-16	Proposed/Horn Butte N; Longhorn, NE	Natural Heritage Area	1.5 Proposed/Horn Butte 7 Longhorn
Boardman Research Natural Area, Bombing Range Road	2-17	Proposed/Horn Butte SE; Longhorn, E	Protected Area	5.0 Proposed/Horn Butte 5.5 Longhorn
Boardman Conservation Area, Tower Road south	2-18	Proposed, SW	Protected Area	1.1
Butter Creek Junction	2-20	Proposed & Horn Butte, S; Longhorn NW	Developed Area/Residential	0.2 Proposed and Horn Butte 3.8 Longhorn
Well Spring Oregon Trail Site	2-22	Proposed/Horn Butte, S	Recreation Site	0.9
Wilson Lane Southeast	2-23	Longhorn, NE	Developed Area/Residential	1.5
Umatilla County				
Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor, Poverty Flat Road	3-5	Proposed, S	Protected Area	7.1
Cabbage Hill Viewpoint, Eastbound	3-7	Proposed, S	Recreation Site	6.7
Pilot Rock Community	3-12	Proposed, N	Developed Area/Residential	2.3
Deadman Pass Rest Area	3-13	Proposed, S	Travel Route	7.3
Emigrant Springs State Heritage Area	3-14	Proposed, S	Protected Area/Recreation Site	4.1
McKay Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Boat Launch	3-20	Proposed, SE	Recreation Site/Protected Area	3.5

Table R-1-1. List of Key Observation Points (KOPs) (continued)

Location Name	KOP Number	Project Component, Viewing Direction	KOP Category/Viewer Group	Direct Distance to Route from KOP (miles)
McKay Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Spring Creek Road	3-21	Proposed, SW	Protected Area	2.6
Meacham Divide Nordic Skiing Area	3-24	Proposed, SW	Recreation Site	2.4
Summit Guard Station	3-31	Proposed, SW	Recreation Site	8.6
U.S. Highway 395 Crossing	3-34	Proposed, SW	Travel Route	0.2
Blue Mountain Crossing	3-42	Proposed, W	Travel Route	0.8
Union County				
Bird Track Springs USFS Campground	4-3	Proposed, NE; Glass Hill, NE	Recreation Site	3.4 Proposed 3.8 Glass Hill
Blue Mountain Crossing Sno-Park	4-4	Proposed, SW	Recreation Site	0.2
Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor, Old Emigrant Hill Scenic Frontage Road	4-5	Proposed, E	Recreation Site, Protected Area	<0.1
Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor, Summit Road (Exit 243)	4-6	Proposed, NE	Protected Area	0.3
North Powder Community	4-10	Proposed, NE	Developed Area	2.4
Grande Tour Oregon Tour Route	4-16	Proposed, SW	Travel Route	2.9
Grande Tour Oregon Tour Route - Thief Valley Reservoir	4-17	Proposed, W	Travel Route	4.0
Hilgard Junction State Park	4-19	Proposed, SW; Glass Hill, SE	Protected Area/Recreation Site	0.8 Proposed; 1.8 Glass Hill
Interstate 84 Crossing, North Powder	4-23	Proposed, N	Travel Route	0.3
Interstate 84 Exit 248 near Meacham	4-24	Proposed, SW	Travel Route	0.4
Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area, Foothill Road	4-26	Proposed, SW; Glass Hill, W	Protected Area	2.4 Proposed; 4.2 Glass Hill
Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area, SH 203	4-27	Proposed, SW	Protected Area	4.9

Table R-1-1. List of Key Observation Points (KOPs) (continued)

Location Name	KOP Number	Project Component, Viewing Direction	KOP Category/Viewer Group	Direct Distance to Route from KOP (miles)
Morgan Lake Park	4-28	Proposed, SW; Glass Hill SW	Recreation Site	1.0 Proposed; 3.1 Glass Hill
Oregon Trail Interpretive Park	4-32	Proposed, SW	Recreation Site/Protected Area	1.2
Spring Creek USFS Campground	4-40	Proposed, NE	Recreation Site	0.8
La Grande/Hells Canyon Scenic Byway	4-51	Proposed, SW; Glass Hill SW	Developed Area	3.4 Proposed 5.5 Glass Hill
Island City Community	4-52	Proposed SW	Developed Area	6.0
Ladd Canyon Road/ USFS Road 43	4-54	Proposed, W	Travel Route	0.2
Elk Song Ranch	4-55	Proposed, W; Glass Hill, W	Developed Area/Residential	0.6 Proposed; 2.7 Glass Hill
SH 244 Near Whiskey Creek	4-56	Proposed, NE; Glass Hill, SE	Travel Route/Developed Area - Residential	0.5 Proposed; 1.3 Glass Hill
Baker County				
Huntington Community	5-5	Proposed NW; Willow Creek W	Developed Area/ Residential	2.1 Proposed; 2.3 Willow Creek
Elkhorn Drive Scenic Byway	5-10	Proposed E	Travel Route	8.2
Farewell Bend State Recreation Area	5-13	Proposed NW; Willow Creek NW	Protected Area, Recreation Site	5.6 Proposed; 4.4 Willow Creek
Alder Creek Road Near Interstate 84	5-15	Proposed, N; Flagstaff, NW	Travel Route	0.4 Proposed; 2.8 Flagstaff
Interstate 84 Crossing, Weatherby	5-16	Proposed, North & –Proposed 138/69kV Rebuild, N	Travel Route	0.2 Proposed; 0.1 Proposed Rebuild
Interstate 84 Near Lime	5-17	Proposed, –NW & Proposed rebuild NW	Travel Route	0.5 Proposed; 0.2 Rebuild
Interstate 84 Baker Valley Rest Area	5-18	Proposed, E	Travel Route/Recreation Site	1.7
National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTIC)	5-25a	Proposed, SE; Flagstaff, W	Protected Area/Recreation Site	1.1 Proposed; 1.3 Flagstaff
NHOTIC	5-25b	Proposed, SE; Flagstaff, W	Protected Area/Recreation Site	1.2 Proposed; 1.3 Flagstaff
NHOTIC	5-25c	Proposed, SE; Flagstaff, NW	Protected Area/Recreation Site	1.7 Proposed; 0.5 Flagstaff

Table R-1-1. List of Key Observation Points (KOPs) (continued)

Location Name	KOP Number	Project Component, Viewing Direction	KOP Category/Viewer Group	Direct Distance to Route from KOP (miles)
NHOTIC	5-25d	Proposed, SE; Flagstaff NW	Protected Area/Recreation Site	1.2 Proposed; 1.2 Flagstaff
NHOTIC	5-25e	Proposed, SE; Flagstaff, NW	Protected Area/Recreation Site	1.2 Proposed; 1.3 Flagstaff
Oregon Trail ACEC, Hill Creek Road	5-26	Proposed, NW	Protected Area	0.8
Oregon Trail Crossing, Hixon Road	5-29	Proposed, S	Recreation Site	0.1
Oregon Trail Crossing, Plano Road	5-30	Proposed, E	Recreation Site	0.5
Oregon Trail Crossing, Weatherby	5-31	Proposed Rebuild, NE; Proposed NE	Recreation Site	<0.1 Rebuild; 0.2 Proposed
Oregon Trail Kiwanis Club Memorial	5-32	Proposed Rebuild, W; Proposed SE; Flagstaff, W	Recreation Site	0.5 Rebuild; 1.8 Proposed; 0.5 Flagstaff
Oregon Trail Ruts Interpretive Site	5-33	Proposed, E; Flagstaff, W	Recreation Site	1.2 Proposed; 1.0 Flagstaff
Powder River ACEC	5-34	Proposed W	Protected Area	3.8
Powder River Wild and Scenic River Corridor, SH 203	5-35	Proposed SW	Protected Area	5.2
Powder River Wild and Scenic River Corridor, Thief Valley Reservoir Road	5-36	Proposed, W	Protected Area	2.4
Journey Through Time Scenic Byway	5-41	Proposed, E; Flagstaff, E	Travel Route	5.8 Proposed; 3.4 Flagstaff
Snake River - Mormon Basin Back Country Byway, Oregon Trail Blvd	5-43	Proposed, W; Willow Creek, W	Travel Route	0.7 Proposed; 1.5 Willow Creek
Snake River - Mormon Basin Back Country Byway, Rye Valley Lane	5-44	Proposed NE; 138/69kV Rebuild, NE	Travel Route	0.2 Proposed; 0.5 Rebuild
Haines Community	5-57	Proposed, NE	Developed Area	7.1
Spring Wilderness Inventory Unit	5-59	Proposed, W	Protected Area	4.2
NHOTIC Entrance SH 86	5-60	Proposed, SE	Protected Area/Recreation Site	0.5

Table R-1-1. List of Key Observation Points (KOPs) (continued)

Location Name	KOP Number	Project Component, Viewing Direction	KOP Category/Viewer Group	Direct Distance to Route from KOP (miles)
Hells Canyon Scenic Byway, Virtue Flat	5-61	Proposed, W	Travel Route	1.3
Baker City Western Heights	5-66	Flagstaff, E	Developed Area	6.0
Interstate 84 Northbound, Baker Valley	5-67	Proposed, E; Flagstaff, E	Travel Route	5.5 Proposed; 3.2 Flagstaff
State Highway 203 Baker Valley Eastbound	5-68	Proposed, E; Flagstaff, E	Travel Route	0.8 Proposed; 0.4 Flagstaff
State Highway 203 Baker Valley Westbound	5-69	Proposed, SW; Flagstaff, SW	Travel Route	0.4 Proposed; 0.9 Flagstaff
Durkee Community	5-82	Proposed, N	Developed Area	1.7
Virtue Flat OHV Area	5-84	Proposed, NW	Recreation Site	2.0
Washington County				
Weiser Dunes OHV Area	7-1	Proposed, NW; Willow Creek, W	Recreation Site	6.6 Proposed; 3.0 Willow Creek
Steck Park BLM Recreation Site	7-6	Proposed W; Willow Creek, W	Recreation Site	4.5 Proposed; 5.0 Willow Creek
Malheur County				
Oregon Trail ACEC, Birch Creek	8-3	Willow Creek, W	Recreation Site	3.1
Board Corral Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit	8-4	Malheur S, NE	Protected Area	1.0
Bully Creek Reservoir	8-5	Proposed, W	Recreation Site	4.3
Brogan Community	8-6	Proposed W; Willow Creek, SW	Developed Area	4.0 Proposed; 5.0 Willow Creek
Jamieson Community	8-8	Willow Creek W	Developed Area	1.2
Keeney Pass Interpretive Site	8-16	Proposed, SW	Recreation Site	6.6
Lake Owyhee State Park	8-18	Malheur S, NE	Recreation Site	2.8
McIntyre Ridge Wilderness Inventory Unit	8-21	Proposed, NE	Protected Area	2.9
Oregon Trail ACEC, Keeney Pass	8-25	Proposed, SW	Protected Area	6.0
Mitchell Butte Road	8-31	Proposed, NW	Protected Area	<0.1
Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Twin Springs Road	8-33	Proposed, NE; Double Mountain, NE	Protected Area	0.2 Proposed; Double Mountain crosses

Table R-1-1. List of Key Observation Points (KOPs) (continued)

Location Name	KOP Number	Project Component, Viewing Direction	KOP Category/Viewer Group	Direct Distance to Route from KOP (miles)
Succor Creek State Natural Area, North	8-37	Proposed, NE	Protected Area	3.6
U.S. Highway 20 Crossing	8-41	Proposed NE; Malheur S, NE	Travel Route	0.2 Proposed; <0.2 Malheur S
U.S. Highway 26 Crossing	8-42	Proposed, NW	Travel Route	0.1
Big Bend Access Site	8-51	Proposed, SW	Recreation Site	2.8
Lower Owyhee Interpretive Site	8-52	Proposed, NE	Oregon Rec Site	0.4
Adrian Community	8-55	Proposed, SW	Developed Area	4.0
Hunter Spring Wilderness Inventory Unit	8-62	Malheur S, E	Protected Area	7.0
McIntyre Ridge Wilderness Inventory Unit, Succor Creek Road	8-74	Proposed, NE; Malheur S, N	Protected Area	3.1 Proposed; 4.0 Malheur S
Antelope Creek Wilderness Inventory Unit	8-75	Proposed, NE	Protected Area	1.7
Burnt Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit	8-84	Malheur S, NE	Protected Area	1.7
Sourdough Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Twin Springs Road	8-85	Malheur S, N	Protected Area	0.3
Broken Rim Wilderness Inventory Unit, Hoo Doo Road North	8-88	Proposed, NE; Malheur S, E.; Double Mountain, NE	Protected Area	2.6 Proposed; 0.6 Malheur S; 1.9 Double Mountain
Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Rock Canyon Road	8-90	Proposed, N; Double Mountain, S	Protected Area	0.5 Proposed; 0.1 Double Mountain
Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit Characteristic Area, Twin Springs Road	8-91	Malheur S, S	Protected Area	1.7
Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Negro Rock Creek Middle	8-93	Malheur S, W	Protected Area	1.3
Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Negro Rock Creek South	8-94	Malheur S, W	Protected Area	0.2
Lower Owyhee River Site H1	8-96	Malheur S, N	Recreation Site	1.4

Table R-1-1. List of Key Observation Points (KOPs) (continued)

Location Name	KOP Number	Project Component, Viewing Direction	KOP Category/Viewer Group	Direct Distance to Route from KOP (miles)
Owyhee River Canyon Entrance	8-97	Proposed, W	Travel Route	0.2
Succor Creek Rural Area	8-102	Proposed, W	Developed Area	0.8
Owyhee County				
Jump Creek Canyon ACEC	12-8	Proposed, NE	Special Management Area, Recreation Site	0.9
Spanish Charlie Basin Wilderness Inventory Unit	12-26	Proposed, NE	Special Management Area	1.9
Poison Creek Rural Area	12-27	Proposed, SW	Developed Area	0.8
Jump Creek Rural Area	12-28	Proposed, N	Developed Area	0.2
Royal Vista Estates	12-29	Proposed, W	Developed Area	6.1

3.2.3 Assess Existing Visual Resources

The existing visual resources of a project area are defined by landscape character and visual quality. Landscape character is a descriptive means to assess a landscape. Humans do not experience the visual environment one object at a time, but rather as an integrated whole. The description of landscape character is not meant to evaluate or rate landscapes but to chronicle the elements and relationships between visually experienced components. Descriptions of landscape character coincide with SMS and VRM system analysis where landscapes can be distinguished by two levels of attributes: pattern elements and pattern character. Pattern elements are the primary visual attributes of objects, which are form, line, color, and texture. Pattern character is the description of the relationship between the pattern elements of objects or larger collections of landscape components, which can be described with the attributes of dominance, scale, diversity, and continuity.

As opposed to the indiscriminating concept of landscape character, visual quality is concerned with excellence. Analogous concepts to visual quality are found in the USFS SMS as scenic attractiveness and in the BLM VRM system as scenic quality. Within this scheme, the definition of high-quality visual environments is as much about the experience of the viewer as the valuation of the landscape. For example, high visual quality can be found in the urban landscapes of the San Francisco skyline as well as in the natural formations of the Grand Canyon. Thus, because visual quality can be found in landscapes (landscape units and viewsheds) of widely varying landscape character, a proposed project may or may not be found to result in significant contrasts or have adverse effects on visual quality without articulate analysis. Existing visual quality has already been inventoried by the BLM and USFS for BLM-administered and NFS lands, respectively. The existing BLM and USFS mapping of visual quality was reviewed and used as applicable for documenting existing conditions on these federal lands.

For KOPs located on other federal land and state, local and private lands, visual quality of pattern elements and pattern character were evaluated using concepts from the BLM VRM system. When evaluating visual quality, both natural and man-made components within the study area were considered, as they either add to or detract from the overall landscape character within a specific setting. Scenic attractiveness levels were established by evaluating the distinctiveness and diversity of a particular landscape setting in relation to the following scenic quality inventory factors (further described in Table R-1-2):

- Landform,
- Vegetation,
- Water,
- Color,
- Effects of adjacent scenery,
- Scarcity of the landscape, and
- Cultural modifications.

Inventory forms were used to consistently document the existing conditions of the selected landscape units and KOPs. Separate inventory forms were used for KOPs on NFS lands, BLM-administered lands and on other federal, state, local, and private lands. Based on field investigation and photography interpretation, the visual resources team collaborated to complete the existing conditions forms. Forms were completed for each KOP as a data gathering and analysis tool and provide supporting documentation for the results included in this report.

1 The landscape character-landscape unit section of the inventory forms documents a descriptive
 2 narrative of the pattern elements of the landform, surface-water, vegetation, and human-made
 3 components of the landscape unit. The descriptions are based on perceptions of the current
 4 line, form, color, and texture of the landscape unit for the respective KOP.

5 The scenic or visual quality-landscape unit section of the inventory forms is a quantitative rating
 6 of landscape elements based on the VRM system for evaluating scenic quality (see Table R-1-
 7 2). For example, vegetation cover, soil color, and any atypical features, such as an abundance
 8 of rock outcroppings, were observed and noted. These features were evaluated as contributing
 9 to or reducing the visual quality of the landscape. The sum of the numeric values for these
 10 elements determines the visual quality class. Ratings of Class A (Distinctive or Unique), Class B
 11 (Common), or Class C (Minimal or Indistinctive) were assigned. Landscape units with scores of
 12 19 or more received a Class A rating, scores of 12 to 18 received a Class B rating, and scores
 13 of 11 or less received a Class C rating.

14 **Table R-1-2.** Landscape Unit Visual Quality Inventory/Evaluation Rating Based on
 15 BLM VRM System

Scenic Quality Inventory Factor	Rating Criteria and Score		
Landforms	High vertical relief as expressed in prominent cliffs, spires, or massive rock outcrops; or severe surface variation or highly eroded formations including major badlands or dune systems; or detail features dominant and exceptionally striking and intriguing such as glaciers	Steep canyons, mesas, buttes, cinder cones, and drumlins; or interesting erosional patterns or variety in size and shape of landforms; or detail features which are interesting though not dominant or exceptional.	Low rolling hills, foothills, or flat valley bottoms; or few or no interesting landscape features.
	Score 5	Score 3	Score 1
Vegetation	A variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, texture, and patterns.	Some variety of vegetation, but only one or two major types.	Little or no variety or contrast in vegetation.
	Score 5	Score 3	Score 1
Water	Clear and clean appearing, still or cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape.	Flowing, or still, but not dominant in the landscape.	Absent, or present but not noticeable.
	Score 5	Score 3	Score 0
Color	Rich color combinations, variety or vivid color, or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water or snow fields.	Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of the soil, rock, and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element.	Subtle color variations, contrast, or interest; generally mute tones.
	Score 5	Score 3	Score 1
Adjacent Scenery	Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality.	Adjacent scenery moderately enhances overall visual quality.	Adjacent scenery has little or no influence on overall visual quality.
	Score 5	Score 3	Score 0

16
 17
 18

1 **Table R-1-2.** Landscape Unit Visual Quality Inventory/Evaluation Rating Based on
2 BLM VRM System (continued)

Scenic Quality Inventory Factor	Rating Criteria and Score		
	Scarcity	One of a kind; or unusually memorable, or very rare within region. Consistent chance for exceptional wildlife or wildflower viewing, etc.	Distinctive, though somewhat similar to others within the region.
	Score 1/ 5+	Score 3	Score 1
Cultural Modifications	Modifications add favorably to visual variety while promoting visual harmony.	Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area, and introduce no discordant elements.	Modifications add variety but are very discordant and promote strong disharmony.
	Score 2	Score 0	Score -4

Source: BLM 1986a

1/ A rating of greater than 5 can be given but must be supported by written justification.

3

4 Table R-1-3, also based on the BLM VRM system, summarizes the landscape class rating
5 definitions.

6 **Table R-1-3.** Landscape Unit Visual Quality Classes Based on BLM VRM System

Class	Description
Class A (Distinctive)	Outstanding areas where characteristic features of landform, rockform, water, and vegetation are distinctive or unique in the context of the surrounding areas. These features exhibit considerable variety in form, line, color, and texture and have strong positive attributes of unity and intactness. A score of 19 points or more, as tallied on an individual field inventory sheet, resulted in a distinctive rating.
Class B (Average or Common)	Average or common areas in which features provide variety in form, line, color, and texture. And although the landscape elements may not be rare in the region, they provide sufficient visual diversity to be considered moderately interesting. These features exhibit more common variety in form, line, color, texture, and have positive, yet more common attributes of unity and intactness. The score of 12 to 18 points, as tallied from an individual field inventory sheet, resulted in an Average or Common rating.
Class C (Minimal or Indistinctive)	Minimal or Indistinctive areas are those where characteristic features have little variety in form, line, color, or texture in relation to the surrounding region. The score of 11 points or less, as tallied from an individual field inventory sheet, resulted in a Minimal or Indistinctive rating.

Source: BLM 1986a

7

8 The visual inventory forms also contain a section for rating the visual or scenic quality of each
9 KOP. The ratings on NFS lands follow the SMS approach to rating visual quality of a landscape
10 using the criteria of sense of place, intactness, and wholeness. Each of the three criteria is
11 independent and is intended to evaluate one aspect of visual quality. No one criterion in itself
12 captures visual quality.

13 **3.2.4 Predict Viewer Response**

14 Viewer response to a change in visual quality is primarily based on the concept of visual
15 sensitivity. Both USFS SMS and BLM VRM systems define visual sensitivity as a measure of
16 viewer concern for the scenic resource and potential changes to the resource. Visual sensitivity

1 is referred to as concern levels in the SMS and as sensitivity levels in the VRM system;
 2 however, each system considers similar criteria in its evaluations. For KOPs located on non-
 3 NFS/BLM-managed lands, the visual team inventoried, evaluated, and produced an overall
 4 sensitivity level based on the combination of viewer sensitivity factors. These factors include the
 5 following:

- 6 • *User Type/ User Expectations* considers the local, regional, or national significance of a
 7 viewpoint or viewed area. It considers an individual's or viewer group's expectations
 8 related to their viewing experience. For example, viewpoints from a national park, Wild
 9 and Scenic River, or wilderness area are typically considered more sensitive than
 10 viewpoints from an interstate highway.
- 11 • *Duration of view* is defined as the length of time that a sensitive viewer would typically
 12 encounter a particular view. For example, a view from a residence is considered to be a
 13 high duration view because the landscape could be viewed at any time of day and for
 14 any length of time. Conversely, the amount of time a commuter would see an area of
 15 landscape from a highway as they drive through the area would be very short, and thus
 16 would be considered a short duration view. The expected duration of view specific to
 17 each KOP will be considered in the assessment.
- 18 • *Use volume* considers the number of users. Maintenance of visual quality becomes
 19 more important as the level of use increases (BLM 1986b).

20 The USFS and BLM have already prepared evaluations of concern levels and sensitivity levels
 21 in the preparation of their respective SMS and VRM system inventories for LRMPs and RMPs.
 22 These inventories were used to determine viewer sensitivity for those KOPs located on BLM
 23 and NFS lands. The viewer response criteria and intensity are further detailed in Table R-1-4
 24 below.

25 **Table R-1-4.** Viewer Response Intensity Matrix

Criteria	Criteria Intensity		
	High	Moderate	Low
<i>Use Volume</i>	High level of Use, relatively many occupants, visitors, or travelers	Moderate level of use	Low level of use, relatively few occupants, visitors or travelers
<i>User Attitude</i>	High expectations for maintaining existing landscape conditions. Often occurs in relatively natural or architecturally styled areas the visual condition is highly regarded or sought after	Users are concerned with landscape conditions, but are not the primary focus of their experiences.	Areas where the public has low expectations for maintaining the visual landscape. Generally commercial or industrial areas where human caused modifications already exist in the landscape
<i>Duration of View</i>	Long, fixed or continuous views	Intermediate views (i.e., open highway views)	Short, brief or intermittent views (i.e., highway views in rolling landscapes)

26

3.2.5 Depict the Visual Appearance of the Project

With an understanding of the existing regional setting and the Project viewsheds and landscape units, the analysis can be used to describe how the proposed Project will be designed and constructed and what it will look like. From the total list of KOPs, representative sites (primarily those representing locations with high viewer sensitivity and high potential for visual impacts to existing visual resources) were selected for development of photographic simulations to demonstrate how the constructed Project would appear to future viewers. The photographic simulations can be supported through other graphic techniques such as sections, elevations, and construction details to provide a complete understanding of the proposed Project as it contrasts with the existing conditions.

The photographic simulations were created using GIS software, 3-dimensional (3D) modeling software, and digital photographic editing software. The software used to create the visual simulations includes:

- ArcMap – Used for Project data mapping;
- Promote Systems Global Positioning System (GPS) – Used for photo and modeling location accuracy;
- 3D Studio Max 2010 – Used for 3D modeling, texturing, lighting, and rendering;
- PTGui – Used for digital photo panorama creation; and
- Adobe Photoshop CS4 – Used for photo editing and compositing.

When taking photographs of the existing landscapes, the visual team used a Nikon D90 and Cannon EOS 60D digital camera (digital single lens reflex [dSLR]) equipped with a 52 millimeter (mm)-equivalent lens. This lens is considered a “normal lens,” as it most closely approximates the field of vision of the human eye. In photos taken with this lens, the size and scale of objects in the background and foreground are depicted proportionately and are not distorted. The term “52mm equivalent” lens is used because of the difference in image sensor size between a traditional 35mm film camera and a modern dSLR. To achieve the desired “normal lens” focal length of 52mm with a dSLR, a 35mm lens was used. The Nikon dSLR was also equipped with a GPS device manufactured by Promote Systems. The Cannon was equipped with a GPS device manufactured by JOBO. This GPS device records the latitude, longitude, elevation, date, and time of each photograph as it is taken.

To create the photo simulations, the location data captured by the GPS device were transferred to ArcMap, where it was combined with GIS data of the preliminary layouts of Project components and facilities. A map showing these data was exported at true scale and imported into 3D Studio Max. Using this scaled map as a base, a 3D model of the Project area was created to scale. These 3D models of the proposed Project features, previously modeled to scale in 3D Studio Max, were added in their appropriate locations and elevations. The views from the existing photographs were then matched in the 3D model using virtual cameras with the same focal length and field of view as the Nikon D90 or Cannon EOS 60D. After date- and time-specific lighting was added to the 3D model, renderings from the virtual cameras were created. These renderings were then blended into the existing conditions photographs in Adobe Photoshop software. Any necessary modifications to the existing landscape, such as tree removal or access road construction, were completed in Photoshop as well. This process of creating a 3D model at true scale and rendering images using the same specifications used by the camera ensures that the spatial relationships of the landscape, Project features, and viewer perspective are accurate and match the existing site photographs.

1 **3.2.6 Assess the Visual Impact**

2 The expected visual impacts of the Project as it would be seen from each KOP were determined
3 by assessing the amount of visual contrast introduced to the existing landscape by the Project
4 and considering the effect of that change in conjunction with the expected viewer response to
5 the change. The viewer response is based on a combination of the level of viewer sensitivity,
6 the duration of the view, and the number of viewers exposed to the view.

7 Contrast is an important assessment criterion used in both SMS and VRM systems to measure
8 the degree of physical change in the landscape without regard to how the change is seen by
9 viewers, sensitivity of viewpoints, or viewing conditions. Visual contrast incorporates the
10 elements of the BLM VRM system's visual assessment/contrast rating approach. Contrast in the
11 landscape is determined by the differences in form, line, color, texture, scale, and landscape
12 juxtaposition between the existing conditions and the proposed action. Contrast levels were
13 determined using assessment forms and were assigned an overall rating of strong, moderate,
14 weak, or none. Descriptions of each value are listed below:

- 15 • None – The contrast is not visible or perceived,
- 16 • Weak – The contrast can be seen but does not attract attention,
- 17 • Moderate – The contrast begins to attract attention and begins to dominate the
18 characteristic of the landscape,
- 19 • Strong – The contrast demands attention and is dominant in the landscape.

20 Other environmental factors can influence the amount of visual contrast introduced by project
21 components (BLM 1986a):

- 22 • Distance – The contrast created by a project usually is less as viewing distance
23 increases.
- 24 • Available Panorama – The more of the available view the proposed facilities are visible
25 in, the greater the amount of visual contrast.
- 26 • Angle of Observation – Viewing the project from different angles can greatly affect the
27 apparent size of a project and the resulting level of visual contrast.
- 28 • Length of Time in View – The longer the project is in view, the greater the level of visual
29 contrast.
- 30 • Relative Size or Scale – The level of visual contrast created by a project is directly
31 related to its size and scale compared to the surrounding landscape it is located in.
- 32 • Lighting Conditions – The direction and angle of the sun affects the color, intensity,
33 shadow, reflection, form, and texture of visual aspects of proposed project components.

34 The following describes some examples of conditions associated with each visual contrast level:

- 35 • Strong Visual Contrast
 - 36 ○ Contrast that is caused by construction of new access roads in steep terrain;
 - 37 ○ Where dense riparian or forest vegetation is removed for ROW clearing, tower
38 sites, or access roads; and/or
 - 39 ○ Where the landscape has no existing transmission lines or other overhead
40 utilities.
- 41 • Moderate Visual Contrast
 - 42 ○ Contrasts that are caused by blading of existing access roads or construction of
43 new access roads in rolling terrain with occasional short, steep slopes;

- 1 ○ Where agricultural vegetation or grassland is removed for site or access road
2 construction; and/or
- 3 ○ Where the proposed project is larger in scale or of a different design compared to
4 the existing nearby or parallel utility facilities in the landscape.
- 5 • Weak Visual Contrast
- 6 ○ Where existing access or construction roads are used;
- 7 ○ Where there is minimal existing vegetation removal;
- 8 ○ Where similar transmission facilities of similar scale exist nearby or parallel in the
9 landscape.
- 10 • No Visual Contrast
- 11 ○ Where visual contrast of activities is not visually evident;
- 12 ○ Where manipulation of existing vegetation creates no visual contrast; and/or
- 13 ○ Where replacing existing conductors on an existing transmission line creates no
14 visual contrast.

15 Visual resource change is the change in landscape character and visual quality as a result of
16 the action. The level of resource change for each KOP was determined by considering the
17 existing scenic quality rating for the KOP in conjunction with the visual contrast rating created by
18 the Project at that location. The resulting level of resource change became one component used
19 to derive an impact rating for each KOP.

20 The overall viewer response to the resource change was the second component used in the
21 impact rating process. The overall response results from the combination of viewer expectations
22 or sensitivity, duration of view, and use volume applicable to each KOP.

23 The visual impact level for each KOP was determined by combining the level of visual resource
24 change with the overall viewer response (i.e., degree to which people are likely to react
25 adversely to the change, as discussed previously). Table R-1-5 is a matrix illustrating how the
26 visual resource change and viewer response components were combined to produce an overall
27 impact rating for each KOP.

28 **Table R-1-5. Visual Impact Rating Matrix**

Viewer Response	Visual Resource Change				
	Low	Low to Moderate	Moderate	Moderate to High	High
Low	L	L	L	LM	M
L-M	L	LM	M	M	M
Moderate	M	LM	M	MH	MH
M-H	M	M	MH	MH	MH
High	M	M	MH	H	H

29

30 Applying the respective components of the evaluation through this matrix resulted in an impact
31 rating ranging from Low to High for each KOP. The definitions of the visual impact levels are:

- 32 • *Low* – Minor adverse change to the existing visual resource, with low viewer response to
33 change in the visual environment; insignificant impact.
- 34 • *Low to Moderate* – Minor to moderate adverse change to the existing visual resource,
35 with low to moderate or moderate viewer response to change in the visual environment;
36 insignificant impact.

- 1 • *Moderate* – Moderate adverse change to the visual resource, with moderate viewer
2 response; adverse impact, but not significant.
- 3 • *Moderate to High* – Moderate adverse visual resource change with high viewer response
4 or high adverse visual resource change with moderate viewer response; potentially
5 significant impact.
- 6 • *High* – A moderate to high or high level of adverse change to the resource and a high
7 level of viewer response; significant adverse impact.

8 **4.0 VISUAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

9 Section 4 documents the results of the site-specific visual impact assessment conducted for the
10 Project. Section 4.1 summarizes the results of viewshed analysis, which was performed to
11 indicate the areas from which the Project would potentially be visible. Section 4.2 provides site-
12 specific information for 114 KOPs included in the assessment. This material includes general
13 location and context information for the site, a description of the existing view, and discussion of
14 expected visual conditions with the Project.

15 **4.1 VIEWSHED ANALYSIS**

16 Existing views from various locations in the vicinity of the Project would be altered to varying
17 degrees as a result of the construction of Project facilities. To investigate the potential visual
18 impacts of the Project, a viewshed or “line-of-sight” analysis was conducted to determine the
19 extent to which Project facilities would potentially be visible within a 20-mile radius surrounding
20 the Proposed Corridor and alternatives. (The 20-mile radius was applied in this analysis to
21 support documentation needs related to the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council standards for
22 protected areas.)

23 This visibility analysis takes into account an observer’s viewpoint, direction of sight and distance
24 of sight to portray which locations on the land surface can potentially be viewed from the
25 viewpoint and which locations would be blocked from view by intervening terrain. The line-of-
26 sight used in the analysis extends from the top of the transmission structures to all other points
27 on the terrain surface that are in a direct line with a given observation point, assuming a
28 conservative viewer height of 6 feet. As discussed in Section 3.2.2, the analysis is based on
29 terrain alone and does not account for attenuating factors that could make the Project facilities
30 undetectable or barely visible from certain locations under a variety of conditions. Therefore, a
31 terrain-based line-of-sight analysis presents a conservative identification of a visibility pattern.
32 First, in some areas where the analysis indicates Project structures would be visible, the only
33 visible components might be the tips of the towers, which would be hardly noticeable at
34 middleground (0.5 to 3.5 miles) or background (greater than 3.5 miles) distances. In addition,
35 the analysis does not take into account the screening effects of existing vegetation or structures.
36 Therefore, in some areas where potential Project visibility is indicated based on terrain
37 conditions alone, views of the transmission line would be screened by vegetation or structures
38 located between the viewing position and the line. Vegetation data was used for KOP specific
39 viewshed analysis.

40 The following sections summarize the results of the Project visibility analysis, which are
41 displayed in Figures R-2-6 through R-2-13 (in Attachment R-2). The figures indicate the
42 potential extent of Project visibility within the analysis area based on current Project plans, and
43 will be updated once engineering data have been finalized and results are checked against new
44 data. The viewshed analysis provides an initial result identifying (a) areas where hill, mountain,
45 or canyon topography would blocks views of the Project and (b) areas where a direct line of
46 sight to Project structures would exist, and where more specific investigation of visibility

1 conditions is warranted. Additional investigation was accomplished through field reconnaissance
2 and further computer-based analysis for individual viewing locations.

3 The viewshed analysis results are summarized below by segment. The discussion is structured
4 to address potential Project visibility from developed areas, key travel routes, and recreation
5 areas or sites, which collectively account for the most sensitive viewing locations.

6 **4.1.1 Morrow and Umatilla Counties**

7 The Proposed Corridor and alternatives in Morrow and Umatilla counties are located within the
8 Umatilla Plateau or the Umatilla Dissected Uplands portions of the Columbia Plateau ecoregion.
9 Because the area is a plateau divided by the Columbia River, the topography is generally flat or
10 slightly rolling, and has limited areas where local relief can block long-distance views.
11 Consequently, the viewshed analysis determined that a direct line of sight exists between the
12 tower elevations along the Proposed Corridor or the alternate corridor segments and most
13 locations within the northern part of the analysis area. The southern portion of the Project area
14 in Morrow and Umatilla counties includes a number of shallow canyons such as those adjacent
15 to the Umatilla River and Butter Creek. The prevailing condition in this part of the analysis area
16 is that much of the alignment would potentially be visible. Because little tall vegetation is found
17 within the Columbia Plateau region, the potential for blockage of views of Project facilities would
18 largely be limited to developed areas where other structures are present or where topography
19 can screen views, such as adjacent to the Columbia River and in isolated areas of the Umatilla
20 Dissected upland ecoregion. In general, the limits of Project visibility in this part of the analysis
21 area (i.e., the ability to actually detect and identify Project facilities at a distance) would be
22 determined by the effects of increasing distance and the lighting and atmospheric conditions
23 present at a given time.

24 The viewshed results indicate one distinction among the Proposed Corridor, the Horne Butte
25 Alternate, and the Longhorn Alternate. The Longhorn Alternate is closer to I-84, Boardman, and
26 Hermiston, and therefore would have a much higher concentration of sensitive viewers than the
27 proposed alignment. Most viewers of the Proposed Corridor would be concentrated adjacent to
28 Cecil, State Highway 74, and Pilot Rock.

29 **Developed Areas**

30 As of the 2010 Census, Morrow County had a total population of approximately 11,173
31 residents. By acreage, virtually all of the urbanized land uses within the Segment 1 and 2
32 portions of the analysis area are located within and near the cities of Boardman, Hermiston, and
33 Pendleton. Boardman is a community of approximately 3,200 residents, Hermiston is a
34 community of approximately 16,865 residents, and Pendleton is a community of approximately
35 16,625 residents (League of Oregon Cities 2012). Most of the Boardman developed area is
36 situated in a relatively narrow corridor between I-84 and the Columbia River. Based on the
37 terrain modeling applied in the viewshed analysis, essentially all locations within the Boardman
38 developed area would have a line of sight to the Longhorn Alternate. Though farther away from
39 the alternative alignment than Boardman, Hermiston would possibly also have a line of sight
40 toward the Longhorn Alternate. The vegetation adjacent to the Umatilla River would likely block
41 views from both Hermiston and Pendleton in this segment of the project area though the bare
42 earth viewshed analysis indicated many of these areas would be visible.

43 I-84 would block many of the potential views toward the Proposed Corridor in Pendleton. The
44 viewshed analysis indicates there would potentially be views from the Pilot Rock Community,
45 which has a population of approximately 1,505 people. In reality, the surrounding structures and
46 topography screen many of the potential views. Much of the area adjacent to the proposed

1 alignment in Morrow and Umatilla Counties is rural residential with scattered residences and
2 large tracts of farmland.

3 **Key Travel Routes**

4 The primary travel routes in this part of the analysis area are I-84, U.S. Highway 395, Oregon
5 Highways 74 and 207, and Washington State Route 14 on the north side of the Columbia River.
6 The analysis indicates that the Project viewshed would include a stretch of I-84 extending for at
7 least 40 miles, from several miles east of Boardman as well as several miles east of the
8 interchange with Oregon Highway 207 and the interchange of U.S. Highway 395 at Pendleton.
9 Through most of this area the Proposed Corridor would be between 8 and 10 miles south of the
10 freeway, and views likely would be blocked intermittently by buildings in developed areas.
11 Project visibility from I-84 would be greatest toward the Longhorn Alternate, which crosses I-84
12 east of Boardman. The Proposed Corridor also crosses U.S. Highway 730 approximately 1 mile
13 from the I-84/U.S. Highway 730 interchange. Travelers approaching I-84 on either Oregon
14 Highway 207 or U.S. Highway 395 would have a similarly high degree of view exposure.

15 The Proposed Corridor crosses Oregon Highway 74 in two locations and runs parallel to this
16 highway for approximately 2 miles. The highway is located within the shallow valley of Willow
17 Creek in this area, and the local topography would likely block views to the Project in a few
18 locations or backdrop structures and absorb many of the views. In general, however, travelers
19 on the highway would be able to view Project facilities consistently over a stretch of several
20 miles.

21 Within the viewshed of the Proposed Corridor there is roughly 20 miles of Oregon Highway 74,
22 40 miles of Oregon Highway 207, and approximately 20 miles of U.S. Highway 395. In most of
23 these locations the actual visibility would likely be very limited or nonexistent along many of the
24 roadways not directly adjacent to the Proposed Corridor or the Longhorn Alternate (i.e., within 3
25 miles).

26 **Recreation Areas**

27 Recreation resources in this area are relatively limited. Key recreation resources within this part
28 of the analysis area include Boardman Marina Park, located on the Columbia River in
29 Boardman; the Columbia River itself; and public recreational opportunities located within the
30 Umatilla NWR, and recreational viewers at the McKay Creek NWR. According to the viewshed
31 analysis, much of the area adjacent to Boardman and the Columbia River would not have a line
32 of sight to the proposed alignment; however, the Boardman Marina Park and large expanses of
33 the river and the refuge are within the seen area, based on terrain modeling, of the Longhorn
34 Alternate.

35 **4.1.2 Union County**

36 The Union County part of the analysis area is within the Maritime-Influenced zone and Mesic
37 Forest Zone of the Blue Mountain Ecoregion. The topography in this part of the analysis area is
38 a complex of high relief mountain ranges that are lower and more open than the neighboring
39 Cascades and Rockies. Like the Cascades, the Blue Mountains are mostly volcanic in origin.
40 The mountainous terrain generally blocks the long-distance views adjacent to the study area.
41 Views would generally be blocked by terrain and vegetation except in the Grande Ronde River
42 Valley. Views from the Grande Ronde Valley are dominated by the surrounding mountainous
43 terrain of the Blue Mountains such as Mount Fanny to the east (elevation of 7,136), Mount
44 Harris to the northeast (elevation 5,335 feet), and Mount Emily to the northwest (elevation 6,110
45 feet). The viewshed analysis determined that a direct line of sight exists between the tower
46 elevations along the Proposed Corridor and many locations within this part of the analysis area
47 in the Grande Ronde Valley east of La Grande. In many areas a relatively small number of

1 towers would be potentially visible due to the distance of the views and vegetation, which was
2 not modeled in the viewshed analysis. Areas with developed land uses and existing structures
3 are quite limited near Segment 3 and are most heavily concentrated around La Grande/Island
4 City with rural residences throughout the Grande Ronde Valley. In general, the limits of Project
5 visibility in this part of the analysis area would be determined primarily by the effects of
6 increasing distance, tall dense vegetation, topography, and the lighting and atmospheric
7 conditions present at a given time.

8 **Developed Areas**

9 The 13,095-person community of La Grande and adjacent 1,010-person community of Island
10 City (League of Oregon Cities 2012) are each located in the Grande Ronde Valley, surrounded
11 by the Blue Mountains, approximately 3.8 miles and 6.0 miles respectively northeast of the
12 Proposed Corridor. These are the only developed areas near Segment 3 that have possible
13 views. The city of Union (population 2,140) is also located in the southern portion of the Grande
14 Ronde Valley though views from this community are completely blocked by Craig Mountain.
15 Based on the terrain modeling applied in the viewshed analysis, most developed areas within
16 the Grande Ronde Valley, with the exception of Union, would have a potential view of a portion
17 of the Project. Because the Project would be located on higher ground and because vegetation
18 was not modeled in the viewshed analysis actual visibility from many of these areas is unlikely.
19 Views to the Project would likely be blocked by existing buildings at some locations within the
20 community, by terrain, or by vegetation as detailed previously.

21 **Key Travel Routes**

22 The primary travel routes in the Union County part of the analysis area are I-84, Oregon
23 Highways 82 and 203, and U.S. Highway 30. The viewshed analysis indicates that the Project
24 would not be visible along the majority of the stretch of I-84 with one crossing by the alignment
25 north of the North Powder River. The viewshed analysis also indicates that portions of Oregon
26 Highways 82 and 237 as well as U.S. Highway 30 would have potential visibility of the proposed
27 alignment.

28 The Proposed Corridor crosses Oregon Highway 237, after crossing I-84, as the highway runs
29 adjacent to the North Powder River. The local topography would likely limit views to the Project
30 in a few locations, especially in the northern portions of Union County, travelers on the highway
31 would be able to see project facilities over a stretch of several miles where the highway is
32 crossed adjacent to the North Powder River.

33 **Recreation Areas**

34 Recreation resources near the Project in Union County are primarily USFS facilities such as the
35 Blue Mountain Crossing Sno-Park and Spring Creek Campground, as well as Oregon state
36 recreation areas such as Hilgard Junction State Park and local recreation areas such as Morgan
37 Lake Park. The viewshed analysis indicates that a line of sight to a small number of Project
38 structures would exist for some areas such as Morgan Lake, though vegetation is likely to block
39 many of the views. The Morgan Lake recreation area would have the highest probability of
40 having direct views of the proposed alignment.

41 **4.1.3 Baker County**

42 The Mesic Forest Zone, Blue Mountains Basin, and Continental Foothills portions of the Blue
43 Mountain ecoregion are present in Baker County. The Blue Mountain Basins ecoregion includes
44 the Wallowa, Grande Ronde, and Baker valleys. Correspondingly, the area surrounding
45 Segment 4 includes some large expanses of uninterrupted visibility with distant mountainous
46 terrain such as the Elkhorn Mountains.

1 **Developed Areas**

2 The communities of North Powder and Baker City represent the only substantial developed areas
3 within the Segment 4 part of the analysis area. They have populations of approximately 445 and
4 9,890 people, respectively (League of Oregon Cities 2012). North Powder is located on the North
5 Powder River approximately 3.0 miles to the west of the Proposed Corridor. Open valley terrain
6 adjacent to the town offer little opportunity for screening views of the Project. Clover Creek Valley is
7 located north of North Powder and is crossed by the Proposed Corridor. The Proposed Corridor
8 passes within 3 miles of Baker City, and most locations within the community have views of the
9 existing transmission lines as they cross the eastern portion of the North Powder River Valley east
10 of Magpie Peak and west of Flagstaff Hill and Lone Pine Mountain. Because of the distance from
11 most viewers and backdropping by canyon topography, views of the Project from Baker City would
12 generally be screened or backdropped.

13 **Key Travel Routes**

14 The primary travel routes in this part of the analysis area are I-84, U.S. Highway 30, and Oregon
15 Highways 203 and 86 (Hells Canyon Scenic Byway). The Proposed Corridor crosses Oregon
16 Highways 203 and 86 as well as I-84. There is potential visibility of the Proposed Corridor from most
17 locations along Oregon 203 and 86 for several miles on either side of the crossing locations as well as
18 most areas along I-84. The Proposed Corridor would be visible at all three crossings as well as where
19 it parallels I-84. There are many areas south of Baker City where the alignment crosses elevated
20 terrain that provides more potential for view exposure, although these sections of the Project may not
21 be as apparently visible to viewers traveling at speeds in excess of 65 miles per hour.

22 **Recreation Areas**

23 Recreation areas are numerous in this part of the analysis area, although most of the recreation
24 resources are located in the Wallowa-Whitman NF and most recreation areas are not directly
25 adjacent to the alignment. However, visitors at the NHOTIC would have views of several Project
26 structures. Views from the NHOTIC would include a substantial segment of the proposed alignment
27 and the Flagstaff Alternate, although in both cases there would be a terrain backdrop for these
28 views.

29 **4.1.4 Malheur County**

30 The analysis area in Malheur County also spans the Continental Zone Foothills portion of the Blue
31 Mountains Ecoregion. Much of the area consists of rugged mountains, which can result in focal or
32 enclosed views in some locations with some open, expansive views in the foothills of the
33 surrounding mountain ranges. Because much of this part of the analysis area is covered in
34 sagebrush and low vegetation, the actual visibility of Project facilities would likely be relatively
35 extensive.

36 **Developed Areas**

37 Areas of developed land use are considerably less extensive in Malheur County than in other
38 parts of the analysis area. This area includes the small Willow Creek Valley communities of
39 Brogan and Jamieson and larger population center of Vale, which range in size from
40 approximately 70 people (Brogan) to nearly 1,900 residents in Vale.

41 Bare-earth viewshed analysis suggests that Project facilities would potentially be visible in
42 essentially all of these developed areas throughout the Willow Creek Valley. Because
43 vegetation is a mix of sagebrush and low growing desert scrub, it can be anticipated that the
44 presence of vegetation would not have much effect on the bare-earth viewshed results.

1 **Key Travel Routes**

2 The primary travel routes in this area include U.S. Highways 26, 20, and 95 as well as Oregon
3 Highways 201, 78, and 45. I-84 is not discussed here because field review indicates that motorists
4 on this highway would not have views of Segment 5 Project facilities. Oregon Highway 26 would
5 have visibility of the proposed transmission line for the entire length of the Willow Creek Valley from
6 Vale past Brogan but due to terrain and distance most views are likely to be confined to crossing
7 points. Travelers on U.S. Highway 20, 95, and Oregon Highway 201 could have views of the Project
8 for some distance where they parallel the alignment. In many locations the roads and Proposed
9 Corridor are relatively close together and topography may not be sufficient to screen views of the
10 proposed transmission facilities from the roads.

11 The Willow Creek Alternate will be highly visible where it crosses Highway 26 north of the
12 community of Jamieson. Most views will be concentrated at this crossing due to the surrounding
13 terrain. The Willow Creek Alternate will also be visible to motorists on Highway 30 for approximately
14 4.0 miles where it parallels the roadway.

15 **Recreation Areas**

16 The western portion of the analysis area in Malheur County has two separate areas with substantial
17 recreational usage. These areas include the Bully Creek Reservoir and Owyhee River canyon
18 below Owyhee Dam. The Bully Creek Reservoir is a Malheur County park. The Owyhee River
19 Canyon is managed by the BLM and BOR.

20 From the boat ramp and picnic site at the Bully Creek Reservoir visitors would have views toward
21 the proposed alignment but at distances of approximately 13.0 miles and as a result there would be
22 little to no visibility of the proposed structures. The parks and access sites located along Owyhee
23 River in this part of the analysis area tend to be oriented to the river and shielded by the canyon
24 topography, and therefore would have no or limited views of the Project. Views of both the Proposed
25 Corridor and alternatives would be concentrated at the canyon crossings. Please refer to Appendix
26 1A for additional discussion of site-specific visibility conditions.

27 **4.2 EXISTING AND WITH-PROJECT CONDITIONS BY KOP**

28 To systematically assess anticipated visual changes associated with the proposed Project, site-specific,
29 existing conditions were carefully documented and reviewed relative to with-Project conditions for 146
30 representative locations (KOPs) within the analysis area. Based on the available Project planning and
31 engineering information, expected changes in visual quality at those locations were determined by
32 applying the methods described in Section 3.2. A key step in that process was to define the nature and
33 degree of contrast with the existing visual condition that would result from developing the Project.

34 Photographic simulations of the appearance of the completed Project were prepared for 21 of the
35 KOPs selected as representative viewpoints in the analysis area, and are presented in Attachment R-
36 4. Comparison of photographs of the existing views and the simulations allowed for visual
37 characterization of each view with and without the Project, and provided the basis for evaluating
38 Project effects on the existing visual quality. Based on similarities involving the existing setting and the
39 configuration of the Project facilities depicted in the simulations, results derived from evaluating the
40 simulations were applied to KOPs for which simulations were not prepared to assist in developing site-
41 specific contrast ratings for those locations.

42 The visual impacts identified through the assessment process are predominantly based on the visual
43 contrast created by the Project transmission facilities (i.e., the structures and/or conductors) and, to a
44 lesser extent, the associated access roads. Figure R-1-2 illustrates several terms and concepts that
45 are key aspects of the visual impact assessment. The two photographs included in the figure provide
46 examples of how viewing distance can influence the visibility of transmission facilities and their
47 associated contrast. They also highlight the greater visibility and contrast when transmission facilities
48 are seen above the skyline, rather than against a terrain backdrop.



Figure R-1-2. Lattice Structure Potential Visibility Comparison

1 The assessment also considered the possible visual impacts of the Project support facilities,
2 primarily the proposed communication stations and the multi-use areas and fly yards that would
3 be used during construction. Because the communication stations have a small footprint and
4 low profile (the structures would be 12 feet in height), these facilities would be noticeable only at
5 close viewing distances, and their visual contrast would be subordinate to that created by the
6 transmission facilities. The multi-use areas and fly yards (if used by the contractor) will be larger
7 in extent (up to approximately 20 acres each), and the equipment, materials and temporary
8 structures at these sites would represent likely sources of contrast in the landscape.
9 Nevertheless, the objects present within the multi-use areas and fly yards would be much less in
10 height (likely a 30- or 40-foot maximum) than the Project transmission structures, and their
11 visibility range would correspondingly be reduced. In addition, given the temporary nature of the
12 multi-use areas and fly yards, it is unlikely that visual contrast from one of these facilities would
13 contribute substantially to the Project visual impacts at a specific KOP. As a result, the influence
14 of Project support facilities is specifically addressed in the discussion of impacts only where
15 such facilities would be sufficiently close that they might represent a meaningful source of visual
16 contrast from the Project.

17 Table R-1-6 summarizes the visual impact ratings for the KOPs, based on the expected visual
18 conditions with the Proposed Corridor and/or the respective alternate corridor segments.

Table R-1-6. Visual Impact Assessment Results by KOP

KOP	Name	Distance (miles)	Visibility¹	Existing Scenic Quality²	Contrast³	Resource Change⁴	Viewers⁵	Viewer Sensitivity⁶	Duration⁷	Viewer Numbers⁸	Viewer Response⁹	Impact Rating¹⁰
1-5	Oregon Trail Fourmile Canyon Interpretive Site – Proposed Corridor	4.1	N	B	N	N	REC	H	M	L	M	N
1-5	Oregon Trail Fourmile Canyon Interpretive Site – Horn Butte Alt.	4.1	N	B	N	N	REC	H	M	L	M	N
2-1	Blue Mountain Scenic Byway, Cecil - Proposed Corridor	<0.1	H	C	M-S	M	TRAV	M-H	S	M	M	M
2-1	Blue Mountain Scenic Byway, Cecil - Horn Butte Alt.	<0.1	H	C	M-S	M	TRAV	M-H	S	M	M	M
2-2	Blue Mountain Scenic Byway, North of Cecil - Proposed Corridor	0.4	H	C	W-M	L-M	TRAV	M-H	S	M	M	M
2-2	Blue Mountain Scenic Byway, North of Cecil - Horn Butte Alt.	0.4	H	C	W-M	L-M	TRAV	M-H	S	M	M	M
2-10	Boardman Generating Plant	0.2	H	C	M	L-M	TRAV	M	S	L	L-M	L-M
2-11	State Highway 74 Oregon Trail Crossing, Cecil - Proposed Corridor	<0.4	H	C	M	L-M	TRAV	M-H	S	M	M	M
2-11	State Highway 74 Oregon Trail Crossing, Cecil - Horn Butte Alt.	0.4	H	C	M	L-M	TRAV	M-H	S	M	M	M
2-15	Boardman Conservation Area, Immigrant Lane - Proposed Corridor	0.8	H	C	S	M	REC	H	M	L	M	M
2-15	Boardman Conservation Area, Immigrant Lane - Horn Butte Alt.	0.08	H	C	S	M	REC	H	M	L	M	M
2-16	Lindsay Prairie Preserve – Proposed Corridor	1.4	M-H	C	M	L-M	REC	H	M	L	M	M
2-16	Lindsay Prairie Preserve – Horn Butte Alt.	1.4	M-H	C	M	L-M	REC	H	M	L	M	M

Table R-1-6. Visual Impact Assessment Results by KOP (continued)

KOP	Name	Distance (miles)	Visibility ¹	Existing Scenic Quality ²	Contrast ³	Resource Change ⁴	Viewers ⁵	Viewer Sensitivity ⁶	Duration ⁷	Viewer Numbers ⁸	Viewer Response ⁹	Impact Rating ¹⁰
2-16	Lindsay Prairie Preserve – Longhorn Alt.	7.2	N	C	N	N	RES	M	L	L	L	N
2-17	Boardman Research Natural Area, Bombing Range Road - Proposed Corridor	5.0	L	C	W	L	REC/ TRAV	M-H	M/S	L	L-M	L-M
2-17	Boardman Research Natural Area, Bombing Range Road - Horn Butte Alt.	5	L	C	W	L	REC/ TRAV	H/M	M/S	L	L-M	L-M
2-17	Boardman Research Natural Area, Bombing Range Road - Longhorn Alt.	5.5	N	C	N	N	RES	M	L	L	L	N
2-18	Boardman Conservation Area, Tower Road South	1.0	M-H	C	W	L	REC	H	M	L	M	L-M
2-20	Butter Creek Junction – Proposed Corridor	0.2	H	C	M-S	L-M	RES	H	L	L	M-H	M
2-20	Butter Creek Junction – Horn Butte Alt.	0.2	N	C	N	N	RES	H	L	L	M-H	N
2-20	Butter Creek Junction – Longhorn Alt.	4.0	N	C	N	N	RES	H	L	L	M-H	N
2-22	Well Spring Oregon Trail Site – Proposed Corridor	0.9	H	C	M-S	M	REC	H	M	L	M	M
2-22	Well Spring Oregon Trail Site – Horn Butte Alt.	0.9	H	C	M-S	M	REC	H	M	L	M	M
2-23	Wilson Lane SE	1.5	M	C	L-M	L	RES & TRAV	H-RES/ M-TRAV	L-RES/ S-TRAV	L	L-M	L-M
3-5	Blue Mountain State Scenic Corridor, Poverty Flat Road	7.0	L	B	W	L-M	REC	H	S	M	M	M
3-7	Cabbage Hill Viewpoint, Eastbound	>6.5	L	B	N	N	TRAV	M	S	L	M	N
3-12	Pilot Rock Community	>2.3	M	C	M	L-M	RES	H	L	M	M-H	M
3-13	Deadman Pass Rest Area	7.3	L	B	L	L-M	TRAV	M	S	M-H	M	M
3-14	Emigrant Springs State	4.1	L	C	L-N	L	REC	H	M	H	M-H	L-M

Table R-1-6. Visual Impact Assessment Results by KOP (continued)

KOP	Name	Distance (miles)	Visibility ¹	Existing Scenic Quality ²	Contrast ³	Resource Change ⁴	Viewers ⁵	Viewer Sensitivity ⁶	Duration ⁷	Viewer Numbers ⁸	Viewer Response ⁹	Impact Rating ¹⁰
	Heritage Area											
3-20	McKay Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Boat Launch	3.6	L-N	B	L-N	L-M	REC	H	M	H	M-H	M
3-21	McKay Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Spring Creek Road	2.7	M	C	W-M	L-M	RES	H	M	L	M	M
3-24	Meacham Divide Nordic Skiing Area	2.4	N	B	N	N	REC	H	M	L	M	N
3-31	Summit Guard Station Bunkhouse Cabin	8.3	L	B	W-N	L	REC	H	M	L	M	L-M
3-34	U.S. Highway 395 Crossing	0.1	H	C	H	M	TRAV	M	S	M	L-M	M
3-42	Blue Mountain Crossing	0.8	N	B	N	N	TRAV	M	S	H	M	N
4-3	Bird Track Springs USFS Campground – Proposed Corridor	3.5	N	B	N	N	REC	H	M	L	M	N
4-3	Bird Track Springs USFS Campground – Glass Hill Alt.	4.3	N	B	N	N	REC	H	M	L	M	N
4-4	Blue Mountain Crossing Sno-Park	0.3	M	B	W-M	L-M	REC	H	M	L	M	M
4-5	Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor, Old Emigrant Scenic Frontage Road	<0.1	H	B	S	M-H	TRAV	M-H	S	M	M	M-H
4-6	Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor, Summit Road (Exit 243)	0.4	L	C	W	L	TRAV	M-H	S	M	M	L-M
4-10	North Powder Community	2.4	L-M	B	W	L	RES/ TRAV	H/M	L/S	M	M	L-M
4-16	Grande Tour Oregon Tour Route	2.8	L	B	W-N	L	TRAV	M	S	H	M	L-M/N
4-19	Hilgard Junction State Park–Proposed Corridor	0.9	L	B	W	L-M	REC	H	M	M	M-H	M

Table R-1-6. Visual Impact Assessment Results by KOP (continued)

KOP	Name	Distance (miles)	Visibility ¹	Existing Scenic Quality ²	Contrast ³	Resource Change ⁴	Viewers ⁵	Viewer Sensitivity ⁶	Duration ⁷	Viewer Numbers ⁸	Viewer Response ⁹	Impact Rating ¹⁰
4-19	Hilgard Junction State Park – Glass Hill Alt.	1.5	N	B	N	N	REC	H	M	M	M-H	N
4-23	I-84 Crossing, North Powder	0.3	M-H	B	M	M	TRAV	M	S	H	M	M
4-24	I-84 Crossing, Meacham Area	0.3	L-M	C	M	L-M	TRAV	M	S	H	M	M
4-26	Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area, Foothill Road - Proposed Corridor	3.3	N	C	N	N	TRAV	M	S	L	M	N
4-26	Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area, Foothill Road - Glass Hill Alt.	4	N	C	N	N	TRAV	M	S	L	L-M	N
4-27	Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area, SH 203	4.9	L	C	W-N	L	TRAV	M	S	M	L-M	L-M
4-28	Morgan Lake Park – Proposed Corridor	0.9	L	C	W	L	REC	H	M	L	M	L-M
4-28	Morgan Lake Park – Glass Hill Alt.	3	N	B	N	N	REC	H	M	L	M	N
4-32	Oregon Trail Interpretive Park	1.1	L-M	B	W	L	REC	H	M	M	M-H	M
4-40	Spring Creek USFS Campground	0.1	H	C	M-S	M	REC	H	M	L	M	M
4-51	La Grande/Hells Canyon Scenic Byway – Proposed Corridor	>4.5	L	C	W-N	L	TRAV/ RES, COM	M/H	M-TRAV/ L-RES	H	M-H	M
4-51	La Grande/Hells Canyon Scenic Byway – Glass Hill Alt.	4.4	N	C	N	N	TRAV/ RES, COM	L-H	L-RES/ S-TRAV	H	M	N
4-52	Island City Community	5.5	L-N	C	W-N	L	RES/ COMM	H/L	L	M	M-H	M
4-54	Ladd Canyon Road/ USFS Road 43	0.2	M-H	B	M-H	M-H	REC	M-H	S	L	L-M	M
4-55	Elk Song Ranch – Proposed Corridor	0.6	H	B	M-H	M-H	TRAV/ RES	M/H	S-TRAV/ L-RES	L	M	M-H
4-55	Elk Song Ranch – Glass Hill Alt.	3	N	B	N	N	RES	H	L	L	L-M	N

Table R-1-6. Visual Impact Assessment Results by KOP (continued)

KOP	Name	Distance (miles)	Visibility ¹	Existing Scenic Quality ²	Contrast ³	Resource Change ⁴	Viewers ⁵	Viewer Sensitivity ⁶	Duration ⁷	Viewer Numbers ⁸	Viewer Response ⁹	Impact Rating ¹⁰
4-56	SH 244 near Whiskey Creek – Proposed Corridor	0.5	H	B	M-H	M-H	RES/TRAV	H/M	L/S	L	L-M	M
4-56	SH 244 near Whiskey Creek – Glass Hill Alt.	1.3	L-N	B	W-N	L-M/N	TRAV/RES	M/H	S/L	L/L	M-H	L-M/N
5-5	Huntington Community – Proposed Corridor	2.0	L	C	W-N	L	RES/EMP	H/L	L-RES/ M-EMP	M	M-H	M
5-5	Huntington Community – Willow Creek Alt.	2.3	M-L	C	L-N	L-N	RES/EMP	H/L	L/M	M	M-H	M
5-10	Elkhorn Drive Scenic Byway	7.7	L	C	W-N	L	TRAV	M-H	S	L	L-M	L-M
5-13	Farewell Bend State Recreation Area – Proposed Corridor	5.0	L	C	W-N	L	REC	H	M	M	M-H	M
5-13	Farewell Bend State Recreation Area – Willow Creek Alt.	3	L	B	N	N	REC	H	M	M	M-H	N
5-15	Alder Creek Road near I-84 – Proposed Corridor	0.3	H	B	M-S	M-H	RES/TRAV	H/M	L/S	L	M	M-H
5-15	Alder Creek Road near I-84 – Flagstaff Alt.	3	N	B	N	N	RES/TRAV	H/M	L/S	L/L	L-M	N
5-16	I-84 Crossing, Weatherby	0.3	H	C	M-S	M	TRAV	M	S	H	M	M
5-17	I-84 Near Lime	0.2	H	B	M	M	TRAV	M	S	H	M	M
5-18	I-84 Baker Valley Rest Area	1.5	L	C	W-N	L	TRAV	M	S	H	M	L-M
5-25a	National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center – Proposed Corridor	1.1	H	B	M	M	REC	H	M	H	M-H	M-H
5-25a	NHOTIC – Flagstaff Alt.	1.3	N	B	N	N	REC	H	M	H	M-H	N
5-25b	NHOTIC – Proposed Corridor	1.2	M	B	W	L-M	REC	H	M	H	M-H	M
5-25b	NHOTIC – Flagstaff Alt.	1.3	N	B	N	N	REC	H	M	H	M-H	N
5-25c	NHOTIC – Proposed Corridor	1.7	N	B	N	N	REC	H	M	H	M-H	N
5-25c	NHOTIC – Flagstaff Alt.	0.5	M-H	B	M	M	REC	H	M	H	M-H	M-H
5-25d	NHOTIC – Proposed Corr.	1.2	N	B	N	N	REC	H	M	H	M-H	N

Table R-1-6. Visual Impact Assessment Results by KOP (continued)

KOP	Name	Distance (miles)	Visibility ¹	Existing Scenic Quality ²	Contrast ³	Resource Change ⁴	Viewers ⁵	Viewer Sensitivity ⁶	Duration ⁷	Viewer Numbers ⁸	Viewer Response ⁹	Impact Rating ¹⁰
5-25d	NHOTIC – Flagstaff Alt.	1.2	L	B	M	M	REC	H	M	H	M-H	M-H
5-25e	NHOTIC – Proposed Corridor	1.3	N	B	N	N	REC	H	M	H	M-H	N
5-25e	NHOTIC – Flagstaff Alt.	1.3	M	B	M	M	REC	H	M	H	M-H	M-H
5-26	Oregon Trail ACEC, Hill Creek Road	0.8	L	C	W-N	L	TRAV/ RES	M/H	S/L	H/L	M-H	L-M
5-29	Oregon Trail Crossing, Hixon Road	<0.1	H	B	M	M	TRAV/ RES	M/H	S/L	L	M	M
5-30	Oregon Trail Crossing, Plano Road	0.5	L	B	W	L-M	RES/ TRAV	H/M	L/S	L	M-H	M
5-31	Oregon Trail Crossing, Weatherby	0.2	N	C	N	N	TRAV	M	S	H	M	N
5-32	Oregon Trail Kiwanis Club Memorial – Proposed Corridor	1.8	N	B	N	N	TRAV	M-H	S-M	M	M	N
5-32	Oregon Trail Kiwanis Club Memorial – Flagstaff Alt.	0.5	L	B	W	L-M	TRAV	M-H	S	M	M	L-M
5-33	Oregon Trail Ruts Interpretive Site – Proposed Corridor	1.2	L	B	W	L-M	TRAV	M-H	S	M	M	L-M
5-33	Oregon Trail Ruts Interpretive Site – Flagstaff Alt.	1.0	N	B	N	N	TRAV	M-H	S	M	M	N
5-34	Powder River ACEC	>3.0	L	B	W	L-M	REC	H	M	L	M	L-M
5-35	Powder River Wild and Scenic River Corridor, SH 203	>5.0	L	C	W-N	L	TRAV	M	S	L	L-M	L
5-36	Powder Wild and Scenic River Corridor, Thief Valley Reservoir Road	2.5	N	C	N	N	REC	H	M	L	M	N
5-41	Journey Through Time Scenic Byway, Baker City - Proposed Corridor	3.0	L-N	C	N	N	TRAV	M-H	S	M-H	M	N
5-41	Journey Through Time State Scenic Byway, Baker City - Flagstaff Alt.	3.3	N	C	N	N	TRAV	M-H	S	M-H	M	N

Table R-1-6. Visual Impact Assessment Results by KOP (continued)

KOP	Name	Distance (miles)	Visibility ¹	Existing Scenic Quality ²	Contrast ³	Resource Change ⁴	Viewers ⁵	Viewer Sensitivity ⁶	Duration ⁷	Viewer Numbers ⁸	Viewer Response ⁹	Impact Rating ¹⁰
5-43	Snake River – Mormon Basin Backcountry Byway, Oregon Trail Blvd - Proposed Corridor	0.6	H	B	M	M	TRAV	M-H	S	M	L-M	M
5-43	Snake River – Mormon Basin Backcountry Byway, Oregon Trail Blvd. - Willow Creek Alt.	1.5	N	B	N	N	TRAV	M-H	S	L	L-M	N
5-44	Snake River – Mormon Basin Backcountry Byway, Rye Valley Lane	0.2	H	B	M	M	TRAV	M-H	S	L	L-M	M
5-57	Haines Community	6.8	L	C	W-N	L	RES	H	L	M	M-H	M
5-59	Spring Wilderness Inventory Unit	4.4	L	B	W	L-M	REC	H	M	L	M	L-M
5-60	NHOTIC Entrance SH 86 – Proposed Corridor	0.4	H	B	S	M-H	REC	H	S	H	M-H	M-H
5-60	NHOTIC Entrance SH 86 – Flagstaff Alt.	1.3	N	B	N	N	REC	H	S	H	M-H	N
5-61	Hells Canyon Scenic Byway Virtue Flat	1.5	H	B	S	M-H	TRAV	M-H	S	H	M-H	M-H
5-66	Baker City Western Heights - Flagstaff Alt.	6	N	B	N	N	RES	H	L	M	M-H	N
5-67	I-84 Northbound, Baker City – Proposed Corridor	5.5	L	B	W	L-M	TRAV	M	S	H	M	M
5-67	I-84 Northbound, Baker Valley – Flagstaff Alt.	3.3	L	B	W	L-M	TRAV	M	S	H	M	M
5-68	State Highway 203 Eastbound – Proposed Corridor	0.8	H	B	M	M	TRAV	M	S	L-M	L-M	M
5-68	State Highway 203 Eastbound–Flagstaff Alt.	0.4	H	B	M	M	TRAV	M	S	L-M	L-M	M
5-69	State Highway 203 Westbound – Proposed Corridor	0.3	M-H	B	M	M	TRAV/ RES	M/H	S/ L	L-M	M	M
5-69	State Highway 203 Westbound – Flagstaff Alt.	0.9	L-M	B	M to W	L-M	TRAV, RES	H/M	S/L	M/L	M	M

Table R-1-6. Visual Impact Assessment Results by KOP (continued)

KOP	Name	Distance (miles)	Visibility ¹	Existing Scenic Quality ²	Contrast ³	Resource Change ⁴	Viewers ⁵	Viewer Sensitivity ⁶	Duration ⁷	Viewer Numbers ⁸	Viewer Response ⁹	Impact Rating ¹⁰
5-82	Durkee Community	1.7	L-M	C	W-M	L	RES	H	L	L	M-H	M
5-84	Virtue Flat OHV Area	2.0	M	B	W	L-M	REC	M	M	M	M	M
7-1	Weiser Dunes OHV Area – Proposed Corridor	6.6	L	B	W	L-M	REC	M-	M	L	L-M	L-M
7-1	Weiser Dunes OHV Area – Willow Creek Alt.	3	L	B	W	L-M	REC	M	M	L	L-M	L-M
7-6	Steck Park BLM Recreation Site – Proposed Corridor	4.1	L	B	W-N	L-N	REC	H	M	M	M-H	M
7-6	Steck Park BLM Recreation Site – Willow Creek Alt.	5	N	B	N	N	REC	H	M	M	M-H	N
8-3	Birch Creek Interpretive Site – Willow Creek Alt.	3.1	M-L	B	M	M	REC	H	S	L	L-M	M
8-4	Board Corral Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit – Proposed Corridor	1.0	M	B	M	M	TRAV/ REC	M/H	S/M	L/L	L-M	M
8-4	Board Corral Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit – Malheur S Alt.	1.0	M	B	M	M	REC/ TRAV	H/M	M/S	L/L	L-M	M
8-5	Bully Creek Reservoir	4.90	N	B	N	N	REC	H	M	M	M-H	N
8-6	Brogan Community – Proposed Corridor	3.9	L	C	W	L	RES	H	L	L	M-H	M
8-6	Brogan Community – Willow Creek Alt.	4	L-M	C	W	L	RES	H	L	L	M-H	M
8-8	Jamieson Community – Willow Creek Alt.	1.2	H-M	B	W	L-M	RES	H	L	L	M-H	M
8-16	Keeney Pass Interpretive Site	>7.0	N	C	N	N	REC/ TRAV	H/M	M/S	L	L-M	N
8-18	Lake Owyhee State Park – Malheur S Alt.	2.8	N	A	N	N	REC	H	M	M	M-H	N
8-21	McIntyre Ridge Wilderness Inventory Unit	2.8	L	C	N	N	REC	H	M	L	M	N
8-24	Oregon Trail ACEC, Tub Mountain - Willow Creek Alt.	2.7	N	B	N	N	REC	H	S	L	L-M	N

Table R-1-6. Visual Impact Assessment Results by KOP (continued)

KOP	Name	Distance (miles)	Visibility ¹	Existing Scenic Quality ²	Contrast ³	Resource Change ⁴	Viewers ⁵	Viewer Sensitivity ⁶	Duration ⁷	Viewer Numbers ⁸	Viewer Response ⁹	Impact Rating ¹⁰
8-25	Oregon Trail ACEC, Keeney Pass	6.4	N	C	N	N	TRAV/REC	M/H	S/M	L	M	N
8-31	Mitchell Butte Road	<0.1	H	C	S	M	TRAV/REC	M/H	S/M	L	M	M
8-33	Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Twin Springs Road - Proposed Corridor	0.2	H	C	S	M	TRAV/REC	M/H	S/M	L	M	M
8-33	Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Twin Springs Road - Double Mountain Alt.	0.1	H	C	S	M	REC/TRAV	H/M	M/S	L/L	M	M
8-37	Succor Creek State Natural Area, North	3.8	N	C	N	N	REC	H	S	L	L-M	N
8-41	U.S. Highway 20 Crossing – Proposed Corridor	0.0	H	C	H	M	TRAV	M	S	M-H	M	M
8-41	U.S. Highway 20 Crossing – Malheur S Alt.	0.2	H	C	S	M	TRAV	M	S	M-H	M	M
8-41	U.S. Highway 20 Crossing – Double Mountain Alt.	0.05	N	C	N	N	TRAV	M	S	M	M	N
8-42	U.S. Highway 26 Crossing	<0.1	H	C	H	M	TRAV	M	S	M	L-M	L-M
8-51	Big Bend Access Site	2.7	L	C	W-N	L-N	REC	H	M	L	M	L-M
8-52	Lower Owyhee Interpretive Site	0.3	H	B	S	M-H	REC/TRAV	H/M	M/S	L-M	M-H	M-H
8-55	Adrian Community	3.8	L	C	W-N	L-N	RES	H	L	L	M-H	L-N
8-62	Hunter Spring Wilderness Inventory Unit – Malheur S Alt.	7.1	N	C	N	N	TRAV/REC	M/H	S/M	L/L	L-M	N
8-74	McIntyre Ridge Wilderness Inventory Unit, Succor Creek Road - Proposed Corridor	3.1	N	B	N	N	REC/TRAV	H/M	M/S	L/L	L-M	N
8-74	McIntyre Ridge Wilderness Inventory Unit, Succor Creek Road - Malheur S Alt.	4.0	M	B	W	L-M	TRAV/REC	M/H	S/M	L/L	M	M

Table R-1-6. Visual Impact Assessment Results by KOP (continued)

KOP	Name	Distance (miles)	Visibility ¹	Existing Scenic Quality ²	Contrast ³	Resource Change ⁴	Viewers ⁵	Viewer Sensitivity ⁶	Duration ⁷	Viewer Numbers ⁸	Viewer Response ⁹	Impact Rating ¹⁰
8-75	Antelope Creek Wilderness Inventory Unit	1.7	M	B	W	L-M	REC	H	M	L	M	M
8-84	Burnt Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit – Malheur S Alt.	1.7	N	B	N	N	REC	H	M	L	M	N
8-85	Sourdough Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Twin Spring Road - Malheur S Alt.	0.3	H	B	S	M-H	REC	H	M	L	M	M-H
8-88	Broken Rim Wilderness Inventory Unit, Hoo Doo Road North - Proposed Corridor	2.4	M	B	M	M	REC/ TRAV	H/M	M/S	L	L-M	M
8-88	Broken Rim Wilderness Inventory Unit, Hoo Doo Road North - Malheur S Alt.	0.6	M-H	B	M-S	M	REC	M-H	S	L	L-M	M
8-90	Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Rock Canyon Road - Proposed Corridor	1.0	H	B	M	M	TRAV/ REC	M/H	S/M	L/L	L-M	M
8-90	Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Negro Rock Creek North–Double Mountain Alt.	0.1	H	B	S	M–H	REC/ TRAV	H/M	M/S	L/L	L-M	M
8-91	Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Twin Spring Road South - Malheur S Alt.	1.7	M	C	M	L-M	REC	M-H	S	L	L-M	L-M
8-93	Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Negro Rock Creek Middle - Malheur S Alt.	1.3	N/M	C	N/M	N/L-M	REC	M-H	S	L	L-M	L-M
8-94	Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Negro Rock Creek South - Malheur S Alt.	0.2	H	C	M-S	M	REC	M-H	S	L	L-M	L-M

Table R-1-6. Visual Impact Assessment Results by KOP (continued)

KOP	Name	Distance (miles)	Visibility ¹	Existing Scenic Quality ²	Contrast ³	Resource Change ⁴	Viewers ⁵	Viewer Sensitivity ⁶	Duration ⁷	Viewer Numbers ⁸	Viewer Response ⁹	Impact Rating ¹⁰
8-96	Lower Owyhee River Site H1 – Malheur S Alt.	1.4	M	B	S	M-H	REC/TRAV	H	M/S	M	M-H	M-H
8-97	Owyhee River Canyon Entrance	0.2	H	B	S	M-H	REC	M-H	S	L-M	L-M	M
8-102	Succor Creek Rural Area	0.8	M	B	W	L-M	RES/TRAV	H/M	L/ S	L	L-M	L-M
12-8	Jump Creek Canyon ACEC	0.9	M	B	W	L-M	REC	H	M	L	M	M
12-26	Spanish Charlie Basin Wilderness Inventory Unit	1.9	M	B	M	M	REC	H	M	L	M	M
12-27	Poison Creek Rural Area	0.8	M	C	W	L	RES	H	L	L	M-H	M
12-28	Jump Creek Rural Area	0.2	H	C	S	M	RES	H	L	L	M-H	M-H
12-29	Royal Vista Estates	6.1	L-N	C	W-N	L	RES	H	L	L	M-H	M

¹ Visibility is rated as none (N), low (L), moderate (M), or high (H) and is based on factors such as distance, degree of exposure and potential for views to be blocked or screened.

² Existing Scenic Quality is existing condition, rated as Class A (Distinctive), B (Average or Common) or C (Minimal or Indistinctive), according to BLM or USFS rating procedures (see Tables R-1-2 and R-1-3).

³ Contrast rating is none (N), weak (W), moderate (M) or strong (S), as detailed in the methodology discussion.

⁴ Resource change is an overall rating of none (N), low (L), moderate (M) or high (H) incorporating the existing scenic quality and contrast ratings.

⁵ Viewers represented at each KOP are primarily grouped as travelers (TRAV), residents (RES), and recreationalists (REC); in a few cases, commercial (COM) or employee (EMP) groups are applicable.

⁶ Viewer sensitivity is rated as low (L), moderate (M), or high (H) based on level of sensitivity to visual change typically ascribed to the respective viewer groups (see Table R-1-4).

⁷ Duration of view is rated as short (S), moderate (M) or long (L), based on typical activity patterns for the respective viewer groups and the KOP.

⁸ Viewer numbers are classified as low, moderate or high based on available (often limited or assumed) information about approximate numbers of people present at a KOP.

⁹ Viewer response is an overall rating incorporating the sensitivity, duration and viewer number ratings (see Table R-1-4 and associated text).

¹⁰ Impact rating is an overall measure incorporating the visual resource change and viewer response components for the KOP (see Table R-1-5).

1 **4.2.1 Gilliam County**

2 **4.2.1.1 KOP 1-5 Oregon Trail Fourmile Canyon Interpretive Site**

3 KOP 1-5 is located near the intersection of Fairview Road and Fourmile Canyon Road in
4 northeastern Gilliam County, approximately 11 miles southeast of Arlington and 22 miles
5 southwest of Boardman. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) maintains a minor interpretive
6 site at this location with information about the Oregon Trail and the adjacent trail ruts that are
7 visible. The view orientation is southeast and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 4.2 miles
8 east of the KOP. The KOP itself is within a relatively small tract of federal lands managed by the
9 BLM. Adjacent lands are in private ownership and are predominantly rangeland.

10 **Existing View**

11 Views to the southeast from KOP 1-5 comprise undulating middleground terrain converging in
12 the Fourmile Canyon with adjacent cropland and a transmission line, which are moderately
13 contrasting adjacent to the view. KOP 1-5 is located in the Pleistocene Lake Basin Ecoregion
14 which is defined as a nearly level to undulating lake plain with little surface water runoff. Land
15 uses in this ecoregion are mostly irrigated cropland, some rangeland, and irrigated poplar tree
16 farms for pulp (no poplar tree farms are located within the vicinity of KOP 1-5). The landscape
17 character of the area east of KOP 1-5 is predominantly rural and agricultural, with wind
18 structures and ancillary facilities also present. Views of the surrounding landscapes are
19 dominated by cropland, pastures, wind energy developments, and transmission lines that are
20 mostly screened by terrain, resulting in a Class B scenic quality rating.

21 **View with Project**

22 There would be no visibility of the Proposed Corridor from KOP 1-5 due to the distance of
23 approximately 4 miles from the viewpoint beyond a large windfarm that is also screened at this
24 view. As such, the Project would create no visual contrast, the overall resource change would
25 be none, and there would be no adverse visual impacts at KOP 1-5 from the Proposed Corridor.

26 **View with Horn Butte Alternate**

27 As indicated for the Proposed Corridor, the Horn Butte Alternate would not be visible from KOP
28 1-5. This alternative would create no visual contrast or adverse visual impact at KOP 1-5.

29 **4.2.2 Morrow County**

30 **4.2.2.1 KOP 2-1 Blue Mountain Scenic Byway Crossing, Cecil**

31 KOP 2-1 is located on a segment of State Highway 74 that is designated as the Blue Mountain
32 State Scenic Byway. The site is approximately 13 miles southeast of Arlington and 21 miles
33 southwest of Boardman. The view orientation is south and the Proposed Corridor is
34 approximately 0.1 mile to the south of the KOP. KOP 2-1 is surrounded by privately owned
35 lands that are primarily used for agriculture and/or as rangeland.

36 **Existing View**

37 The landscape around KOP 2-1 includes undulating middleground terrain converging in the
38 Willow Creek valley. The view includes scattered rural residential and farm buildings and wind
39 turbines, which are moderately to highly contrasting adjacent to the view. KOP 2-1 is located in
40 the Pleistocene Lake Basin Ecoregion, which is defined as a nearly level to undulating lake plain
41 with little surface water runoff. The landscape character of the area south of KOP 2-1 is
42 predominantly rural and agricultural with developed areas and adjacent wind structures. Views
43 of the surrounding landscapes are dominated by cropland, pastures, wind energy
44 developments, and transmission lines. The overall scenic quality at this location is rated as
45 Class C.

1 **View with Project**

2 Viewers at KOP 2-1 are predominantly travelers on State Highway 74, designated as part of the
3 Blue Mountain State Scenic Byway. As a result of the designation and associated publicity, the
4 visual sensitivity for some of these travelers may be somewhat higher than is typically the case
5 for a rural highway. The Project would have a high level of visibility at this location because it
6 would be seen in an expansive but focal view at a distance of less than 0.1 mile (see Figure R-
7 4-3). The undulating terrain in the middleground and background provides some ability to
8 absorb the visible effect of transmission structures; however, the structures would be on the
9 skyline for a portion of the view and would be highly visible. Contrast levels are anticipated to be
10 a strong with respect to form and line, and weak to moderate for color and texture due to the
11 existing adjacent structures. Based on the Class C existing scenic quality and strong contrast,
12 the level of visual resource change is considered to be moderate. This KOP has a relatively low
13 viewer volume (the annual average daily traffic count is 120 vehicles) and a relatively short
14 viewing duration, with drivers traveling at speeds of approximately 45 miles per hour (mph).
15 With a moderate to high level of visual sensitivity, the overall viewer response is expected to be
16 moderate. Based on the combined visual resource change and viewer response ratings, the
17 incremental visual impact at this KOP is rated as moderate.

18 **View with Horn Butte Alternate**

19 Contrast levels with the Horn Butte Alternate are anticipated to be a mixture of strong (with
20 respect to form and line) and weak to moderate (for color and texture) due to the existing
21 adjacent structures. Based on the Class C existing scenic quality and strong contrast, the level
22 of visual resource change is considered to be moderate. The overall viewer response is
23 expected to be moderate. Based on the combined visual resource change and viewer response,
24 the incremental visual impact at this KOP for this alternative is rated as moderate.

25 4.2.2.2 *KOP 2-2 Blue Mountain Scenic Byway, North of Cecil*

26 KOP 2-2 is located along a portion of State Highway 74 that is designated as the Blue Mountain
27 State Scenic Byway. The KOP is approximately 2 miles north of the small rural community of
28 Cecil and 1 mile north of KOP 2-1, and the primary view direction is to the west. The lands
29 surrounding the KOP are in private ownership and are primarily used for agriculture and/or as
30 rangeland.

31 **Existing View**

32 KOP 2-2 is located in the Umatilla Plateau Ecoregion of the Columbia Plateau. The landscape
33 surrounding this location is fairly typical of the ecoregion, and is characterized by a gently
34 sloping plain with few topographic variations. A low, subtle ridgeline flanks the Willow Creek
35 Valley to the east and west. The vegetation surrounding KOP 2-2 is characterized by patches of
36 naturally appearing short prairie grasses interspersed with numerous low, round shrubs, and
37 patches of low crops many with bold and distinct edges. There are trees visible from KOP 2-2
38 along Willow Creek and adjacent to residential structures. The colors of the landscape mostly
39 consist of muted earth tones, with the exception of the agricultural land which appears as
40 patches of vibrant, dark green in foreground and middleground views to the west. The texture of
41 the natural landscape is predominantly smooth. The landscape mostly contains several naturally
42 appearing elements, but it also contains man-made structures, most notably the straight, wide
43 band of Highway 74, fencing, residential structures, and farm outbuildings. However, these
44 structures exist in harmony with the natural landscape and do not detract significantly from its
45 scenic quality. The most visibly distracting man-made elements are the numerous wind energy
46 structures with oscillating blades which draw the attention of the view. The lack of interesting
47 natural features in the foreground allows the attention of potential viewers to be focused on the

1 man-made elements. Overall, there is little variety and few interesting features in the natural
2 landscape surrounding KOP 2-2, which creates a landscape with low (Class C) scenic quality.

3 **View with Project**

4 KOP 2-2 would provide an expansive view of the Proposed Corridor from a foreground distance
5 of approximately 0.4 mile, with minimal opportunities for screening in this open, panoramic
6 landscape. Contrast levels with the Project are anticipated to be low to moderate overall;
7 contrast would be reduced because the existing views are influenced by the existing
8 modifications, although the extension of some structures above the skyline adds a degree of
9 contrast. Due to Highway 74 being designated as the Blue Mountain State Scenic Byway, it can
10 be assumed that viewer sensitivity would be moderate to high. With an average daily traffic
11 count of 120 vehicles, viewer numbers at this location are moderate. The view duration is short,
12 because viewers are predominantly traveling on the highway past this point. Consequently, the
13 overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the low to moderate visual resource
14 change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impacts at this KOP are rated as
15 no more than moderate.

16 **View with Horn Butte Alternate**

17 Contrast levels with the Horn Butte Alternate are anticipated to be weak to moderate overall.
18 With a Class C scenic quality and weak to moderate contrast, the resource change would be
19 low to moderate. The overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the low to
20 moderate visual resource change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact
21 at this KOP with the Horn Butte Alternate is rated as no more than moderate.

22 **4.2.2.3 KOP 2-10 Boardman Generating Plant**

23 KOP 2-10 is located on Tower Road 0.2 mile west of the Boardman Generating Plant, which is
24 approximately 12 miles southwest of the town of Boardman. This location was selected as a
25 KOP because it addresses conditions near a key Project feature, the Grassland Substation. The
26 lands immediately adjacent to the KOP are in private ownership and are primarily used for
27 irrigated agriculture; the Boardman Generating Plant to the east represents a major utility use.

28 **Existing View**

29 KOP 2-10 is located in the Pleistocene Lake Basin Ecoregion in the Columbia Plateau. The
30 landscape surrounding this location is typical of the ecoregion, and is characterized by an open,
31 flat plain with few topographic variations. A low, subtle ridgeline is visible in background views to
32 the north. The vegetation surrounding KOP 2-10 is characterized by a patchwork of croplands
33 and naturally appearing lands with short prairie grasses interspersed with numerous low, round
34 shrubs. A small patch of medium-height, round shrubs and trees is visible in middleground
35 views to the east. The texture of the natural landscape is predominantly subtle and smooth, with
36 few features contrasting with the open, flat plain. While the landscape has many naturally
37 appearing elements, it is dominated by man-made structures, including several tall transmission
38 structures and the prominent form of the Boardman Generating Plant. These prominent
39 industrial structures focus the attention of potential viewers to the east toward the plant, and
40 detract from the scenic quality of the landscape. Overall, there is little variety and few interesting
41 features in the natural landscape surrounding KOP 2-10. This, combined with the dominant
42 presence of industrial structures, creates a landscape with low scenic quality (Class C).

43 **View with Project**

44 KOP 2-10 primarily represents views of Project features such as the proposed Grassland
45 Substation adjacent to the PGE Boardman Power Plant. While there are no residences in the
46 immediate vicinity of KOP 2-10, the view at this location is similar to what would occur for
47 several on-farm residences located adjacent to the Proposed Corridor a relatively short distance

1 from the KOP. Viewers at KOP 2-10 are assumed to have moderate sensitivity and would have
2 a high level of Project visibility due to a very close viewing distance (approximately 0.2 miles).
3 Contrast levels in this area are anticipated to be moderate, based on the combined effect of the
4 close distance of the view, numerous existing industrial structures evident on the skyline, and
5 low existing visual quality. Viewer numbers at this location are low and the view duration is
6 short. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as low to moderate. Based on the low
7 to moderate visual resource change and low to moderate viewer response, the incremental
8 visual impacts at this KOP are rated as low to moderate.

9 **4.2.2.4 KOP 2-11 State Highway 74 Oregon Trail Crossing, Cecil**

10 KOP 2-11 is located on a segment of State Highway 74 that is designated as the Blue Mountain
11 State Scenic Byway. The site is approximately 0.5 mile north of Cecil, a small cluster of rural
12 development at the junction of Fourmile Road, Immigrant Lane and Highway 74. The view
13 orientation is north and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.3 mile north of the KOP. KOP
14 2-11 is located on lands that are in private ownership and are primarily used for agriculture
15 and/or as rangeland.

16 **Existing View**

17 Views to the southeast from KOP 2-11 comprise undulating middleground terrain converging in
18 the Willow Creek valley. Scattered rural residential and farm buildings and wind turbines are
19 present, and are moderately to highly contrasting adjacent to the view. Like KOP 2-1, KOP 2-11
20 is located in the Pleistocene Lake Basin Ecoregion, which is defined as a nearly level to
21 undulating lake plain with little surface water runoff. The landscape character of the area south
22 of KOP 2-11 is predominately rural and agricultural with developed areas and adjacent wind
23 structures. Views of the surrounding landscapes are dominated by cropland, pastures, wind
24 energy developments, and transmission lines. The overall scenic quality at this KOP is rated as
25 Class C.

26 **View with Project**

27 Viewers at KOP 2-11 are predominantly travelers on Highway 74, a designated state scenic
28 byway. As a result of the designation and associated publicity, the visual sensitivity for some of
29 these travelers may be somewhat higher than is typically the case for a rural highway. The
30 Project would have a high level of visibility at this location because it would be seen in an
31 expansive but focal view at a distance of less than 0.4 mile. The undulating terrain in the
32 middleground and background provides some ability to absorb the visible effect of transmission
33 structures; however, the structures would be seen on the skyline in a portion of the view and
34 would be highly visible. Despite the close viewing distance, contrast levels are anticipated to be
35 moderate (color and texture) due to the influence of the existing adjacent structures. Based on
36 the Class C existing scenic quality, the level of visual resource change is considered to be low
37 to moderate. With a moderate to high level of visual sensitivity, moderate viewer volume
38 (approximately 120 vehicles per day) and a relatively short viewing duration with drivers
39 traveling at speeds of approximately 45 mph, the overall viewer response is expected to be
40 moderate. Based on the combined visual resource change and viewer response, the
41 incremental visual impact at this KOP is rated as moderate.

42 **View with Horn Butte Alternate**

43 Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate (color and texture) due to the influence of the
44 existing adjacent structures. Based on the Class C existing scenic quality and moderate
45 contrast, the level of visual resource change is considered to be low to moderate. The overall
46 viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the combined visual resource change and
47 viewer response, the incremental visual impact at this KOP is rated as moderate.

1 4.2.2.5 KOP 2-15 Boardman Conservation Area, Immigrant Lane

2 KOP 2-15 is located on Immigrant Lane approximately 16 miles southwest of Boardman and 5
3 miles west of the Naval Weapons System Training Facility Boardman (NWSTF Boardman,
4 formerly known as the Boardman Bombing Range). The site is near the southern edge of the
5 Boardman Conservation Area, a tract of approximately 22,000 acres adjacent to NWSTF
6 Boardman that is owned by a private agricultural entity and managed by The Nature
7 Conservancy for restoration of shrub-steppe habitat. The view orientation is west and south and
8 the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.1 mile west of the KOP. KOP 2-15 is located on
9 private lands where the primary land use is agriculture and habitat management.

10 Existing View

11 Views to the south from KOP 2-15 are open and panoramic, with undulating terrain in the
12 midground and distant wind turbines that are mostly screened. KOP 2-15 is located in the
13 Pleistocene Lake Basin Ecoregion, which is defined as a nearly level to undulating lake plain.
14 The landscape character of the area south of KOP 2-15 is predominately rural and agricultural
15 with minimal developed features. The existing scenic quality is rated as Class C, largely as a
16 result of limited visual variety.

17 View with Project

18 KOP 2-15 primarily represents views for visitors interested in the Boardman Conservation Area,
19 which is an Oregon Protected Area. Recreational viewers at KOP 2-15 are assumed to have
20 high sensitivity. The Project would be highly visible due to a very close viewing distance
21 (approximately 0.8 miles). Contrast levels in this area are anticipated to be strong, based on the
22 combined effect of the close distance of the view and skylining structures. Based on Class C
23 scenic quality and strong contrast, the overall resource change is considered moderate. With
24 high viewer sensitivity, low viewer numbers, and moderate view duration, the overall viewer
25 response is rated as moderate. Based on the moderate visual resource change and moderate
26 viewer response, the incremental visual impact at this KOP is rated as moderate.

27 View with Horn Butte Alternate

28 Contrast levels in this area are anticipated to be strong, based on the combined effect of the
29 close distance of the view and structures seen on the skyline structures. Based on Class C
30 scenic quality and strong contrast, the overall resource change is considered moderate. The
31 overall viewer response is also rated as moderate. Based on the moderate visual resource
32 change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact for the Horn Butte
33 Alternate at this KOP is rated as moderate.

34 4.2.2.6 KOP 2-16 Lindsay Prairie Preserve

35 KOP 2-16 is located at the Lindsay Prairie Preserve, a property owned by The Nature
36 Conservancy and maintained for conservation purposes. The property is located in Morrow
37 County along Juniper Lane, approximately 2.5 miles west of Bombing Range Road. The
38 Proposed Corridor is approximately 1.4 miles north of the KOP.

39 Existing View

40 KOP 2-16 is located in the Umatilla Plateau Ecoregion of the Columbia Plateau. The landscape
41 surrounding this location is typical of the ecoregion, and is characterized by a gently sloping
42 plain with few topographic variations. While the concave nature of the plain surrounding KOP 2-
43 16 limits views to the west, south, and east, a low, subtle ridgeline is visible in background views
44 to the north. The vegetation surrounding KOP 2-16 is characterized by patches of naturally
45 appearing short prairie grasses interspersed with numerous low, round shrubs and patches of
46 low crops. There are no trees visible from KOP 2-16. The colors of the landscape mostly consist

1 of muted earth tones, with the exception of some patches of vibrant, dark green crops in
2 middleground views to the west. The texture of the natural landscape is predominantly subtle
3 and smooth, with few features contrasting with the open, gentle plain. The landscape mostly
4 contains naturally appearing elements, but it also contains man-made structures, most notably
5 straight, wide band of Juniper Lane and barbed-wire fences that run parallel with it. The lack of
6 interesting natural features in the foreground allows the attention of potential viewers to be
7 focused on the low, undulating ridgelines visible in background views to the north. Overall, there
8 is little variety and few interesting features in the natural landscape surrounding KOP 2-16,
9 which creates a landscape with low (Class C) scenic quality.

10 **View with Project**

11 KOP 2-16 would provide an expansive view of the Proposed Corridor from a middleground
12 distance of approximately 1.4 miles, with minimal opportunities for screening in this open,
13 panoramic landscape. Contrast levels with the Project are anticipated to be moderate because
14 the existing views are largely intact, with few evident modifications in the view other than the
15 power plant, the distance of the view, and the possibility of structures seen on the skyline.
16 Viewers at this location are presumed to have high sensitivity to visual change. There appears
17 to be very limited human activity in this area, indicating that the number of viewers would be
18 quite small, and the viewing duration would be moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer
19 response is rated as moderate. Based on the low to moderate visual resource change and
20 moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at this KOP is rated as no more than
21 moderate.

22 **View with Horn Butte Alternate**

23 Contrast levels with the Project are anticipated to be moderate. With Class C scenic quality and
24 moderate contrast, the overall resource change is considered low to moderate. The overall
25 viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the low moderate visual resource change and
26 moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at this KOP is rated as no more than
27 moderate.

28 **View with Longhorn Alternate**

29 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates KOP 2-16 is in an area where the Longhorn Alternate
30 would potentially be visible from certain specific locations. While there might be a direct line of
31 sight to multiple structures, at a viewing distance of over 7 miles and with a dark terrain
32 backdrop it is highly unlikely that any Project facilities on the Longhorn alignment would be
33 noticeable from KOP 2-16. As such, the Project would create no visual contrast under the
34 Longhorn Alternate, the overall resource change would be none, and there would be no adverse
35 visual impact at KOP 2-16 from this alternative.

36 **4.2.2.7 KOP 2-17 Boardman Research Natural Area, Bombing Range Road**

37 KOP 2-17 is located along Bombing Range Road, approximately 10 miles south of Interstate 84
38 (I-84) and 8 miles northwest of State Highway 207. The site is adjacent to one of three
39 Research Natural Areas (RNAs) located within the NWSTF Boardman facility; RNA B, as it is
40 identified by the Navy, is an irregular-shaped area of about 350 to 400 acres lying along the
41 eastern NWSTF boundary. Lands under Navy jurisdiction are used for military training or, in the
42 case of the RNA, research and scientific purposes. Lands to the east of Bombing Range Road
43 near the KOP are in private ownership and are used primarily for agriculture. The view
44 orientation is looking south and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 5 miles south of the
45 KOP.

Existing View

KOP 2-17 is located in the Pleistocene Lake Basin Ecoregion in the Columbia Plateau. The landscape surrounding this location is typical of the ecoregion, and is characterized by an open, flat plain with few topographic variations. A low, subtle ridgeline is visible in background views to the south and west. The vegetation surrounding KOP 2-17 is characterized by patches of naturally appearing short prairie grasses interspersed with numerous low, round shrubs. A small patch of medium-height, round shrubs and trees is visible in middleground views to the southeast. The texture of the natural landscape is predominantly subtle and smooth, with few features contrasting with the open, flat plain. While the landscape has many naturally appearing elements, it also contains numerous man-made structures; most notable are the tall, regularly repeating transmission structures that parallel Bombing Range Road. While numerous and several are skylined, these structures detract slightly from the scenic quality of the landscape. The lack of interesting natural features in the foreground allows the attention of potential viewers to be focused on the low, undulating ridgelines visible in background views to the south and west. Overall, there is little variety and few interesting features in the natural landscape surrounding KOP 2-17, which creates a landscape with low (Class C) scenic quality.

View with Project

KOP 2-17 would provide an expansive, open view of the Proposed Corridor from a background distance of approximately 5 miles, with minimal opportunities for screening in this landscape. Contrast levels with the Project are anticipated to be weak because the viewing distance is long and the existing views include some modifications. Recreational viewers at this location are presumed to have high sensitivity to visual change, while travelers on Bombing Range Road would have moderate sensitivity. There appears to be very limited human activity in this area, however, indicating that the number of viewers would be quite small. The view duration would be moderate for recreational viewers and short for travelers. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as low to moderate. Based on the low visual resource change and low to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at this KOP is rated as no more than low to moderate.

View with Horn Butte Alternate

Contrast levels with the Horn Butte Alternate are anticipated to be weak because the viewing distance is long and the existing views include some modifications. With Class C scenic quality and weak contrast, the overall resource change is low. The overall viewer response is rated as low to moderate. Based on the low visual resource change and low to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at this KOP is rated as no more than low to moderate.

View with Longhorn Alternate

Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates KOP 2-17 is in an area where the Longhorn Alternate would potentially be visible. While it is possible that Project structures could be detected at a viewing distance of 5.5 miles, if so they would be seen against a dark terrain backdrop and would not be very noticeable. In addition, any view of Project facilities on the Longhorn alignment would occur within a visual context that includes two existing utility lines, extensive agricultural development, and a wind farm. As such, the Project would create minimal (or no) visual contrast under the Longhorn Alternate. With a Class C landscape, the overall resource change would be low or none. KOP 2-17 primarily represents travelers on Bombing Range Road, which generally serves people living and working on farms in the local area. The viewer sensitivity is considered moderate, the view duration would be brief, and viewer numbers are low, resulting in a low to moderate overall viewer response. Therefore, the incremental visual impact at KOP 2-17 from this alternative would be low at most, and may be nonexistent.

1 4.2.2.8 KOP 2-18 Boardman Conservation Area, Tower Road South

2 KOP 2-18 is located along the Boardman Generating Station access road, approximately 1.3
3 miles southeast of Tower Road and within the Boardman Conservation Area (see previous
4 discussion). The view orientation is looking south and the Proposed Corridor is approximately
5 2.7 miles southwest of the KOP. Lands around the KOP are under private ownership and are
6 used for irrigated agriculture or habitat restoration.

7 Existing View

8 KOP 2-18 is located in the Pleistocene Lake Basin Ecoregion in the Columbia Plateau. The
9 landscape surrounding this location is typical of the ecoregion, and is characterized by an open,
10 flat plain with few topographic variations. A low, subtle ridgeline is visible in background views to
11 the north and west. The vegetation surrounding KOP 2-18 is characterized by patches of
12 naturally appearing short prairie grasses interspersed with numerous low, round shrubs. A small
13 patch of medium-height, round shrubs and trees is visible in middleground views to the south.
14 The texture of the natural landscape is predominantly subtle and smooth, with few features
15 contrasting with the open, flat plain. While the landscape has many naturally appearing
16 elements, it is dominated by man-made structures, most notably the prominent forms that make
17 up the Boardman Generating Plant and ancillary facilities. These prominent industrial structures
18 focus the attention of potential viewers to the south towards the plant, and detract from the
19 scenic quality of the landscape. Overall, there is little variety and few interesting features in the
20 natural landscape surrounding KOP 2-18. This, combined with the dominant presence of
21 industrial structures, creates a landscape with low scenic quality.

22 View with Project

23 KOP 2-18 primarily represents views of Project features such as the proposed Grassland
24 Substation as well as the adjacent Boardman Conservation Area neighboring the Portland
25 General Electric (PGE) Boardman Power Plant. Recreational viewers at KOP 2-18 are assumed
26 to have high sensitivity to visual change. They would have a moderate to high level of visibility
27 of Project structures due to a middleground viewing distance (approximately 1.0 miles). In
28 addition, a proposed multi-use area is located a short distance to the northwest of the KOP and
29 would be visible during the time it was in operation. Contrast levels in this area are anticipated
30 to be weak, based on the combined effect of the middleground viewing distance, numerous
31 existing industrial structures, and low existing visual quality. Viewer numbers are low and the
32 view duration is moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate.
33 Based on the low visual resource change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual
34 impact at this KOP is rated as low to moderate.

35 4.2.2.9 KOP 2-20 Butter Creek Junction

36 KOP 2-20 is located on State Highway 207 just west of the junction with Butter Creek Road,
37 approximately 17 miles southeast of Boardman. The view orientation is looking south and the
38 Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.2 miles south of the KOP. Lands around the KOP are
39 under private ownership and are predominantly used for agriculture.

40 Existing View

41 KOP 2-20 is located in the Umatilla Plateau subregion of the Columbia Plateau Ecoregion. The
42 landscape surrounding this location is typical of the ecoregion, and is characterized by a gently
43 sloping plain with few topographic variations. A low, subtle ridgeline flanks Butter Creek
44 adjacent to the view. The vegetation surrounding KOP 2-20 is characterized by patches of
45 naturally appearing short prairie grasses interspersed with numerous low, round shrubs, and
46 patches of low crops with bold and distinct edges. There are trees visible from KOP 2-20
47 adjacent to residential structures. The colors of the landscape mostly consist of muted earth

1 tones, with the exception of the agricultural land which appears as patches of vibrant, dark
2 green in foreground and middleground views to the southwest. The texture of the natural
3 landscape is predominantly a gentle undulating plain. The landscape mostly contains many
4 naturally appearing elements, but it also contains man-made structures, most notably the wide
5 band of Highway 207, fencing, residential structures, and farm outbuildings. Due to the lack of
6 diversity in interesting natural features in the foreground, there is little variety and few interesting
7 features in the natural landscape surrounding KOP 2-20, which creates a landscape with low
8 scenic quality.

9 **View with Project**

10 KOP 2-20 primarily represents views of residents adjacent to Butter Creek. The view at this
11 location is also similar to what would occur for several on-farm residences located adjacent to
12 the Proposed Corridor a relatively short distance from the KOP. Residential viewers at KOP 2-
13 20 are assumed to have high sensitivity to visual change. They would have a high level of
14 visibility of Project structures due to a very close viewing distance (approximately 0.2 mile). In
15 addition, a potential fly yard location has been identified within approximately 500 feet to the
16 east of the KOP. Contrast levels in this area are anticipated to be moderate to high, based on
17 the combined effect of the close distance of the view, little opportunity for screening, and
18 existing landscape modifications. The Project transmission facilities would be the predominant
19 source of contrast; if the contractor used a fly yard at the Butter Creek Junction, the facility
20 would represent a temporary and intermittent source of contrast that would not be sufficient to
21 change the overall contrast rating. The duration of views for residents is long and viewer
22 numbers would be low. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high.
23 Based on the low to moderate visual resource change and moderate to high viewer response,
24 the incremental visual impact at this KOP is rated as moderate.

25 **View with Horn Butte Alternate**

26 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Horn Butte Alternate is not potentially visible from
27 KOP 2-20. Review of conditions in the field confirms that the rolling terrain in the middleground
28 would block views toward the eastern end of this alternative. Therefore, with the Horn Butte
29 Alternate there would be no change in the viewing conditions at KOP 2-20, and the visual
30 impact of the Project for this KOP would be as described above for the Proposed Corridor.

31 **View with Longhorn Alternate**

32 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Longhorn Alternate is not potentially visible from
33 KOP 2-20. Review of conditions in the field confirms that the rolling terrain in the middleground
34 would block views toward the southern end of this alternative. Therefore, with the Longhorn
35 Alternate there would be no change in the viewing conditions at KOP 2-20, and the visual
36 impact of the Project for this KOP would be as described above for the Proposed Corridor.

37 **4.2.2.10 KOP 2-22 Well Spring Oregon Trail Site**

38 KOP 2-22 is located at a site that was an important water source and campsite for emigrants
39 using the Oregon Trail. The spring itself is now essentially dry, although trail ruts, a graveyard,
40 and the remains of a stage station can be found nearby. Interpretive displays have been
41 installed near the spring and trail location markers are in place along the trail route. The site is
42 along Immigrant Lane and the southern boundary of the NWSTF Boardman, approximately 0.5
43 mile west of Well Spring Road. The primary view orientation is looking south and the Proposed
44 Corridor is 0.9 mile to the south. Lands immediately adjacent to the KOP and to the south are in
45 private ownership and are primarily used for dryland agriculture. Lands to the north are under
46 Navy jurisdiction and are used for military training.

Existing View

KOP 2-22 is located in the Umatilla Plateau Ecoregion of the Columbia Plateau. The landscape surrounding this location is typical of the ecoregion, and is characterized by a gently sloping plain with few topographic variations. To the south a low, subtle ridgeline is visible in background views to the south. The vegetation surrounding KOP 2-22 is characterized by patches of naturally appearing short prairie grasses and amorphous patches of low crops. There are no trees visible from KOP 2-22. The colors of the landscape mostly consist of muted earth tones. The texture of the natural landscape is predominantly subtle and smooth, with few features contrasting with the open, gentle plain. The landscape contains many naturally appearing elements, along with man-made structures including barbed-wire fences and an interpretive kiosk. However, these structures exist in harmony with the natural landscape and do not detract from its scenic quality. The lack of interesting natural features in the foreground allows the attention of potential viewers to be focused on the low, undulating ridgelines visible in background views to the south. Overall, there is little variety and few interesting features in the natural landscape surrounding KOP 2-22, which creates a landscape with low scenic quality.

View with Project

KOP 2-22 would provide an expansive view of the Proposed Corridor from a middleground distance of approximately 0.9 miles, with minimal opportunities for screening in this open, panoramic landscape. Contrast levels with the Project are anticipated to be moderate to high because the existing views are largely intact, with few evident modifications in the view, the distance of the view, and the possibility of structures appearing on the skyline. In addition, a potential fly yard location has been identified on the south side of Immigrant Lane approximately 0.5 mile to the east of the KOP. The Project transmission facilities would be the predominant source of contrast. If the contractor used a fly yard near KOP 2-22, the facility itself would not be visible from the interpretive site, although aerial activity would be seen and heard. The fly yard activity would represent a temporary and intermittent source of contrast that would not be sufficient to change the overall contrast rating based on the visibility of the transmission facilities. With low existing scenic quality and moderate to high contrast, the overall visual resource change would be moderate. Viewers at KOP 2-22 are assumed to have high sensitivity to visual change. There appears to be very limited human activity in this area, indicating that the number of viewers would be quite small, and the view duration would be moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the moderate visual resource change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at this KOP is rated as no more than moderate.

View with Horn Butte Alternate

Contrast levels with the Horn Butte Alternate are anticipated to be moderate to strong; the existing landscape is largely intact and has few evident modifications, the viewing distance (0.9 mile) is relatively close, and it is possible that Project structures would be seen on the skyline. With Class C scenic quality and strong contrast, the overall resource change would be moderate. The overall viewer response is also rated as moderate. Therefore, the incremental visual impact at this KOP is rated as no more than moderate.

4.2.2.11 KOP 4-23 Wilson Lane Southeast

KOP 2-23 is located on Wilson Lane Southeast approximately 0.4 mile south of the I-84 and U.S. Highway 730 interchange, and 3 miles east of Boardman. The view orientation is to the northeast and southeast and the Longhorn Alternate alignment is approximately 1.5 mile east of the KOP. Lands around the KOP are predominantly in private ownership and uses include a mixture of irrigated agriculture and low-density rural residential development.

Existing View

KOP 2-23 is located in the Pleistocene Lake Basin Ecoregion in the Columbia Plateau. The topography in the view to the north and east is characterized by an open, flat plain with few topographic variations. A low, subtle ridgeline is visible in the background. Colors of the landscape mostly consist of muted earth tones, with the exception of some patches of vibrant, dark green crops in the foreground. The surrounding vegetation is characterized by mixed patches of irrigated crops and natural-appearing short shrub and grass cover. Patches of medium-height trees are visible throughout the landscape in the middleground, as are several poplar plantation stands in the southeast view. Lines evident in the landscape include the horizontal lines of the terrain, the hard lines of Wilson Lane, and the many vertical lines of many transmission structures distributed throughout the view. Textures of the natural landscape are predominantly smooth with the contrasting position of the existing transmission towers. Cultural modifications to the natural landscape include the straight, wide band of Wilson Lane Southeast in the foreground; an intersecting local road (Bombing Range Road) to the east and I-84 and the interchange area to the north and northeast; multiple transmission and distribution lines supported on steel lattice transmission towers and single wood-pole structures, and a switching station beyond the interchange; and crop patterns and irrigation facilities. The infrastructure features are quite noticeable in the view and detract from the scenic quality. Overall, there is relatively little variety of landform, vegetation, and color in the natural landscape and the cultural modifications are the predominant features in the viewshed. Therefore, the overall scenic quality of the landscape is considered low (Class C).

View with Longhorn Alternate

The Project would have a moderate level of visibility from this KOP, at a distance of approximately 1.5 miles. Equipment at the proposed Longhorn Substation and structures at the northern end of the alignment would be partially visible above the graded terrain around the freeway and interchange to the northeast. Construction equipment and activity at a multi-use area located southeast of the substation would likely be obscured from view by the railroad embankment, and it would be a minimal source of additional contrast if it were visible. A stand of planted trees in the foreground would screen views of several structures, and more of the route would be visible again in views to the east and southeast. The degree of contrast is rated as weak, based on the viewing distance, the partial screening, and the contrast created by the existing utility infrastructure and other cultural modifications. With a Class C landscape and weak contrast, the overall resource change would be low. Viewers at this KOP represent residents along Wilson Lane Southeast and local travelers. The residents are presumed to have a high sensitivity to visual change, while the travelers are presumed to have a moderate sensitivity. The view duration is long for residents but short for travelers, and viewer numbers are low for both groups in this location. The overall viewer response for all viewers is rated as low to moderate. Combined with a resource change rated as low, the incremental visual impact on KOP 2-23 with the Longhorn Alternate is rated as no more than low to moderate.

4.2.3 Umatilla County

4.2.3.1 KOP 3-5 Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor, Poverty Flat Road

KOP 3-5 is located along Old Emigrant Hill Road, which runs parallel to I-84, approximately 13 miles east of Pendleton and 2 miles west of the Deadman Pass Rest Area on I-84. The view orientation is looking south and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 7 miles south of the KOP. The site is within the Umatilla Indian reservation and lands in the vicinity of the KOP are generally under and used as rangeland.

Existing View

1 KOP 3-5 is located in the Maritime Influenced Zone portion of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion.
2 The landscape surrounding this location is fairly common to the ecoregion, and is characterized
3 by a dissected, hilly plateau with numerous moderately steep, v-shaped mountain stream
4 valleys cut into it. KOP 3-5 is located near the top of the plateau, and several of these stream
5 valleys are visible in middleground and background views to the south. The vegetation
6 surrounding KOP 3-5 is characterized by a two dominant types: short, stubby grasses, and tall,
7 conical conifer trees. In some places, these conifer trees grow in dense, thick patches, while in
8 other places, they grown in less-dense, dotted groups. The colors of the landscape consist of a
9 mix of vibrant hues of green, with small patches of muted earth tones of dull, grayish green and
10 light tan coming through in places. The texture of the natural landscape is predominantly
11 discontinuous, as smooth, short grasses are interrupted by patches of tall, rough conifers. Man-
12 made structures surrounding KOP 3-5 primarily consist of prominent, thin, parallel bands of
13 interstate highway that bisect all views to the south. This highway and its associated features
14 tend to compete for visual dominance with the panoramic view of the dissected plateau and the
15 distant undulating ridgeline visible in background views to the south. The wide band of the
16 interstate, together with the motion and noise of the numerous vehicles travelling on it, contrast
17 with the open, panoramic landscape and detract from the scenic quality of the landscape.
18 Overall, the open, expansive vista visible to the south of KOP 3-5 creates a landscape with
19 interesting and memorable characteristics, but the large man-made highway detracts from its
20 scenic quality. The scenic quality at this site is rated as moderate (Class B).
21

View with Project

22 Viewers at KOP 3-5 are primarily recreational users and sightseers traveling on Poverty Flat
23 Road, within the Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor. They are presumed to have a high
24 level of sensitivity to visual change. These viewers would have a low level of Project visibility;
25 while the KOP provides open, superior views to the south, numerous mountain ridges would
26 block some views toward the Proposed Corridor in the background (7 miles) while other areas
27 the Project might be slightly visible behind low-lying terrain. With contrast created by existing
28 landscape modifications from visible linear elements such as I-84 and small power poles,
29 Project contrast levels are rated as weak. The overall resource change is considered low to
30 moderate, based on Class B existing scenic quality and weak contrast. The level of visual
31 sensitivity at this KOP is high, the viewing duration would be relatively brief, and viewer
32 numbers are moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based
33 on the low to moderate visual resource change and moderate viewer response, the incremental
34 visual impact at this KOP is rated as no more than moderate.
35

4.2.3.2 KOP 3-7 Cabbage Hill Viewpoint, Eastbound

36 Cabbage Hill is a locally prominent hill approximately 9 miles southeast of Pendleton and 2
37 miles south of I-84. KOP 3-7 is located on the access from eastbound I-84 to the Cabbage Hill
38 Viewpoint. The view orientation is looking southwest and the Proposed Corridor is
39 approximately 6.5 miles south of the KOP. The site is within the Umatilla Indian reservation and
40 lands in the vicinity of the KOP are generally under and used as rangeland.
41

Existing View

42 KOP 3-7 is located in the Umatilla Dissected Uplands Ecoregion of the Columbia Plateau, but in
43 background views to the south the Umatilla Plateau Ecoregion is visible. The landscape
44 surrounding this location is fairly common to the ecoregion, and is characterized by dissected,
45 hilly uplands with a terrace-like appearance. Low, rolling hills with moderately steep slopes
46 descend towards the flat, smooth plain of the Umatilla Plateau below. The vegetation
47 surrounding KOP 3-7 is characterized by a mix of two dominant types: a naturally appearing
48

1 coverage of short, stubby grasses mixed with several random, short, round clumps of low
2 shrubs, and large patches of short cropland. This extensive grid of regular, rectangular farm
3 plots can be seen in the valley in middleground and background views to the south. The colors
4 of the landscape consist of a mix of vibrant hues of green, with small patches of muted earth
5 tones of reddish brown and grayish green coming through in places. The dark green and light
6 tan colors of the farm plots are also visible. The reflective light blue and gray surface of McKay
7 Reservoir can also be seen as a long, thin shape in the valley below. The texture of the natural
8 landscape is predominantly smooth, as there are few tall trees interrupting the coverage of short
9 grasses and shrubs on the slopes of the valley. Man-made structures surrounding KOP 3-7
10 consists of a small, dense cluster of farm buildings located near the bottom of one of the v-
11 shaped valleys. These buildings are relatively small in comparison with the open, panoramic
12 landscape and are consistent with the rural character of the landscape, and do not detract from
13 its scenic quality. Overall, the open, expansive vista visible to the southwest of KOP 3-7 creates
14 a landscape with interesting and memorable characteristics, but this landscape is relatively
15 common in the ecoregion and does not contain any outstanding landforms or vegetation
16 patterns. Therefore, the scenic quality of the area is considered moderate.

17 **View with Project**

18 Viewers at KOP 3-7 are primarily I-84 travelers who stop to engage in sightseeing at the
19 Cabbage Hill viewpoint, and are presumed to have a moderate level of sensitivity to visual
20 change. These viewers would have no or very limited Project visibility due to the numerous
21 mountain ridges that would at least partially block views of the Proposed Corridor in the
22 background (>6.5 miles) view to the south. If any facilities on the Proposed Corridor would be
23 visible, they would be seen against a dark terrain backdrop and would likely not be
24 distinguishable by the casual viewer at this distance. Therefore, the contrast level created by the
25 Project is rated as none. The overall resource change is considered none. The level of visual
26 sensitivity at this KOP is moderate, the viewing duration would be short to moderate, and viewer
27 numbers stopping at the Cabbage Hill viewpoint are low. Consequently, the overall viewer
28 response is rated as low to moderate and the incremental visual impact at KOP 3-7 is none.

29 **4.2.3.3 KOP 3-12 Pilot Rock Community**

30 KOP 3-12 is located on a residential street (NE Hickory Street) along the edge of the
31 incorporated community of Pilot Rock. The view orientation is looking north and the Proposed
32 Corridor is approximately 2.5 miles north of the KOP. Lands within and near Pilot Rock are in
33 private ownership. Residential and other urbanized uses occur in the community, and the
34 surrounding area is predominantly in agricultural use.

35 **Existing View**

36 The view to the north from KOP 3-12 is dominated by the nearly level to rolling, treeless
37 Umatilla Plateau Ecoregion, which is underlain by basalt and veneered with loess deposits.
38 Areas with thick loess deposits are farmed for dry land winter wheat, or irrigated alfalfa and
39 barley. Structures within the community dominate the foreground view. The gently rolling terrain
40 of the Birch Creek valley lies beyond, while the terrain in the background (toward Pendleton) is
41 largely horizontal. Visible man-made structures and modifications to the landscape such as
42 pathways, roads, and fences appear more dominant than the landscape character from this
43 view. The overall scenic quality at this location is rated as Class C.

44 **View with Project**

45 Viewers at KOP 3-12 represent residential viewers in the community of Pilot Rock and are
46 presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. These viewers would have a
47 moderate level of Project visibility, with a middleground viewing distance of approximately 2.3
48 miles and a slightly superior viewing position. Intervening residential structures would at least

1 partially block views toward the Proposed Corridor, from locations that are on the north edge of
2 the developed area. Rolling terrain might also block views of the line except where it crosses the
3 creek valley. Other elements visible from this location include the agricultural vegetation in the
4 middleground valley views. While some Project structures might be seen on the skyline,
5 contrast levels are rated as moderate because of the viewing distance and visible presence of
6 man-made elements in the view. The overall resource change is considered low to moderate,
7 based on Class C existing scenic quality and moderate contrast. The level of visual sensitivity at
8 this KOP is high, the viewing duration would be long, and viewer numbers are moderate.
9 Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high. Based on the low to
10 moderate visual resource change and moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual
11 impact at KOP 3-12 is rated moderate.

12 *4.2.3.4 KOP 3-13 Deadman Pass Rest Area*

13 KOP 3-13 is located at the Deadman Pass Rest Area along I-84 approximately 12 miles
14 southeast of Pendleton. The view orientation is looking south and the Proposed Corridor is
15 approximately 7.6 miles south of the KOP. The site is within the Umatilla Indian reservation; the
16 rest area and freeway are under the jurisdiction of the Oregon Department of Transportation
17 (ODOT) and are used for transportation infrastructure, while adjacent areas are forest and
18 rangeland.

19 **Existing View**

20 KOP 3-13 is located in the Maritime Influenced Zone of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
21 landscape surrounding this location is fairly common to the ecoregion, and is characterized by a
22 dissected, hilly plateau with numerous moderately steep, V-shaped mountain stream valleys cut
23 into it. KOP 3-13 is located near the top of the plateau, and views of these stream valleys are
24 partially screened by the terrain. The vegetation present is characterized by two dominant types:
25 short, stubby grasses and tall, conical conifer trees. The colors of the landscape consist of a mix
26 of dark green in the forested areas and vibrant hues of lighter green where there is grass cover,
27 with small patches of muted earth tones of dull, grayish green and light tan coming through in
28 places. The texture of the natural landscape is predominantly discontinuous, as smooth, short
29 grasses are interrupted by patches of tall, rough conifers. Man-made structures surrounding
30 KOP 3-13 consist of prominent, thin parallel bands of I-84 that bisect the view to the south. This
31 road and its associated features tend to be prominent with the panoramic view of the dissected
32 plateau and the distant undulating ridgeline visible in background views to the south. The band
33 of the road, together with fencing along the boundary of the rest area, contrasts with the open,
34 panoramic landscape. A transmission line supported on wood poles is visible along the south
35 side of the freeway. Overall, the open, expansive vista visible to the south of KOP 3-13 creates
36 a landscape with some interesting and memorable characteristics. Therefore, the scenic quality
37 of the area is considered moderate.

38 **View with Project**

39 There would be no visibility of the Proposed Corridor from KOP 3-13 due to the mountain ridges
40 to the south, which would block views of the Proposed Corridor in the background (7.3 miles).
41 As such, the Project would create no visual contrast, the overall resource change would be
42 none, and there would be no adverse visual impacts at KOP 3-13 from the Proposed Corridor.

43 *4.2.3.5 KOP 3-14 Emigrant Springs State Heritage Area*

44 KOP 3-14 is located at the Emigrant Springs State Heritage Area, a unit of the Oregon state
45 parks system administered by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). The park
46 is bisected by I-84 and the Old Emigrant Hill Scenic Frontage Road and is accessed via Exits
47 234 and 235 from I-84. The view orientation is looking southwest and the Proposed Corridor is

1 approximately 3.5 miles south and west of the KOP. The site is within the Umatilla Indian
2 Reservation and lands adjacent to the park and freeway are generally forested.

3 **Existing View**

4 KOP 3-14 is located in the Maritime Influenced Zone of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
5 landscape surrounding this location is fairly common to the ecoregion, and is characterized by a
6 dissected, hilly plateau with numerous moderately steep, V-shaped mountain stream valleys cut
7 into it. KOP 3-14 is located at the top of the plateau so the landscape appears relatively flat in
8 most views. The vegetation surrounding this site is characterized by a mix of species, including
9 short, stubby shrubs and patches of tall, conical conifer trees. In most places, these conifer
10 trees grow in dense, thick patches and groups that screen outward views from the KOP. Man-
11 made structures surrounding KOP 3-14 consist of the horizontal band of the parking lot. The
12 parking lot appears subdued in visual dominance with the focal and partially screened view.
13 Overall, the visible landscape has few interesting and memorable characteristics and is
14 common for the surrounding ecoregion. The overall scenic quality of the area is considered low.

15 **View with Project**

16 Viewers at KOP 3-14 represent recreational viewers at the Emigrant Springs State Heritage
17 Area, and are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. Bare-earth
18 viewshed analysis indicates the Project may potentially be visible from this location. Based on
19 the dense vegetation surrounding the site, however, views toward the Proposed Corridor in the
20 middleground (4.1 miles) would be at least partially screened and likely would be fully screened.
21 As a result, the Project would not create visual contrast at this KOP. The overall resource
22 change is considered low, at most, based on Class C existing scenic quality and low or no
23 contrast. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high, the viewing duration would be
24 moderate, and viewer numbers are high. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as
25 moderate to high. Based on the low (or no) visual resource change and moderate to high viewer
26 response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 3-14 is rated as no more than low to moderate.

27 **4.2.3.6 KOP 3-20 McKay Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Boat Launch**

28 KOP 3-20 is located at a recreational facility on McKay Creek reservoir in the McKay Creek
29 National Wildlife Refuge. The site is in central Umatilla County, approximately 6 miles south of
30 Pendleton and 6 miles north of Pilot Rock. The view orientation is looking south and the
31 Proposed Corridor is approximately 3.5 miles south of the KOP. Lands surrounding the KOP are
32 in federal ownership and are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to provide
33 wildlife habitat and compatible recreational uses.

34 **Existing View**

35 The view to the south from KOP 3-20 is dominated by the nearly level to rolling, treeless terrain
36 of the Umatilla Plateau Ecoregion, which is underlain by basalt and veneered with loess
37 deposits. Many of the areas with thick loess deposits are farmed for dry land winter wheat, or
38 irrigated alfalfa and barley. The rolling to rugged terrain becomes a major focal point in the
39 background of the view due to the horizontal nature of the foreground terrain and water feature.
40 While some man-made modifications to the landscape are visible, such as residences and farm
41 structures in the distance, these do not appear dominant and the landscape is mostly naturally
42 appearing in character. The overall scenic quality for this KOP is rated as Class B.

43 **View with Project**

44 Viewers at KOP 3-20 represent recreational viewers at the McKay Creek Reservoir, and are
45 presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. These viewers would have a low
46 level of Project visibility due to a middleground distance of 3.6 miles (see Figure R-4-5). Other
47 elements visible from this location include the reservoir, some agricultural vegetation, and

1 background mountainous terrain. Due to the viewing distance, contrast levels would be low to
2 none. The overall resource change is considered at most low to moderate, based on Class B
3 existing scenic quality and low or no contrast. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high,
4 the viewing duration would be moderate, and viewer numbers are high based on the estimated
5 50,000 annual visitors (FWS 2012). Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as
6 moderate to high. Based on the low to moderate (at most) visual resource change and
7 moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 3-20 is rated as no
8 more than moderate.

9 *4.2.3.7 KOP 3-21 McKay Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Spring Creek Road*

10 KOP 3-21 is located on Spring Creek Road near the south end of the McKay Creek National
11 Wildlife Refuge –The view orientation is looking southwest and the Proposed Corridor is
12 approximately 2.4 miles southwest of the KOP. Lands near the KOP include refuge lands
13 managed by the FWS and private lands used for agricultural and residential purposes.

14 **Existing View**

15 The view to the southwest from KOP 3-21 is dominated by the nearly level to rolling, treeless
16 Umatilla Plateau Ecoregion, which is underlain by basalt and veneered with loess deposits.
17 Many of the areas with thick loess deposits are farmed for dry land winter wheat, or irrigated
18 alfalfa and barley. The rolling to rugged terrain becomes a major focal point in the background
19 of the view due to the horizontal nature of the foreground terrain. While there are some man-
20 made modifications to the landscape visible, such as residences in the distance, these are not
21 dominant and the landscape is largely naturally appearing in character. The existing scenic
22 quality is rated as Class C.

23 **View with Project**

24 KOP 3-21 represents residents along Spring Creek Road adjacent to McKay Creek, who are
25 presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. These viewers would have a low
26 level of Project visibility due to back-dropped views and the distance of the Proposed Corridor
27 visible from the KOP in the middleground (4.6 miles). Landscape modifications visible from this
28 location include the paved road, farm buildings, some agricultural vegetation, fencing, and an
29 electric distribution line. Due to distance and partial screening, contrast levels would be weak to
30 moderate. The overall resource change is considered low, based on Class C existing scenic
31 quality and low to moderate contrast levels. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high for
32 residential viewers, the viewing duration would be long, and viewer numbers are low.
33 Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high. Based on the low
34 visual resource change and moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact at
35 KOP 3-21 is rated as no more than moderate.

36 *4.2.3.8 KOP 3-24 Meacham Divide Nordic Skiing Area*

37 KOP 3-24 is located at the Meacham Divide Nordic Ski Area parking lot, which is accessed via
38 USFS Road (Forest Road) 3102 and Summit Road (Forest Road 31) from Exit 243 on I-84. The
39 site is near the eastern edge of Umatilla County, approximately 25 miles southeast of Pendleton
40 and 15 miles northwest of La Grande. The view orientation is looking southwest and the
41 Proposed Corridor is approximately 2.5 miles southwest of the KOP. Lands nearby are located
42 in the Umatilla NF and are managed for multiple uses, including recreation.

43 **Existing View**

44 KOP 3-24 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills Ecoregion. The topography seen in the
45 view to the southwest in the Blue Mountains consists of a flat foreground with further views
46 blocked by tall vegetation. Dominant lines in the landscape are vertical from the heavy
47 vegetation (trees) that dominate the viewshed. The soft lines of vegetation and road edges are

1 apparent in the foreground, but do not dominate the view. Colors include dark greens and olives
2 from the tall trees, beiges and tans from the surrounding grasses, and light grays from the road
3 surface. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) signage on the information kiosk
4 adds small bits of brown, blue, green, white, and yellow. However, overall color contrast is
5 limited between the dark green from the trees and beige/tans from the grasses. Dominant
6 textures are coarse and sharp from the tall conifer trees, fine from the grasses and smooth the
7 medium from the gravel-surface road and USFS structures. Visual disruptions to the landscape
8 are few and include the road, the information kiosk, and a couple of low to medium height road
9 signs. The overall scenic quality is considered typical (Class B), due to limited vegetation
10 complexity and landform variety, and the lack of a visible adjacent viewshed.

11 **View with Project**

12 Viewers at KOP 3-24 represent recreational visitors to the Meacham Divide Nordic Skiing Area,
13 and are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. These viewers would not
14 have views of the Project because the foreground vegetation would fully screen views to the
15 Proposed Corridor, located at a middleground distance of 2.4 miles. As a result, the Project
16 would create no contrast, no overall resource change, and no visual impact at this KOP.

17 **4.2.3.9 KOP 3-31 Summit Guard Station**

18 KOP 3-31 is located at the Summit Guard Station, a Umatilla NF site approximately 12 miles
19 northwest of La Grande. The site is accessed via Forest Road 3113 and is above the breaks of
20 Meacham Canyon. The facility was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1938 and
21 was originally developed as a ranger station; the Bunkhouse Cabin is now rented for overnight
22 recreational use. The view orientation is looking southwest and the Proposed Corridor is
23 approximately 8.5 miles southwest of the KOP. The USFS manages the surrounding lands are
24 for recreation and other uses.

25 **Existing View**

26 The existing topographical form seen in the view to the west from KOP 3-31 (located in the
27 Continental Zone Foothills Ecoregion) consists of the flat, slightly concave surface floor in the
28 foreground, with a transition to rolling terrain in the middleground and background terrain
29 creating a butt edge between low-lying horizontal ridge lines. Dominant lines in the landscape
30 are undulating horizontal ridge lines that create subtle edges between the rolling land forms.
31 Dominant vegetation includes sparse conifer trees in the frontal foreground view with a patch of
32 denser conifer trees in the side view. Vegetation becomes denser in the middleground and is
33 very thick in the background. The canopies of the trees in the foreground penetrate the skyline
34 and those in the middleground ridge create smoothness to the ridge and skyline. The dominant
35 textures from the landform are soft and curving from the undulating ridgelines; vegetation
36 texture includes fine grasses and coarse trees in foreground and fine to medium trees in the
37 middleground and background views. There are no cultural modifications or similar visual
38 disruptions to the landscape from this viewpoint. The overall scenic quality is considered typical
39 (Class B) for this area, largely as a result of the dense vegetation cover that limits visual variety.

40 **View with Project**

41 Viewers at KOP 3-31 are primarily recreational viewers at the Summit Guard Station Bunkhouse
42 Cabin that stop for the sweeping view of the valley below, and are presumed to have a high
43 level of sensitivity to visual change. The cabin, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, is
44 located on the breaks of Meacham Canyon in the Umatilla NF with views of the Blue Mountains.
45 These viewers would have a low level of Project visibility due to the distance of the Proposed
46 Corridor in the background at 8.3 miles. There are no visible man-made elements adjacent to
47 this location other than the bunkhouse and associated structures, which complement the
48 surrounding landscape views. Due to the viewing distance to the Project, contrast levels would

1 be weak or none. This view is within a Class B landscape and the overall resource change is
2 considered low, based on a contrast level of low to none. The level of visual sensitivity at this
3 KOP is high, the viewing duration would be moderate, and viewer numbers are low.
4 Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the low or no visual
5 resource change, and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 3-31 is
6 rated as no more than low to moderate.

7 *4.2.3.10 KOP 3-34 U.S. Highway 395 Crossing*

8 KOP 3-34 is located at the Proposed Corridor crossing of U.S. Highway 395, just west of the
9 intersection with Rockwell Road. The site is approximately 3 miles north of Pilot Rock and 10
10 miles south of Pendleton. The view orientation is looking south and the Proposed Corridor is
11 located directly above the KOP. Lands around the KOP are in private ownership and are
12 predominantly used for agriculture.

13 **Existing View**

14 The view to the south from KOP 3-34 is dominated by the nearly level to rolling, treeless
15 Umatilla Plateau Ecoregion, which is underlain by basalt and veneered with loess deposits.
16 Areas with thick loess deposits are farmed for dry land winter wheat, or irrigated alfalfa and
17 barley. The gently rolling terrain dominates the foreground views with distant mountainous
18 terrain associated with the Umatilla Dissected Uplands ecoregion. Several man-made
19 modifications to the landscape are visible, including the highway, a side road that intersects the
20 highway and runs parallel to it, residences and farm buildings, irrigation equipment, and utility
21 poles. These features do not appear dominant, however, and the landscape is largely natural
22 appearing in character. The existing scenic quality is rated as Class C.

23 **View with Project**

24 KOP 3-34 represents travelers on Highway 395, who are presumed to have a medium level of
25 sensitivity to visual change. These viewers would have a high level of Project visibility with a
26 view of the Proposed Corridor in the immediate foreground (0.1 mile). Due to the close viewing
27 distance the contrast levels is rated as high. With a Class C landscape and high contrast, the
28 overall resource change is considered moderate. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is
29 moderate, the viewing duration would be short, and viewer numbers are moderate.
30 Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as low to moderate. Based on the moderate
31 visual resource change and low to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at
32 KOP 3-34 is rated as no more than moderate.

33 *4.2.3.11 KOP 3-42 Blue Mountain Crossing*

34 KOP 3-42 is located at Exit 243 on I-84, just north of the Umatilla/Union County line, where
35 Summit Road (Forest Road 31) crosses the freeway. The site is approximately 25 miles
36 southeast of Pendleton and 15 miles northwest of La Grande. The Proposed Corridor is located
37 approximately 0.8 mile west and southwest of the KOP. Aside from the freeway and interchange
38 area, lands nearby are located in the Umatilla NF and are managed for multiple uses, including
39 recreation.

40 **Existing View**

41 KOP 3-42 is located in the Maritime Influenced Zone of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
42 landscape surrounding this location is fairly common to the ecoregion, and is characterized by a
43 dissected, hilly plateau with numerous moderately steep, v-shaped mountain stream valleys cut
44 into it. The vegetation surrounding KOP 3-42 is characterized by patches of low grasses and
45 tall, conical conifer trees. In some places, these conifer trees grow in dense, thick patches, while
46 in other places, they grown in less-dense, dotted groups especially where trees have been cut
47 and second growth is reestablishing. The colors of the landscape consist of a mix of vibrant

1 hues of green, with small patches of muted earth tones of light gray and grayish green coming
2 through in places. The texture of the natural landscape is predominantly discontinuous, as
3 smooth, short grasses are interrupted by bands of short, round shrubs and tall, rough conifers.
4 Man-made structures surrounding KOP 3-42 consist of a prominent, thin band of interstate
5 highway that bisects all views to the south. This highway and its associated features tend to
6 compete for visual dominance with the panoramic view of the dissected plateau and the distant
7 undulating ridgeline visible in background views to the south. The wide band of the interstate,
8 together with the motion and noise of the numerous vehicles travelling on it, contrasts with the
9 open, panoramic landscape and detracts from the scenic quality of the landscape. Overall, the
10 open, expansive vista visible to the south of KOP 3-42 creates a landscape with few interesting
11 and memorable characteristics, with the large man-made highway detracting from its scenic
12 quality. Therefore, the scenic quality of the area is considered medium (Class B).

13 **View with Project**

14 Viewers at KOP 3-42 are primarily travelers on I-84, and are presumed to have a moderate level
15 of sensitivity to visual change. These viewers would likely have no Project visibility due to the
16 presence of the forest vegetation and topography that screens views from the KOP. Contrast
17 levels are therefore rated as none. The overall resource change is considered none, based on
18 Class C existing scenic quality and no contrast. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is
19 moderate, the viewing duration would be relatively brief, and viewer numbers are high.
20 Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the lack of visual
21 resource change, the Project would have no incremental visual impacts at this KOP.

22 **4.2.4 Union County**

23 **4.2.4.1 KOP 4-3 Bird Track Springs USFS Campground**

24 KOP 4-3 is located at the Bird Track Springs Campground, which is along State Highway 244,
25 approximately 4.5 miles southwest of I-84 at Hilgard Junction (Exit 252). The USFS operates
26 the campground, which has 22 campsites, vault toilets and an adjacent interpretive trail. The
27 view orientation is northeast and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 4.3 miles east of the
28 KOP. Lands around the KOP are primarily Wallowa-Whitman NF lands managed for multiple
29 purposes, although some privately owned lands are located in the vicinity.

30 **Existing View**

31 KOP 4-3 is located in the Maritime-Influenced Zone of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
32 landscape surrounding KOP 4-3 is common for the ecoregion and is characterized by a mostly
33 wide, flat alluvial plain bordered by low, moderately steep ridges. The winding, shallow outline of
34 the Grande Ronde River is located less than a quarter-mile north of KOP 4-3, and is the primary
35 erosional force that shaped the flat, alluvial plain in foreground views to the east and west.
36 Almost all middleground and background views of the landscape are obscured by the dense
37 vegetation that surrounds this location on all sides. Tall, coniferous, and deciduous trees form a
38 winding band across the plain. This band is bordered by dense stands of moderately tall, round
39 shrubs and thin, shorter trees. Wide bands of short prairie grasses interspersed with random,
40 short shrubs are also visible along the borders of these bands of taller vegetation. The colors of
41 this vegetation predominantly consist of large patches of varying shades of green and tan,
42 including dark green (conifers), and light green and tan (short grasses). Other patches of brown
43 and tan, including pale, light brown and dark brown are also visible. The texture of the
44 vegetation can be characterized as mostly discontinuous, as smooth grasses exist alongside
45 coarse, contrasting patches of taller conifers, with scattered, random shrubs appearing in the
46 patches of smooth grasses. Man-made structures visible from KOP 4-3 consist of the wide, flat
47 band of a rural highway, and the wide, flat trailhead parking area alongside it. The short,
48 rectangular form of a trailhead sign is also visible in foreground views to the north. While these

1 structures are visible, they exist in relative harmony with the otherwise naturally appearing
2 landscape, and do not significantly detract from the scenic quality. In summary, the flat alluvial
3 plain and surrounding hills and ridges that characterize the landforms surrounding KOP 4-3 are
4 almost completely obscured by the wide variety of vegetation existing in the floodplain of the
5 Grande Ronde River. The variety of species and the interesting texture and patterns created by
6 this vegetation are outstanding for this ecoregion, and make it by far the most dominant scenic
7 element in the landscape. As a consequence, most views of the interesting and memorable
8 landforms of the Blue Mountains are obscured, which decreases the scenic quality of the
9 landscape. Because of this, the scenic quality of the landscape is considered moderate (Class
10 B).

11 **View with Project**

12 There would be no visibility of the Proposed Corridor from KOP 4-3 due to a distance of
13 approximately 3.5 miles and existing vegetation screening the Proposed Corridor. As such, the
14 Project would create no visual contrast, the overall resource change would be none, and there
15 would be no adverse visual impacts at KOP 4-3 from the Proposed Corridor.

16 **View with Glass Hill Alternate**

17 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Glass Hill Alternate would potentially be visible from
18 KOP 4-3. Field review of site-specific conditions determined that the Project would not be
19 visible, however, because heavily forested ridges east of the KOP would block views toward the
20 route located approximately 4.3 miles to the east. As such, the Project would create no visual
21 contrast under the Glass Hill Alternate, the overall resource change would be none, and there
22 would be no adverse visual impact at KOP 4-3 from this alternative.

23 **4.2.4.2 KOP 4-4 Blue Mountain Crossing Sno-Park**

24 KOP 4-4 is located on Old Emigrant Hill Scenic Frontage Road at the entrance to the Blue
25 Mountain Crossing Sno-Park, approximately 11 miles northwest of La Grande. The site consists
26 of a gravel parking area with vault toilets that is used primarily as an access point for non-
27 motorized winter recreation. The view orientation is looking west and south and the Proposed
28 Corridor is approximately 0.3 mile from the KOP. Lands around the KOP are primarily Wallowa-
29 Whitman NF lands managed for multiple purposes, although a portion of the Blue Mountain
30 Forest State Scenic Corridor (see discussion for KOP 4-5) is located nearby.

31 **Existing View**

32 KOP 4-4 is located in the Maritime-Influenced Zone of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
33 existing topographic form seen from the KOP is predominantly rolling, with some steep slopes
34 adjacent to creeks that dissect the surrounding terrain. This portion of the Blue Mountains
35 ecoregion directly intercepts marine weather systems moving east through the Columbia River
36 Gorge, and has ashy soils that retain sufficient moisture to support forest cover at lower
37 elevations than other locations in the Blue Mountains. The hard lines of the Old Emigrant Hill
38 Scenic Frontage Road compete for dominance within the viewshed. Color complexity comprises
39 light and dark browns, dark greens and olives, and dark and light grays from the road. Textures
40 are smooth from the road surface to fine and medium from the grasses and coarse and rough
41 from the conifer vegetation. Visual disruptions to the landscape include the roadway, which is
42 within a designated scenic corridor. The landscape surrounding the roadway has a natural
43 appearance. The overall scenic quality is considered moderate (Class B), due to the moderate
44 complexity of vegetation, adjacent viewshed, landform variety, and presence of man-made
45 features within the viewshed.

View with Project

Viewers at KOP 4-4 are primarily winter recreation users at the Blue Mountain Crossing Sno-Park off of Old Emigrant Hill Scenic Frontage Road and are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. These viewers would likely have limited or no Project visibility; although the Proposed Corridor is located within foreground viewing distance (0.3 mile), the dominant forest vegetation would mostly screen views of the transmission facilities. A proposed fly yard located approximately 1 mile southeast of KOP 4-4 would be blocked from view by terrain and vegetation and would not contribute to Project visual impacts in this area. Contrast levels are rated as low; with a Class B landscape, the overall resource change is considered low to moderate. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high, the viewing duration would be moderate and long at the Sno-Park, and viewer numbers are considered low. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate and the incremental visual impact at KOP 4-4 is rated as no more than low to moderate.

4.2.4.3 KOP 4-5 Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor, Old Emigrant Hill Scenic Frontage Road

KOP 4-5 is located within a segment of the Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor, a State of Oregon designation that spans portions of the Old Emigrant Hill Scenic Frontage Road in the Blue Mountains. The site is approximately 11 miles northwest of La Grande and just west of I-84. The view orientation is looking east and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.1 mile east of the KOP. The KOP is within the State Scenic Corridor designation, while adjacent lands are managed by the USFS.

Existing View

KOP 4-5 is located in the Maritime-Influenced Zone of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The existing topographical form seen from KOP 4-5 is primarily rolling, with some steep slopes adjacent to creeks that dissect the surrounding terrain. The hard lines of the Old Emigrant Hill Scenic Frontage Road compete for dominance within the viewshed, although the road remains subordinate as a result of its horizontal nature. Color complexity comprises light and dark browns, dark greens and olives, and dark and light grays from the road. Textures are smooth from the road surface to fine and medium from the grasses and coarse and rough from the conifer vegetation. Visual disruptions to the landscape include the roadway, which is within a designated scenic corridor, and adjacent signage. The landscape surrounding the roadway has a largely natural appearance. The overall scenic quality is considered moderate (Class B), due to the moderate complexity of vegetation, adjacent viewshed, landform variety, and man-made features visible within the viewshed.

View with Project

KOP 4-5 represents travelers on the Old Emigrant Hill Scenic Frontage Road, who and are presumed to have a moderate to high level of sensitivity to visual change. The Proposed Corridor spans the frontage road at a close foreground distance of 0.1 mile, resulting in a high level of Project visibility. Due to the close viewing distance, contrast levels would be high. A proposed fly yard located approximately 1 mile southeast of KOP 4-5 would be blocked from view by terrain and vegetation and would not contribute to Project visual impacts in this area. This view is within a Class B landscape and the overall resource change is considered moderate to high, based on the contrast level. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate to high, the viewing duration would be brief, and viewer numbers are considered moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate, and the incremental visual impact at KOP 4-5 is rated as no more than moderate to high.

1 **4.2.4.4 KOP 4-6 Blue Mountain Forest State Scenic Corridor, Summit Road (Exit**
2 **243)**

3 KOP 4-6 is located on Summit Road (Forest Road 31) near the Blue Mountain Forest State
4 Scenic Corridor and Exit 243 from I-84. The site is approximately 12 miles northwest of La
5 Grande. The view orientation is looking northeast and the Proposed Corridor is approximately
6 0.4 mile northeast of the KOP. Lands around the KOP are generally privately owned forest
7 lands.

8 **Existing View**

9 KOP 4-6 is located on the border of the Mesic Forest Zone and Maritime-Influenced Zone of the
10 Blue Mountains Ecoregion. KOP 4-6 is located in the middle of a diagonal, moderately steep
11 slope between a high, gently sloping plateau and a low, curving, shallow mountain stream. The
12 gently curving, v-shaped valley cut by the stream is visible in the foreground. A complex network
13 of domed hills and ridges with moderately steep slopes can be seen in middleground and
14 background views to the southeast. The vegetation surrounding KOP 4-6 is characterized by
15 dense patches of tall, conical conifers mixed with small, open patches of short grasses. A thin,
16 curving band of tall conifers and short, round shrubs obscures the surface of the stream below.
17 Dense clusters of tall conifers are visible on the slopes on the hills and ridges in background
18 views, but these patches become less dense and mixed with more grasses on the slopes in
19 middleground views. The colors of this vegetation predominantly consist of large patches of
20 varying shades of green, including dark green (conifers), and dull, pale yellow (short grasses).
21 The texture of the vegetation can be characterized as discontinuous, with contrasting patches of
22 smooth grasses and coarse, sparse patches of taller conifers growing side-by-side. The man-
23 made structures visible from KOP 4-6 consist of a narrow, curving band of a paved road and a
24 flat, curving band of rail line that parallels the stream near the bottom of the valley. The
25 orientation of the rail line causes potential viewers to follow its path through the valley toward
26 the hills and ridges to the southeast. This characteristic, combined with the lack of interesting or
27 memorable landforms or vegetation patterns, causes the rail line to be the dominant element in
28 the landscape. Its hard edges and smooth appearance contrast with the discontinuous nature of
29 the natural patterns seen in the vegetation and landforms surrounding KOP 4-6, and this
30 promotes strong disharmony and detracts from the scenic quality of the landscape. In summary,
31 while this location offers open, pleasing views of a mountain stream valley and its associated
32 network of hills and ridges, there are few landforms or vegetation patterns that make this
33 landscape unique or especially memorable. In addition, the smooth, ordered appearance of the
34 rail line significantly detracts from the scenic quality of the landscape. Therefore, the scenic
35 quality of the landscape is rated as low (Class C).

36 **View with Project**

37 Viewers at KOP 4-6 are primarily travelers on Summit Road within the Blue Mountain Forest
38 State Scenic Corridor, and are presumed to have a moderate to high level of sensitivity to visual
39 change. These viewers would have a low level of Project visibility, with the Proposed Corridor
40 located in the foreground (0.4 mile from the KOP) but mostly obscured by the dominant
41 surrounding vegetation. Due to screening by the vegetation, contrast levels are conservatively
42 rated as weak, but could be nonexistent. The overall resource change is considered low, based
43 on a Class C landscape and weak or no contrast. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is
44 moderate to high, the viewing duration would be short, and viewer numbers are moderate.
45 Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the low visual
46 resource change and a moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 4-6 is
47 rated as low to moderate.

1 4.2.4.5 KOP 4-10 North Powder Community

2 KOP 4-10 is located on State Highway 237 (2nd Street) in the small, incorporated community of
3 North Powder. The site is approximately 22 miles southeast of La Grande and 1 mile east of I-
4 84. The view orientation is looking northeast and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 3.2
5 miles northeast of the KOP. Lands are generally under private ownership where the primary
6 land uses are residential, transportation, and commercial.

7 Existing View

8 KOP 4-10 is located in the Blue Mountain Basins portion of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
9 surrounding landscape is fairly common to the ecoregion, and is characterized by a flat, alluvial
10 plain bordered by rounded, moderately steep hills and ridges. The hills are smooth, with
11 rounded slopes, and there is little exposed rock visible in foreground and middleground views.
12 The more rugged and snow-capped Blue Mountains rise above the rounded hills in background
13 views to the northeast, although they are not a dominant element in views in that direction.
14 These mountains are more visible in background views to the west, and are the dominant
15 element in the landscape when looking in that direction. The vegetation surrounding KOP 4-10
16 contains numerous species, and is characterized by large patches of short crops and grasses
17 bordered by thin strips of round shrubs and short, wispy prairie grasses. There are several thin
18 strips of tall trees that border these croplands as well. The colors of the landscape
19 predominantly consist of large patches of dull, grayish green and light gray, but there are
20 contrasting strips of bright yellow-orange and small, distant patches of the bright bluish white
21 glow of the snow-capped peaks draws the attention of potential viewers (depending on the
22 season). The texture of the vegetation in the foreground is smooth to medium, as the
23 contrasting patches of taller vegetation frequently interrupt the coverage of short crops and
24 grasses. The texture of the vegetation in middleground and background views towards the
25 slopes of the hills is more uniformly smooth, as taller vegetation is confined to the flat alluvial
26 basin in the foreground. There are numerous man-made structures surrounding KOP 4-10 such
27 as a wide, curving band of highway, a railroad line, moderately tall wood transmission
28 structures, and short, thick concrete highway barriers. Several large, light-colored utility-scale
29 wind turbines are also visible in background views to the northeast. Man-made structures are
30 visible in all distance zones and compete for visual dominance with the natural elements of the
31 landscape. In summary, the flat, alluvial basin surrounding KOP 4-10 allows for the rugged,
32 snow-capped Blue Mountains to be visible in background views in multiple directions. Their
33 interesting and memorable form and the bright, reflective colors of the snow on their peaks
34 create a situation where they are the most dominant natural element in the landscape. However,
35 the visibility of numerous man-made structures in all distance zones significantly detracts from
36 the scenic quality of the landscape. Therefore, the scenic quality of the area is considered
37 moderate.

38 View with Project

39 Viewers at KOP 4-10 include travelers on State Highway 237 and residents in the community of
40 North Powder. These viewers are presumed to have moderate and high levels of sensitivity to
41 visual change, respectively. These viewers would have a low to moderate level of Project
42 visibility of the Proposed Corridor 2.4 miles distant. Due to the viewing distance and the
43 presence of numerous man-made elements in the view, contrast levels are rated as weak. A
44 construction multi-use area would be located on the west side of I-84, nearly 1 mile southwest of
45 the KOP; this facility would be blocked from view by structures and vegetation in the community
46 and would not contribute to visual impacts at KOP 4-10. The overall resource change is
47 considered low, based on a Class B landscape and weak contrast, along with hilly terrain that
48 would provide a backdrop for the transmission structures. The level of viewer sensitivity at this
49 KOP is both moderate and high; the viewing duration would be long for residents and short for

1 travelers. Viewer numbers are considered moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer response
2 is rated as moderate. Based on the low visual resource change and moderate viewer response,
3 the incremental visual impact at KOP 4-10 is rated as low to moderate.

4 4.2.4.6 KOP 4-16 Grande Tour Oregon Tour Route

5 KOP 4-16 is located on the Foothill Road overpass of I-84 approximately 6 miles southeast of
6 La Grande. The location is along an 80-mile route (primarily on State Highways 203 and 237)
7 designated as the Grande Tour Route under the Oregon State Scenic Byways program. The
8 view orientation is looking southwest and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 2.8 miles
9 south and west of the KOP. Lands adjacent to the KOP are predominantly private lands used for
10 agriculture.

11 Existing View

12 KOP 4-16 is located in the Blue Mountain Basins portion of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion, while
13 the Mesic Forest Zone is also visible in middleground and background views to the southwest.
14 The landscapes surrounding this location are typical of each ecoregion. An almost perfectly flat,
15 alluvial basin is bordered by rounded, moderately steep hills and ridges. The hills are smooth,
16 with rounded slopes, and there is little exposed rock visible in foreground and middleground
17 views. In the Mesic Forest Zone, the slopes are slightly more rugged and covered with thick
18 patches of taller, coniferous trees. In background views to the north from KOP 4-16, the rugged,
19 snow-capped peak of Mount Emily rises above the flat plain, and is the most dominant element
20 in the landscape. The foreground vegetation surrounding KOP 4-16 mostly consists of large
21 patches of short prairie grasses and crops, with thin, contrasting strips of taller shrubs and trees
22 that follow the edges of highway on- and off-ramps and field fence lines. Thick, irregular patches
23 of coniferous trees are visible on steeper slopes in middleground views to the northwest. The
24 colors of the landscape predominantly consist of large patches of muted shades of green,
25 including pale, light green and dark green. There are also contrasting strips of dark brown and
26 light gray vegetation and the large patches of dark green coniferous trees visible in
27 middleground views to the southwest. The bright, bluish white patches of snow on the rugged
28 peak of Mount Emily introduce interesting combinations of color to the landscape during
29 portions of the year, and attract the attention of potential viewers. The texture of the vegetation
30 in the foreground is smooth to medium, as the contrasting patches of taller vegetation interrupt
31 the coverage of short grasses. The most visible man-made structures surrounding KOP 4-16
32 consist of the wide, parallel bands of the interstate highway. These dark colored bands stretch
33 far into background views to the north and south, and the frequent motion of vehicles travelling
34 on the highway distracts potential viewers from the panoramic views of the natural landscape. In
35 summary, the subtle and flat alluvial basin surrounding KOP 4-16 does not provide a high
36 degree of visual interest. This creates a situation where the rugged, snow-capped peak of
37 Mount Emily, visible in background views to the north, is the dominant feature in the landscape.
38 The bright, reflective colors of the snow on its peak and its steep slopes, which appear to rise
39 directly out of the basin, create interesting and memorable views for potential viewers. However,
40 the prominent visibility of the interstate highway and the vehicles travelling on it significantly
41 detract from the scenic quality of the landscape. Therefore, the scenic quality of the area is
42 considered moderate.

43 View with Project

44 There would be no visibility of the Proposed Corridor from KOP 4-16 due to terrain blocking
45 views of the Proposed Corridor. As such, the Project would create no visual contrast, the overall
46 resource change would be none, and there would be no adverse visual impact at KOP 4-16
47 from the Proposed Corridor.

4.2.4.7 KOP 4-19 Hilgard Junction State Park

KOP 4-19 is located in a day-use recreation facility at Hilgard Junction State Park, adjacent to Exit 252 from I-84. The site is approximately 8 miles northwest of La Grande. The view orientation is looking southwest and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 1 mile southwest of the KOP. The KOP is within a relatively narrow tract of land owned by the state and managed by OPRD for recreation. Lands adjacent to the park are a mix of private and federal forest lands.

Existing View

KOP 4-19 is located in the Maritime-Influenced Zone of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The landscape surrounding this location is common for the ecoregion, and is characterized by a network of low, domed hills and ridges with moderately steep slopes. The winding, fast moving band of the Grande Ronde River is seen in the immediate foreground. The river's fast moving water and its reflective, greenish-blue color make it the most dominant element in the landscape. Because KOP 4-19 is located at a lower elevation along the river, most background views of the hills and ridges that make up the foothills of the Blue Mountains are blocked by topography, and only middleground views to the southwest are available. The vegetation surrounding KOP 4-19 consists of a variety of species and patterns. There are thin patches of short grasses located along the flat floodplain bordering the river. Sparse clusters of tall, conical conifers can be seen on the slopes of some of the hills surrounding the alluvial plains. The clusters become more dense on some of the steeper slopes on the hills in middleground views to the west. Thin strips of low, round shrubs, taller grasses, and tall, v-shaped deciduous trees can also be seen along the banks of the river. The colors of the this vegetation predominantly consist of large patches of varying shades of green and tan, including dark green (conifers), and vibrant green (short grasses), and light tan and grayish red (shrubs and taller grasses). The texture of the vegetation can be characterized as discontinuous, with contrasting patches of smooth grasses and coarse, sparse patches of taller conifers growing side-by-side. The most visible man-made structures consist of the wide, curving band of a rural highway (State Highway 244), and the moderately tall cylinders of a wood-pole electric transmission line. In addition, a narrow access road has been cut into the side of a slope paralleling the river, which has created a thick band of exposed rock and dirt with steep sides. Numerous park recreational facilities, such as informational kiosks, picnic tables, and fire pits, are also visible. While these structures are visible, they do not dominate the landscape and do not significantly detract from the scenic quality. In summary, the Grande Ronde River has cut a wide, curving path through the landscape and has formed a complex network of hills and ridges with moderately steep sides. Unobstructed views of both a river of this size and the wide variety of vegetation along its banks are interesting and memorable. However, the KOP is relatively enclosed by topography and vegetation, which limits views of the adjacent scenery and the presence of a well-traveled rural highway, is noticeable in the landscape. Therefore, the scenic quality of the landscape is considered moderate.

View with Project

KOP 4-19 represents recreational viewers at Hilgard Junction State Park, who are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. While bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Project would potentially be visible from this location, the level of Project visibility would be low as a result of partial view blockage by the high-relief terrain and dense vegetation between viewers and the alignment. Based on the influence of the topography and vegetation, contrast levels are rated as weak. The overall resource change is considered low to moderate, based on a Class B landscape and weak contrast. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high, the viewing duration would be moderate, and viewer numbers are considered moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high. Based on a low to

1 moderate resource change and moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual
2 impact at KOP 4-19 is rated as no more than moderate.

3 **View with Glass Hill Alternate**

4 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates KOP 4-19 is located near the edge of an area in which
5 the Glass Hill Alternate would potentially be visible. Field review of site-specific conditions
6 suggests that the northwest-southeast trending ridge on the opposite side of the Grand Ronde
7 River would block southerly views toward the alternative route. A more detailed line-of-sight
8 analysis confirmed that the ridge would block the view toward the northern end of the Glass Hill
9 Alternate (the closest point on this route). Therefore, the Project would create no visual contrast
10 under the Glass Hill Alternate, the overall resource change would be none, and there would be
11 no adverse visual impact at KOP 4-19 from this alternative.

12 **4.2.4.8 KOP 4-23 I-84 Crossing, North Powder**

13 KOP 4-23 is located at Exit 278 on I-84, approximately 7.7 miles north of North Powder. The
14 view orientation is looking north and the Proposed Corridor crosses directly over the KOP.
15 Lands around the KOP are in private ownership and are primarily rangeland. The historic route
16 of the Oregon Trail runs parallel to I-84 in this area, generally along the route of Heber Road.

17 **Existing View**

18 KOP 4-23 is located along the border of three zones of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion: the
19 Mesic Forest Zone, the Blue Mountain Basins, and the Continental Zone Foothills. Both the
20 Mesic Forest Zone and Blue Mountains Basins ecoregions are visible to the north of this
21 location, and the landscape is typical of each ecoregion. A gently sloping, concave alluvial plain
22 is bordered by rounded, moderately steep hills and ridges. In the Blue Mountain Basins, the hills
23 are smooth, with rounded slopes, and there is little exposed rock visible in foreground and
24 middleground views. In the Mesic Forest Zone, the slopes are slightly more rugged and covered
25 with thick patches of taller, coniferous trees. In background views to the south from KOP 4-23,
26 the rugged, snow-capped peaks of the Blue Mountains rise above the rounded hills, and they
27 are the most dominant element in the landscape. The vegetation surrounding KOP 4-23 mostly
28 consists of large patches of short prairie grasses, with thin, contrasting strips of taller shrub
29 trees that follow the edges of highway on- and off-ramps. Thick patches of coniferous trees are
30 visible on steeper slopes in middleground views to the northwest. The colors of the landscape
31 predominantly consist of large patches of muted shades of green, including dull, grayish green
32 and pale, light green. There are also contrasting strips of dark brown and light gray vegetation,
33 but the bright distant patches of the bright bluish white glow of the snow-capped peaks draws
34 most of the attention of potential viewers. The texture of the vegetation in the foreground is
35 smooth to medium, as the contrasting patches of taller vegetation interrupt the coverage of short
36 grasses. The most visible man-made structures surrounding KOP 4-23 consist of the wide,
37 parallel bands of the interstate highway. These dark colored bands stretch far into background
38 views to the north, and the frequent motion of vehicles travelling on the highway distracts
39 potential viewers from the panoramic views of the natural landscape. In summary, the subtle,
40 gently sloping alluvial basin surrounding KOP 4-23 creates a situation where the rugged, snow-
41 capped Blue Mountains visible in background views to the south are the dominant features in
42 the landscape. The bright, reflective colors of the snow on their peaks create interesting and
43 memorable views for potential viewers. However, the prominent visibility of the interstate
44 highway and the vehicles travelling on it significantly detract from the scenic quality of the
45 landscape. Therefore, the scenic quality of the area is considered moderate.

46 **View with Project**

47 Viewers at KOP 4-23 are travelers on I-84 between Baker City and La Grande, and are
48 presumed to have a moderate level of sensitivity to visual change. These viewers would have a

1 moderate to high level of Project visibility, with the Proposed Corridor crossing in the foreground
2 at a distance of 0.3 mile. Although the terrain would form a partial backdrop for the structures,
3 contrast levels are rated as moderate based on the close viewing distance (see the simulated
4 view in Figure R-4-7). The overall resource change is considered moderate, based on the Class
5 B landscape and moderate contrast levels. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is
6 moderate, the viewing duration would be short, and viewer numbers are considered high (the
7 average daily traffic volume in 2011 was 9,300 vehicles). Consequently, the overall viewer
8 response is rated as moderate. Based on a moderate resource change and a moderate viewer
9 response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 4-23 is rated as no more than moderate.

10 **4.2.4.9 KOP 4-24 I-84 Exit 248 near Meacham**

11 KOP 4-24 is located at I-84 Exit 248, the southerly interchange for the Old Emigrant Hill Scenic
12 Frontage Road. The site is approximately 10 miles northwest of La Grande and 10 miles
13 southeast of Meacham. The view orientation is towards the southwest and the Proposed
14 Corridor is approximately 0.3 mile southwest of the KOP. The lands outside the interchange
15 area are managed by the USFS as a utility corridor.

16 **Existing View**

17 KOP 4-24 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
18 existing view from the KOP includes largely of flat terrain in all directions, with some hazy,
19 distant, undulating mountainous terrain in the background. The surrounding landscape is
20 primarily undeveloped, with the exception of the transportation facilities. Dominant lines in the
21 landscape are vertical from the heavy vegetation (trees) that dominate the viewshed. The hard
22 lines of I-84 co-dominate the viewshed. Color complexity comprises light and dark browns, dark
23 greens and olives, and dark and light grays from the road and road barriers. Background colors
24 are provided by the mountains and consist of hazy shadows with blue/gray hues. Textures are
25 smooth from the road and road barriers, fine and medium from the grasses, and coarse and
26 rough from the conifer vegetation. Visual disruptions to the landscape include I-84 extending
27 through the entire view. The landscape surrounding the Interstate has a largely natural
28 appearance. The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class C), due to the lack of a complex
29 vegetation composition, adjacent scenery, and landform variety, and the visual dominance of
30 the road.

31 **View with Project**

32 Viewers at KOP 4-24 are primarily travelers on I-84, and are presumed to have a moderate level
33 of sensitivity to visual change. These viewers would have a low to moderate level of Project
34 visibility; while the Project would be at a foreground distance of 0.3 mile, trees in the foreground
35 would screen views of many of the closest structures. As a result, contrast levels are rated as
36 moderate. Based on the Class C landscape and moderate contrast with partially screened
37 views, the overall resource change is considered low to moderate. The level of visual sensitivity
38 at this KOP is moderate, the viewing duration would be short, and viewer numbers are
39 considered high (the average daily traffic volume in 2011 was 9,300 vehicles). Consequently,
40 the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on a low to moderate resource change
41 and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 4-24 is rated as no more
42 than moderate.

43 **4.2.4.10 KOP 4-26 Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area, Foothill Road**

44 KOP 4-26 is located along Foothill Road, approximately 5.5 miles south of La Grande and 1
45 mile west of I-84. Foothill Road passes through the southwestern part of the Ladd Marsh
46 Wildlife Area, and the KOP is adjacent to the wildlife area lands. The view orientation is west
47 and south and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 4 miles west of the KOP. Lands to the

1 north of the KOP are in state ownership and are managed by the Oregon Department of Fish
2 and Wildlife (ODFW) to provide wildlife habitat and compatible recreational uses. Lands to the
3 south are privately owned and are used primarily for agriculture.

4 **Existing View**

5 KOP 4-26 is located in the Blue Mountain Basins of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion, and terrain
6 in the Mesic Forest Zone is also visible in middleground and background views to the south.
7 The landscapes surrounding this location are typical of each ecoregion. An almost perfectly flat,
8 alluvial basin is bordered by rounded, moderately steep hills and ridges. The hills are smooth,
9 with rounded slopes, and there is little exposed rock visible. In the Mesic Forest Zone, the
10 slopes are slightly more rugged and covered with thick patches of taller, coniferous trees. In
11 background views to the north from KOP 4-26, the rugged, snow-capped peak of Mount Emily
12 rises above the flat plain and adds to the variety and scenic quality of the landscape. The
13 foreground vegetation mostly consists of large patches of very short grasses, with thin,
14 contrasting strips of shorter grasses and taller shrubs and trees that follow the edges of the
15 pastures and roads. Thick, irregular patches of coniferous trees are visible on steeper slopes in
16 middleground and background views to the south. The colors of the landscape predominantly
17 consist of large patches of muted shades of dark green. Other patches of brown and tan,
18 including pale, light brown and dark brown are also visible. There are also contrasting strips of
19 light tan vegetation along the road, and large patches of dark green coniferous trees visible in
20 background views to the south. The texture of the vegetation in the foreground is smooth to
21 medium, as the contrasting patches of taller grasses interrupt the smooth, uniform pastures.
22 The man-made structures most visible from KOP 4-26 are the wide, curving band of road and
23 the numerous structures associated with rural agriculture. There are several large, moderately
24 tall barns and other out-buildings and fences in foreground views to the south, and these dark
25 colored structures with contrasting light-colored roofs are the dominant elements in the
26 landscape. While these structures are typical for the region, and are not uncommonly large, they
27 are located in the immediate foreground in views to the south, and they tend to obscure the
28 natural landscape in middleground and background views. An existing transmission line on
29 wooden, H-frame structures is visible along the crest of the ridge above the farm buildings. In
30 summary, the alluvial basin and the smooth, moderately steep hills surrounding KOP 4-26 are
31 not particularly interesting landforms. This creates a situation where the numerous man-made
32 structures are the dominant elements in the landscape and detract from the scenic quality.
33 Therefore, the scenic quality of the area is considered low.

34 **View with Project**

35 There would be no visibility of the Proposed Corridor from KOP 4-26 because high terrain
36 immediately west of the KOP blocks views in this direction. As such, the Project would create no
37 visual contrast, the overall resource change would be none, and there would be no adverse
38 visual impacts at KOP 4-26 from the Proposed Corridor.

39 **View with Glass Hill Alternate**

40 Bare-earth viewshed analysis confirms there would be no visibility of the Glass Hill Alternate
41 from KOP 4-26, because high terrain immediately west of the KOP blocks views in this direction.
42 As such, the Project would create no visual contrast under the Glass Hill Alternate, the overall
43 resource change would be none, and there would be no adverse visual impact at KOP 4-26
44 from this alternative.

45 **4.2.4.11 KOP 4-27 Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area, SH 203**

46 KOP 4-27 is located on State Highway 203 in the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area, approximately 7
47 miles southeast of La Grande. The view orientation is towards the southwest and the Proposed

1 Corridor is approximately 5.2 miles from the KOP. Lands around the KOP are in state ownership
2 and are managed by ODFW to provide wildlife habitat and compatible recreational uses.

3 **Existing View**

4 KOP 4-27 is also located in the Blue Mountain Basins portion of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion,
5 with terrain in the Mesic Forest Zone and Maritime Influenced-Zone also visible in middleground
6 and background views to the west and north. The landscapes surrounding this location are
7 typical of each ecoregion. An almost perfectly flat, alluvial basin is bordered by rounded,
8 moderately steep hills and ridges. The hills are smooth, with rounded slopes, and there is little
9 exposed rock visible in foreground and middleground views. In the Mesic Forest Zone, the
10 slopes are slightly more rugged and covered with thick patches of taller, coniferous trees. In
11 background views to the north from KOP 4-27, the rugged, snow-capped peak of Mount Emily
12 rises above the flat plain, and competes for dominance in the landscape with moderately steep
13 hills visible to the west. The foreground vegetation surrounding KOP 4-27 mostly consists of
14 large patches of moderately tall, naturally appearing prairie grasses, with thin, contrasting strips
15 of shorter grasses that follow the edge of the paved road (State Highway 203) right-of-way.
16 Thick, irregular patches of coniferous trees are visible on steeper slopes in background views to
17 the west. The colors of the landscape predominantly consist of large patches of muted shades
18 of brown and tan, including pale, light brown and dark brown. There are also contrasting strips
19 of light and dark green vegetation along the road, and large patches of dark green coniferous
20 trees visible to the west. The bright patches of the bluish white patches of snow on the rugged
21 peak of Mount Emily and on the ridges to the west introduce interesting combinations of color to
22 the landscape, and attract the attention of potential viewers. The texture of the vegetation in the
23 foreground is smooth to medium, as the contrasting patches of shorter vegetation interrupt the
24 coverage of moderately tall grasses. The most visible man-made structures surrounding KOP 4-
25 27 consist of the wide, straight band of road and the numerous wooden transmission structures
26 that are located alongside it. These dark colored structures stretch far into background views to
27 the north, and the frequent motion of vehicles travelling on the highway distracts potential
28 viewers from the panoramic views of the natural landscape. In summary, the subtle, flat alluvial
29 basin surrounding KOP 4-27 does not provide a high degree of visual interest. This creates a
30 situation where the rugged, snow-capped peak of Mount Emily and other ridgelines to the north
31 and west compete for dominance in the landscape. However, the prominent visibility of the rural
32 highway and transmission structures detracts from the scenic quality of the landscape.
33 Therefore, the scenic quality of the area is considered low.

34 **View with Project**

35 KOP 4-27 represents travelers on State Highway 203 adjacent to Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area,
36 who are presumed to have a moderate level of sensitivity to visual change. Bare-earth viewshed
37 analysis indicates the Project would potentially be visible at a distance of 4.9 miles. Project
38 visibility would be low because of the long viewing distance and possible screening by forest
39 vegetation on the ridges to the west. Based on the possible screening and the viewing distance,
40 contrast levels are rated as weak (and the contrast may not be perceptible). The overall
41 resource change is considered low (at most), based on a Class C landscape and low or no
42 contrast. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate, the viewing duration would be
43 short, and viewer numbers are considered moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer
44 response is rated as low to moderate based on a low resource change and low to moderate
45 viewer response, and the incremental visual impact at KOP 4-27 is rated as no more than low to
46 moderate.

47 **4.2.4.12 KOP 4-28 Morgan Lake Park**

48 KOP 4-28 is located along Morgan Lake Road at the entrance to Morgan Lake Park,
49 approximately 2 miles west of La Grande. The park is a 205-acre property owned by the City of

1 La Grande, with facilities for camping, boating, picnicking, and related recreational activities.
2 The view orientation is southwest and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 3 miles west of
3 the KOP. The KOP is on municipal land, while adjacent lands are private forest and rangelands.

4 **Existing View**

5 KOP 4-28 is located in the Maritime-Influenced Zone of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
6 landscape surrounding this location is typical of that ecoregion, and is characterized by a mostly
7 flat, gently sloping uplifted plateau that has been eroded and dissected by ephemeral streams.
8 While the plateau in the immediate foreground is lacking interesting features, the hills
9 surrounding the plateau are smooth, with rounded slopes, although there is little exposed rock
10 visible. To the west from KOP 4-28, a moderately steep, gently undulating ridgeline is visible
11 above one of the ridges in the middleground. The tall, coniferous trees surrounding Morgan
12 Lake and its smooth, reflective surface are immediately adjacent to this location, and are visible
13 in foreground views to the north, which add to the visual variety and scenic quality of the
14 landscape. The foreground vegetation surrounding KOP 4-28 is characterized by an almost
15 uniform coverage of short, naturally appearing prairie grasses, with a few, short shrubs adding
16 elements of contrast. Thin strips and large patches of taller conifer trees are located along the
17 edges of the plateau on the slopes of the hills, and are visible in middleground views to the
18 south and west. The colors of the landscape predominantly consist of large patches of varying
19 shades of green and tan, including dark green (conifers), and light green and tan (short
20 grasses). Other patches of brown and tan, including pale, light brown and dark brown, are also
21 visible. There are also large patches of dark green coniferous trees visible in background views
22 to the south and west. The most visible man-made structures surrounding KOP 4-28 consist of
23 a narrow, curving gravel road, and a short, barbed-wire fence line that defines the border of the
24 Morgan Lake Park day-use area. The low, diagonal roof of a picnic shelter is also visible in
25 foreground views to the west. While these structures are visible, they exist in harmony with
26 naturally appearing landscape, and do not detract from the scenic quality. In summary, potential
27 viewers focus on either the distant, undulating ridgeline in background views to the southwest,
28 or the tranquil lake immediately north of this location. Despite this influence of adjacent scenery,
29 the lack of interesting features in views to the south creates a situation where the scenic quality
30 of the area is considered low.

31 **View with Project**

32 KOP 4-28 represents recreational viewers at Morgan Lake Park, who are presumed to have a
33 high level of sensitivity to visual change. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Project
34 would potentially be visible at a distance of 0.9 mile to the west. Conditions observed in the field
35 and more specific desktop analysis indicate there would be a low level of Project visibility as a
36 result of vegetation west of the park that would largely screen views of the Proposed Corridor.
37 The analysis indicates that the uppermost portions of two transmission towers might be visible
38 from KOP 4-28 (see Figure R-4-8); therefore, contrast created by the Project is rated as weak. A
39 proposed fly yard located approximately 1 mile southwest of KOP 4-40 would be blocked from
40 view by terrain and vegetation and would not contribute to Project visual impacts in this area.
41 The overall resource change is considered low, based on a Class C landscape and weak
42 contrast with the screened views. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high, the viewing
43 duration would be moderate (with overnight camping), and viewer numbers are considered low.
44 Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on a low resource
45 change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 4-28 is rated as
46 no more than low to moderate.

47 **View with Glass Hill Alternate**

48 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates KOP 4-28 is located near the eastern edge of a small
49 area in which the Glass Hill Alternate would potentially be visible. Field review of site-specific

1 conditions suggests that the low, forested ridges west and southwest of the KOP would
2 effectively block views toward the alternative route. As such, the Project would create no visual
3 contrast under the Glass Hill Alternate, the overall resource change would be none, and there
4 would be no adverse visual impact at KOP 4-28 from this alternative.

5 **4.2.4.13 KOP 4-32 Oregon Trail Interpretive Park**

6 KOP 4-32 is located at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Park, a USFS day-use recreation facility in
7 northwestern Union County. The site is approximately 15 miles northwest of La Grande and
8 approximately 0.5 mile northeast of I-84. Access is from Exit 248 via Spring Creek Road, the
9 Old Emigrant Hill Scenic Frontage Road, and Forest Road 1843. The facility includes a picnic
10 area and a paved trail with interpretive information about the Oregon Trail, including remnant
11 trail ruts. The view orientation is southwest and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 1.2
12 miles south and west of the KOP. The Wallowa-Whitman NF lands around the KOP are
13 managed by the USFS for recreation and other uses.

14 **Existing View**

15 KOP 4-32 is located in the Maritime-Influenced Zone of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
16 visible terrain is typical of that ecoregion, and is characterized by a mostly flat, gently sloping
17 uplifted plateau that has been eroded and dissected by ephemeral streams. While the plateau in
18 the immediate foreground is lacking interesting features and mainly comprises low grasses, the
19 hills and mountains in the background add some variety. In background views to the west, a
20 moderately steep, gently undulating ridgeline is visible above one of the ridges in the
21 middleground. The tall, coniferous trees immediately adjacent to this location add to the visual
22 variety and scenic quality of the landscape. The foreground vegetation surrounding KOP 4-32 is
23 uninteresting, and is characterized by an almost uniform coverage of short, naturally appearing
24 prairie grasses, with a few, short shrubs adding elements of contrast. Large patches of taller
25 conifer trees are located along the edges of the plateau on the slopes of the hills, and are visible
26 in middleground and background views to the west. The colors of the landscape predominantly
27 consist of large patches of varying shades of green and tan, including dark green (conifers), and
28 light green and tan (short grasses). Other patches of brown and tan, including pale, light brown
29 and dark brown are also visible. There are also large patches of dark green coniferous trees
30 visible in background views to the west. The texture of the vegetation can be characterized by
31 smooth grasses bordered by coarse, contrasting patches of taller conifers, with scattered,
32 random shrubs appearing in the patches of smooth grasses. The man-made structures visible
33 from KOP 4-32 consist of a narrow, curving paved access road and a series of picnic shelters,
34 which are designed by the USFS to appear as a series of rustic cabins. While these structures
35 are visible adjacent to the KOP, they exist in harmony with the naturally appearing landscape
36 and do not detract from the scenic quality. In summary, the flat, smooth plateau to the south and
37 west of KOP 4-32 presents potential viewers with interesting or memorable views. As a result,
38 potential viewers focus on the distant, undulating ridgeline in background views to the west. The
39 overall scenic quality of the area is considered moderate. The picnic area is managed by the
40 USFS to conform with the Retention Visual Quality Objective (VQO).

41 **View with Project**

42 Viewers at KOP 4-32 are recreational visitors at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Park and are
43 presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. Bare-earth viewshed analysis
44 indicates the Project would potentially be visible to the southwest at a middleground distance of
45 1.1 mile. Although at a relatively close distance, these viewers would have a low level of Project
46 visibility due to the dense vegetation in the area that would block most views towards the route.
47 As such, contrast levels would be weak and the overall resource change is also considered low.
48 The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high, the viewing duration would be moderate, and
49 viewer numbers are considered moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated

1 as moderate to high. Based on a low resource change and a moderate to high viewer response,
2 the incremental visual impact at KOP 4-32 is rated as moderate.

3 **4.2.4.14 KOP 4-40 Spring Creek USFS Campground**

4 KOP 4-40 is located on Forest Road 21 near the USFS Spring Creek Campground
5 approximately 1 mile southwest of I-84. The campground is a small, no-fee facility with toilets
6 and four campsites. The view orientation is northeast and the Proposed Corridor is
7 approximately 0.8 mile northeast of the KOP. The Wallowa-Whitman NF lands around the KOP
8 are managed by the USFS for recreation and other uses.

9 **Existing View**

10 KOP 4-40 is also located in the Maritime-Influenced Zone of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
11 landscape surrounding this location is common for the ecoregion and is characterized by a high,
12 gently sloping mountain plateau. A network of domed hills and ridges with moderately steep
13 slopes can be seen in background views to the southwest. Because KOP 4-40 is located at a
14 higher elevation near the top of a plateau, the complex network of hills, ridges, and fast-moving
15 mountain streams that are typical for the ecoregion—are visible in middleground views to the
16 south and west. The vegetation surrounding KOP 4-40 is characterized by an open field of
17 short, low grasses with clusters of tall, conical conifers visible on the edges of the field. The
18 boundary between the field and the conifers is not well-defined, as there are several trees that
19 dot the edges of the field. There is almost no understory vegetation visible, such as low shrubs
20 or small trees. Dense clusters of tall conifers are visible on the slopes on the hills and ridges in
21 middleground views to the west. The colors of the vegetation predominantly consist of large
22 patches of varying shades of green, including dark green (conifers), and vibrant green (short
23 grasses). The texture of the vegetation can be characterized as discontinuous, with contrasting
24 patches of smooth grasses and coarse, sparse patches of taller conifers growing side-by-side.
25 The most visible man-made structures consist of a network of narrow, curving gravel roads and
26 several short, rectangular information signs. These structures exist in relative harmony with the
27 landscape and do not detract from the scenic quality. In summary, while this location offers
28 open, pleasing views of hills and ridges in the background to the southwest, there are few
29 landforms or vegetation patterns that make this landscape unique or especially memorable.
30 Therefore, the scenic attractiveness of the landscape is considered indistinctive (Class C).

31 **View with Project**

32 Viewers at KOP 4-40 are primarily recreational visitors at the Spring Creek Campground and
33 are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. The Project would have a
34 moderate to high level of visibility; it would be seen in the immediate foreground at a distance of
35 0.1 mile, although the forest vegetation would partially screen views of the transmission
36 facilities. As shown in Figure R-4-10, the closest structures on the Proposed Corridor would still
37 be highly visible through gaps between trees or above trees. Due to the visibility of the Project
38 elements and the naturalness of the surrounding landscape, contrast levels are rated as
39 moderate to strong. A proposed fly yard located approximately 1 mile northeast of KOP 4-40
40 would be blocked from view by terrain and vegetation and would not contribute to Project visual
41 impacts in this area. The overall resource change is considered moderate, based on a Class C
42 landscape and moderate to high contrast. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high, the
43 viewing duration would be moderate, and viewer numbers are considered low. Consequently,
44 the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on a moderate resource change and
45 moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 4-40 is rated as moderate.

1 4.2.4.15 KOP 4-51 La Grande/Hells Canyon Scenic Byway

2 KOP 4-51 is located on Island Avenue in La Grande, just to the west of I-84. The view
3 orientation is southwest and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 4.7 miles southwest of the
4 KOP. Lands around the KOP are in private ownership and support commercial, transportation,
5 residential, and other urbanized uses.

6 **Existing View**

7 KOP 4-51 is located in the Blue Mountain Basins portion of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
8 view to the west consists of a flat floor backdropped by rolling hills. Vegetation is sporadic and
9 patchy throughout the landscape. The primary land uses around the KOP are residential and
10 commercial. Lines in the landscape are varied in all directions, with the dominant horizontal
11 lines of the hills against the skyline. Vertical and horizontal intrusions against the skyline from
12 tall trees, utility poles, and solid structures are scattered throughout the landscape. Colors in the
13 scene are complex, consisting of light and dark greens, beige, tans, olives, blue and gray hues,
14 wood, browns, and red, white, blues, oranges and other others consistent with an urban
15 landscape. The dominant landform texture is medium, while fine and coarse textures come from
16 the irrigated grasses and conifer and deciduous trees in the viewshed. Strong, angular lines and
17 solid textures from structures add a high level of visual contrast in the landscape. The overall
18 scenic quality is considered low (Class C), due to the high level of contrast from modifications
19 created by urban development.

20 **View with Project**

21 Viewers at KOP 4-51 include travelers on the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway and La Grande
22 residents, who are presumed to have moderate and high levels of sensitivity, respectively, to
23 visual change. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Project would potentially be visible to
24 the southwest, at a distance of 4.8 miles. The level of Project visibility would be low due to the
25 viewing distance and the elevated terrain between viewers and the Proposed Corridor. Visible
26 man-made elements adjacent to this location include numerous buildings and other structures
27 such as signs, power poles, and the road. The view is cluttered by the numerous structures.
28 Given the distance and the existing contrast created by the man-made elements, the contrast
29 from the Project would be weak (if Project facilities were visible) or none. The overall resource
30 change is considered low at most, based on the Class C landscape and weak contrast. The
31 level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate and high, the viewing duration would be short
32 and long, and viewer numbers are considered high (average daily traffic volumes range from
33 6,000 to 9,000 vehicles, depending on specific location). Consequently, the overall viewer
34 response is rated as moderate to high. Based on the low (at most) visual resource change and
35 moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 4-18 is rated as no
36 more than moderate.

37 **View with Glass Hill Alternate**

38 Bare-earth viewshed analysis confirms there would be no visibility of the Glass Hill Alternate
39 from KOP 4-51, as a result of the viewing distance of 4.4 miles and the ridges southwest of La
40 Grande. As such, the Project would create no visual contrast under the Glass Hill Alternate, the
41 overall resource change would be none, and there would be no adverse visual impacts at KOP
42 4-51 from this alternative.

43 4.2.4.16 KOP 4-52 Island City Community

44 KOP 4-52 is located adjacent to Island Avenue (State Highway 82) in the community of Island
45 City. The view orientation is southwest and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 5.5 miles
46 southwest of the KOP. Lands around the KOP are in private ownership; the area south of Island

1 Avenue is urbanized and is used for commercial, transportation, and residential uses, while the
2 area to the north is primarily agricultural.

3 **Existing View**

4 KOP 4-52 is located in the Blue Mountain Basins portion of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion, while
5 terrain in the Mesic Forest Zone and Maritime-Influenced Zone ecoregions is also visible in
6 background views to the southwest. The landscape surrounding this KOP is characterized by an
7 almost perfectly flat, alluvial basin bordered by rounded, moderately steep hills and ridges. The
8 hills are smooth, with rounded slopes, and there is little exposed rock visible in foreground and
9 middleground views. In the Mesic Forest and the Maritime-Influenced zones, the slopes are
10 slightly more rugged and covered with thick patches of taller, coniferous trees. The large,
11 prominent peak of Mount Emily is visible in the background to the north, which adds to the
12 visual variety and scenic quality of the landscape. The foreground vegetation mostly consists of
13 large patches of short grasses with interspersed shrubs and trees that follow the edges of the
14 roads and are scattered throughout the parking lot in the foreground. Thick, irregular patches of
15 coniferous trees are visible on steeper slopes in middleground and background views to the
16 southwest. The colors of the landscape predominantly consist of large patches of varying
17 shades of green. Other patches of brown and tan, including pale, light brown, and dark brown,
18 are also visible. The texture of the vegetation in the foreground is medium, as the contrasting
19 patches of taller trees appear as smooth in the background. The most visible man-made
20 structures surrounding KOP 4-52 consist of the wide, straight strip of highway and numerous
21 commercial structures. These structures are fairly typical for the region and are not uncommonly
22 large, but because they are located in the immediate foreground in views to the south and west,
23 they tend to compete for visual dominance and obscure the natural landscape in middleground
24 and background views. In summary, the subtle, and flat alluvial basin and the smooth,
25 moderately steep hills surrounding KOP 4-52 are not particularly interesting landforms. This
26 creates a situation where the man-made structures have the potential to become the dominant
27 elements in the landscape and slightly detract from the area's scenic quality. Therefore, the
28 scenic quality of the area is considered low.

29 **View with Project**

30 KOP 4-52 represents residential and commercial viewers in the city of Island City, who are
31 presumed to have a moderate overall level of sensitivity to visual change. Bare-earth viewshed
32 analysis indicates the Project would potentially be visible to the southwest at a distance of 5.5
33 miles. Conditions observed in the field indicate that terrain, vegetation, and structures in the
34 community would at least partially screen views to the Proposed Corridor. Given the possible
35 screening and long viewing distance, the Project would have at most a low level of visibility.
36 Based on low (or no) visibility and contrast from the existing urban development, contrast levels
37 would be low (or none). The overall resource change is considered low, based on a Class C
38 landscape and low contrast levels. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate, the
39 viewing duration would be long (for residents), and viewer numbers are considered moderate.
40 Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high. Based on a low
41 resource change and moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP
42 4-52 is rated as no more than moderate.

43 *4.2.4.17 KOP 4-54 Ladd Canyon Road/USFS Road 43*

44 KOP 4-54 is located on Ladd Canyon Road (which becomes Forest Road 43) at the entrance to
45 Ladd Canyon. The site is approximately 9 miles south of La Grande and 2 miles southwest of I-
46 84 at Exit 270. The Proposed Corridor is located approximately 0.2 mile to the southwest of the
47 KOP. The KOP is surrounded by privately-owned forest lands.

48

Existing View

1 KOP 4-54 is located in the Blue Mountain Basins portion of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion, with
2 Mesic Forest Zone terrain also visible in middleground and background views to the east. An
3 almost perfectly flat, alluvial basin is bordered by rounded, moderately steep hills and ridges.
4 The hills are smooth, with rounded slopes, and there is little exposed rock visible in foreground
5 and middleground views. In the Mesic Forest Zone, the slopes are slightly more rugged and
6 covered with thick patches of taller, coniferous trees. The foreground vegetation surrounding
7 KOP 4-54 mostly consists of large patches of short prairie grasses, with contrasting stands of
8 taller shrubs trees that follow the edges of highway and riparian corridor. Thick, irregular
9 patches of coniferous trees are visible on steeper slopes in middleground views to the
10 northwest. The colors of the landscape predominantly consist of large patches of muted shades
11 of green, including pale, light green, and dark green. There are also contrasting strips of dark
12 brown and light gray vegetation and the large patches of dark green coniferous trees visible in
13 middleground views to the east. The texture of the vegetation in the foreground is smooth to
14 medium, as the contrasting patches of taller vegetation interrupt the coverage of short grasses.
15 The most visible man-made structures surrounding KOP 4-54 consist of the wide, parallel bands
16 of the roadway. In summary, the subtle alluvial basin surrounding KOP 4-54 does not provide a
17 high degree of visual interest. The monotone green colors of the coniferous trees and seasonal
18 vegetation can create moderately interesting and memorable views for potential viewers.
19 Therefore, the scenic quality of the area is considered moderate.
20

View with Project

21 Viewers at KOP 4-54 are primarily travelers on Forest Road 43 at the entrance to Ladd Canyon
22 and are presumed to have a moderate to high level of sensitivity to visual change. These
23 viewers would have a moderate to high level of Project visibility; the Proposed Corridor crosses
24 Road 43 at a foreground distance of 0.2 mile, although the dominant forest vegetation would
25 partially screen views of the transmission facilities. Visible man-made elements adjacent to this
26 location include only the roadway. Contrast levels are rated as moderate to high due to the
27 close viewing distance, although many of the closest structures may be screened. The overall
28 resource change is considered moderate to high, based on a Class B landscape and moderate
29 to high contrast levels. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate to high, the viewing
30 duration is short, and viewer numbers are considered low. Consequently, the overall viewer
31 response is rated as low to moderate. Based on a moderate to high resource change and low to
32 moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 4-54 is rated as no more than
33 moderate.
34

4.2.4.18 KOP 4-55 Elk Song Ranch

35 KOP 4-55 is located at the entrance to Elk Song Ranch on Morgan Lake Road, approximately 3
36 miles southwest of the city of La Grande. The view orientation is west and the Proposed
37 Corridor is approximately 0.6 mile west of the KOP. Lands are generally under private and state
38 ownership, and surrounding uses include recreation, and forest and range.
39

Existing View

40 KOP 4-55 is located in the Maritime-Influenced Zone of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
41 existing topographic form is characterized by an uplifted plateau that has been eroded and
42 dissected by ephemeral streams to form a complex arrangement of moderately steep, rounded
43 hills and ridges. The hills are smooth, with rounded slopes, and there is little exposed rock
44 visible in foreground and middleground views. In background views, a moderately steep,
45 horizontal ridgeline is visible above one of the ridges in the middleground. The tall, coniferous
46 trees surrounding Morgan Lake, a scenic mountain lake less than one-half mile to the north, are
47 visible in foreground views to the north, which add to the visual variety and scenic quality of the
48

1 landscape. Vegetation in the foreground includes large patches of very short grasses used for
2 grazing, contrasting strips and patches of conical conifers, and large, rounded shrubs. A nearby
3 natural-appearing meadow is the main focus of potential viewers standing near KOP 4-55. A
4 uniform coverage of thick conifers is also visible on steeper slopes of the ridge in the
5 background. Colors of the landscape predominantly consist of large patches of varying shades
6 of green, including dark green (conifers) and light green and tan (short grasses). Other patches
7 of brown and tan, including pale, light brown, and dark brown, are also visible. There are also
8 large patches of dark green coniferous trees visible in background views to the south and west.
9 Textures of the vegetation can be characterized by smooth grasses bordered by coarse,
10 contrasting patches of taller conifers, with scattered, random shrubs appearing in the patches of
11 smooth grasses. Modifications to the natural landscape include a narrow ranch access road, a
12 few moderately tall, thin transmission structures, and the ordered, short fence lines that define
13 the grazing areas. For the most part, these structures exist in harmony with the naturally
14 appearing landscape, and do not significantly detract from the scenic quality. The overall scenic
15 quality is considered moderate (Class B) due to the complex, moderately steep hills, complex
16 vegetation patterns, and structures that exist in relative harmony with the natural landscape.

17 **View with Proposed Corridor**

18 There would be high visibility of the Proposed Corridor from KOP 4-55 at a distance of 0.6 mile
19 and with little or no screening. Contrast levels are rated as moderate to high. A potential fly yard
20 location has been identified approximately 0.5 mile west of the KOP, along the east side of the
21 Proposed Corridor. While this facility would be visible from some locations on the road and the
22 ranch, it would represent a temporary and intermittent source of contrast that would not be
23 sufficient to change the overall contrast rating for KOP 4-55. Contrast levels in this area are
24 anticipated to be moderate to high, based on the combined effect of the close distance of the
25 view, little opportunity for screening, and existing landscape modifications. The overall resource
26 change would be moderate to high, based on a Class B landscape and moderate to high
27 contrast. KOP 4-55 represents travelers on Morgan Lake Road and residents at Elk Song
28 Ranch, who are presumed to have moderate and high levels of sensitivity to visual change,
29 respectively. Duration of view is presumed to be short for travelers, but long for residents.
30 Viewer numbers are considered low for both groups, due to the rural nature of the area. The
31 overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on a moderate to high resource change
32 and moderate viewer response, the corresponding visual impact rating is moderate to high.

33 **View with Glass Hill Alternate**

34 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates KOP 4-55 is located near the western edge of a small
35 area in which the Glass Hill Alternate would potentially be visible. Field review of site-specific
36 conditions suggests that the low, mostly forested ridges west and southwest of the KOP would
37 block effectively block views toward the alternative route. As such, the Project would create no
38 visual contrast under the Glass Hill Alternate, the overall resource change would be none, and
39 there would be no adverse visual impacts at KOP 4-55 from this alternative.

40 **4.2.4.19 KOP 4-56 State Highway 244 near Whiskey Creek**

41 KOP 4-56 is located on State Highway 244, approximately 10 miles west of La Grande and 2
42 miles southwest of I-84 at Exit 252 (Hilgard Junction). The view orientation is northeast and the
43 Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.5 mile northeast of the KOP. Lands around the KOP are
44 in private ownership; some of the valley-bottom lands are used for agriculture, while other lands
45 support forest, range or recreational uses (including a rifle club property north of the Grande
46 Ronde River).

Existing View

KOP 4-56 is located in the Maritime-Influenced Zone of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The landscape surrounding this location is characterized by a network of low, domed hills and ridges with moderately steep slopes. The adjacent Grande Ronde River and Whiskey Creek Canyon are in the immediate foreground to midground of the view. Because KOP 4-56 is located at a lower elevation along the river, most background views of the hills and ridges are focal. The vegetation surrounding KOP 4-56 consists of a few species and simple patterns, including patches of short grasses that are located along the flat floodplains bordering the river as well as the hills rising up in the midground. Sparse clusters of tall, conical conifers can be seen on the slopes of some of the hills surrounding the alluvial plains and in some areas create simple patterns and forms. The clusters become more dense on some of the steeper slopes on the hills in midground views to the northeast. The colors of this vegetation predominantly consist of large patches of varying shades of green and tan, including dark green (conifers), and vibrant green (short grasses), and light tan. The texture of the vegetation can be characterized as continuous and smooth, with contrasting patches of coarse, tall conifers growing side-by-side. The most visible man-made structures consist of the wide, curving band of a rural highway (State Highway 244), and the continuous ordered fencing adjacent to the roadway. In summary, the Grande Ronde River has cut a wide, curving path through the landscape and has formed a complex network of hills and ridges with moderately steep sides. Unobstructed views of both a river and the simple variety of vegetation along the river plain and along the hills are somewhat interesting due to the lack of man-made development, but are not considered unique in the ecoregion. However, the landscape is relatively enclosed by topography and vegetation, and the presence of a well-traveled rural highway adds disharmonious elements to the landscape. Therefore, the scenic quality of the landscape is considered moderate.

View with Project

Viewers at KOP 4-56 are primarily travelers on State Highway 244, who are presumed to have a moderate level of sensitivity to visual change. There is also a residence located near the KOP, where viewers would have high sensitivity. These viewers would have a high level of Project visibility, with the transmission structures visible on the skyline in the high relief terrain. Visible man-made elements adjacent to this location include fencing and the roadway, resulting in contrast levels that would be moderate to strong from 0.5 mile. With a Class B landscape and moderate to strong contrast, the overall resource change is moderate to high. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate for travelers and high for residents; the viewing duration would be short for travelers and long for residents; and viewer numbers are considered low for both groups. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as low to moderate and the incremental visual impact at KOP 4-56 is rated as moderate.

View with Glass Hill Alternate

Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates KOP 4-56 is located in a narrow area in which the Glass Hill Alternate would potentially be visible. Further review of site-specific conditions indicates that the northern portion of the alternative route is located east and below the crest of the mostly forested ridge southeast of the KOP that forms the eastern side of the Whiskey Creek valley. Because KOP 4-56 has an inferior viewing position relative to this segment of the Glass Hill Alternate, the ridge would likely block views toward the Project facilities on this route. It is possible, however, that the upper portions of one or more structures near the departure point from the Proposed Corridor would extend above the ridgeline. If so, they would be seen at a midground distance of approximately 1.3 mile and might be partially screened by trees along the ridge. As a result, the contrast level would be weak at most and may well be nonexistent. With a Class B landscape and weak contrast, the overall resource change would be low to moderate. The overall viewer response for this KOP is rated as low to moderate, as discussed

1 above. Therefore, if structures on the Glass Hill Alternate were actually visible from this location,
2 the incremental impact for this alternative would be low to moderate.

3 **4.2.5 Baker County**

4 **4.2.5.1 KOP 5-5 Huntington Community**

5 KOP 5-5 is located at the edge of a residential area along Washington Street in the small,
6 incorporated community of Huntington, Oregon. The view orientation is west and the Proposed
7 Corridor is approximately 2.0 miles west of the KOP. Lands within the community and
8 immediately adjacent areas are in private ownership and have a mixture of urbanized land uses,
9 including residential, commercial and transportation.

10 **Existing View**

11 KOP 5-5 is located within the Unwooded Alkaline Foothills portion of the Snake River Plain
12 Ecoregion. The terrain to the west from the KOP consists of a flat valley floor with surrounding
13 steep, angled slopes. The primary land uses in the vicinity are residential, commercial, and
14 transportation. Lines in the landscape are varied, with the horizontal lines of the mountain ridge
15 tops against the skyline being the most prominent. Vertical and horizontal intrusions against the
16 skyline from tall trees and utility poles are scattered throughout the landscape. Hard horizontal
17 lines from the adjacent railway are prominent in the viewshed. Colors in the viewshed are
18 slightly complex, consisting of dark brown/black from exposed soils, light and dark tans, beige,
19 and umber, greens, olives, and blue and gray hues of the vegetation, and wood, browns, grays,
20 and white from the structures. Two railroad locomotives with bright yellow-orange paint were
21 present at the time of the site inventory, and are likely common features. The dominant landform
22 textures are fine to medium from the exposed soils and grasses with smooth rolling
23 mountainous terrain under a haze in the background. Vegetation is partially clumped with a
24 linear band in the viewshed next to the railway. Strong, angular lines and solid textures from
25 structures add a high level of visual contrast in the landscape. The overall scenic quality is
26 considered low (Class C), due to the high level of contrast from cultural modifications due to
27 residential development and railway activities.

28 **View with Project**

29 KOP 5-5 represents various types of viewers in the town of Huntington. Residents in the town
30 are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change, while viewers associated with
31 other urban uses present would have low or moderate sensitivity. Bare-earth viewshed analysis
32 indicates the Project would potentially be visible 2 miles to the northwest. The topography would
33 partially block views to the Proposed Corridor in some locations, and the ridges to the west
34 would provide a backdrop for the structures. Trees and buildings in the town would also screen
35 some potential views. Based on the viewing distance, the contrast from existing landscape
36 modifications created by urbanized uses, and partial view blockage and screening by
37 topography and structures, the Project contrast levels are rated as weak to none. With a Class
38 C landscape and weak or no contrast, the overall resource change is considered low at most.
39 The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP ranges from low to high, the viewing duration ranges
40 from moderate to long, and viewer numbers are considered moderate (the population of
41 Huntington is approximately 440 people). Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as
42 moderate to high. Based on a low (or no) resource change and moderate to high viewer
43 response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 5-5 is rated as no more than moderate.

44 **View with Willow Creek Alternate**

45 The Project would have a moderate to low level of visibility from the KOP, based on a viewing
46 distance of approximately 2.3 miles and partial view blockage or screening by terrain and trees.
47 The degree of contrast would be very weak to none, given the distance, a terrain backdrop, and

1 the extensive existing visual intrusions of the developed landscape surrounding the KOP. With a
2 Class C landscape and weak contrast, the overall resource change would be low (or none). The
3 overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high. Based on a low (at most) resource change
4 and moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact from the Willow Creek
5 Alternate at KOP 5-5 is rated as no more than moderate.

6 *4.2.5.2 KOP 5-10 Elkhorn Drive Scenic Byway*

7 KOP 5-10 is located on a segment of Baker County Road 73 that has been designated as part
8 of the Elkhorn Drive State Scenic Byway. The Elkhorn Drive is a 106-mile route that forms a
9 loop through the Elkhorn Mountains northwest of Baker City. The KOP is approximately 6 miles
10 northwest of Haines and 5 miles southwest of North Powder. The view orientation is east and
11 the Proposed Corridor is approximately 7.7 miles east of the KOP. Land ownership around the
12 KOP is generally private and the surrounding land uses are agricultural.

13 **Existing View**

14 The existing topographical form from KOP 5-10 is located in the Blue Mountain Basins
15 Ecoregion. The terrain in the view to the east is dominated by wide, open flat terrain in the
16 foreground, middleground, and background. Hazy, undulating ridgelines are visible in the distant
17 background. The viewshed is dominated by open agricultural fields in the foreground and
18 middleground, with gently undulating hills in the background. The hard lines of County Highway
19 73 (the Elkhorn State Scenic Byway) and adjacent fence lines also dominate in the immediate
20 foreground and become increasingly narrow and diluted in the viewshed. Tall, wooden poles
21 from a utility line parallel to the highway create vertical contrast against the horizontal landscape
22 and skyline. Colors in the area consist of vibrant green from irrigated pastures, gold grasses,
23 dark gray from road surface and brown/wood from the many utility poles and fence posts.
24 Dominant textures include the smooth and fine carpet of grazed pasture fields. Disruptions to
25 the natural physical characteristics are apparent throughout the viewshed and reflect a typical
26 agricultural setting. The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class C), because the
27 landscape is harmonious but lacks visual complexity and variety.

28 **View with Project**

29 Viewers at KOP 5-10 are primarily travelers on the Elkhorn Drive Scenic Byway north of Haines,
30 and are presumed to have a moderate to high level of sensitivity to visual change. Bare-earth
31 viewshed analysis indicates that the Proposed Corridor, located 7.7 miles away at the closest
32 point, would potentially be visible from KOP 5-10. Site-specific conditions indicate there would
33 be a low level of Project visibility because the topography would block views of Project facilities
34 in some locations and provide a visual backdrop in other locations. In addition, trees present in
35 many parts of the valley floor would create considerable screening. Based on these factors and
36 the viewing distance, the Project facilities might not be noticeable and contrast levels are rates
37 as weak, at most. The overall resource change is considered low, based on a Class C
38 landscape and weak contrast. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate to high, the
39 viewing duration would be short, and viewer numbers are considered low. Consequently, the
40 overall viewer response is rated as low to moderate. Based on a low resource change and low
41 to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 5-10 is rated as no more
42 than low to moderate.

43 *4.2.5.3 KOP 5-13 Farewell Bend State Recreation Area*

44 KOP 5-13 is located at the entrance to the Farewell Bend State Recreation Area off of U.S.
45 Highway 30, approximately 4 miles southwest of Huntington and 23 miles northwest of Ontario.
46 The view orientation is west and northwest and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 5.0

1 miles west of the KOP. Land ownership outside the park is generally private and the
2 surrounding land uses are primarily agricultural.

3 **Existing View**

4 KOP 5-13 is located within the Unwooded Alkaline Foothills portion of the Snake River Plain
5 Ecoregion. The view to the west is dominated by the wide, open valley floor in the foreground
6 and middleground that subtly transitions to low-lying hills in the distant background. Lines in the
7 landscape are primarily horizontal. U.S. Highway 30 also dominates the viewshed in the
8 immediate foreground and becomes increasingly narrow and diluted to the north and south. The
9 middleground view to the southwest is also characterized by several clumps of vertical tree
10 bands that create strong irregular, circular intrusions that are back-dropped by the white and
11 gray sky and darker terrain in the middleground. Colors in the area consist of light to medium
12 beige and tans from the crop vegetation, greens and olives from the deciduous trees, gray and
13 umber of the exposed soils, and blue, gray from the hazy background mountains. Textures from
14 vegetation and landform are mostly fine to medium with subtle contrast to smooth, hazy, low-
15 lying hills and sky in the background. Disruptions to the natural physical characteristics include
16 the highway, agricultural activities and vertical fence rows, and clumps of tall vegetation that
17 create a medium level of visual complexity and disturbance. Part of the I-84 roadway is visible in
18 the distance, while wooden structures from an H-frame transmission line are visible in the
19 middleground and a distribution line is located along the highway in the foreground. The overall
20 scenic quality is considered low (Class C), primarily because the landscape is harmonious but
21 lacks visual complexity and variety. This viewshed has agricultural and rural characteristics that
22 are common for this part of the Snake River Valley.

23 **View with Project**

24 KOP 5-13 primarily represents recreational visitors to the Farewell Bend State Recreation Area,
25 who are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. The park entrance is
26 located in an area with existing development, which provides some contrast with the natural
27 landscape. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates that the Proposed Corridor would potentially
28 be visible from KOP 5-13. The viewing distance is approximately 5 miles, and Project visibility
29 and contrast would be limited by topography that would block views of the Proposed Corridor in
30 some locations and provide a visual backdrop in locations where it was visible. As a result, the
31 contrast levels created by the proposed transmission facilities are rated as weak, and they may
32 be nonexistent. A construction multi-use area would be located immediately to the west of KOP
33 5-13, on the opposite side of U.S. Highway 30. While equipment and activity at this facility would
34 be noticeable to visitors entering and leaving the park, it would occur within a context of
35 substantial existing development and vehicle traffic. Therefore, this short-term visual presence
36 is not considered sufficient to measurably change the contrast rating associated with the
37 transmission facilities. With a Class C landscape and weak contrast, the overall resource
38 change is considered low. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high, the viewing duration
39 would be moderate, and viewer numbers are considered moderate to high. Consequently, the
40 overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high. Based on a low resource change and
41 moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 5-13 are rated as no
42 more than moderate.

43 **View with Willow Creek Alternate**

44 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Willow Creek Alternate would potentially be visible
45 from KOP 5-13. Based on further review of site-specific conditions, it is highly unlikely that
46 viewers at this location would be able to detect any Project facilities on this alignment. Most of
47 the route would be blocked from view by intervening topography. A line of sight would likely
48 exist to a section of the route to the southwest of the KOP; at a deep middleground viewing
49 distance of about 4 miles, however, the transmission line would be absorbed by the backdrop of

1 the elevated terrain west of I-84. Therefore, the visual contrast under the Willow Creek Alternate
2 would be minimal, and probably not evident to the typical viewer. As a result, the overall
3 resource change is rated as none, and there would be no adverse visual impact at KOP 5-13
4 from this alternative.

5 **4.2.5.4 KOP 5-15 Alder Creek Road near I-84**

6 KOP 5-15 is located at the intersection of Alder Creek Road and Old U.S. Highway 30,
7 approximately 15 miles southwest of Baker City. The site is just east of I-84, between Exits 313
8 and 317. The view orientation is looking north and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.5
9 mile north of the KOP. Lands in the vicinity of the KOP are generally in private ownership and
10 are used for agriculture or as rangeland.

11 **Existing View**

12 KOP 5-15 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
13 view to the north is dominated by wide, open rolling terrain in the foreground and middleground,
14 with steeper undulating hills in the background. The hard lines of Alder Creek Road dominate
15 the view in the immediate foreground, although beyond that the road becomes increasingly
16 narrow and diluted in the viewshed. Colors in the area consist of light to medium tans and
17 browns, golden grasses with the blue, green, and gray hues of the sagebrush. Textures from
18 vegetation and land form are mostly fine and smooth with dotted individual vertical trees
19 scattered throughout the landscape. A dense, even carpet of sagebrush and grasses covers the
20 landscape in the foreground and middleground. Visual disruptions to the natural characteristics
21 are limited to the existing Alder Creek Road and a few vertical thin road signs which are partially
22 absorbed by the background terrain. Several tall, thin vertical transmission poles are visible in
23 the background and contrast against the horizontal skyline. The overall scenic quality is
24 considered medium (Class B), due to the presence of simple forms and colors and overall lack
25 of complexity and minimal development.

26 **View with Project**

27 KOP 5-15 primarily represents travelers on Alder Creek Road southeast of Baker City, who are
28 presumed to have a moderate level of sensitivity to visual change. Some residential viewers,
29 who are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity, are also present nearby. Viewers in this
30 location would have a high level of Project visibility, as some facilities on the Proposed Corridor
31 would be seen on the skyline at a distance of approximately 0.3 mile. A communication station
32 located between MP 165 and 166 would be blocked from view by a low hill. Due to the skylining
33 and the close foreground viewing distance, the Project contrast levels are rated as moderate to
34 strong. With a Class B landscape and moderate to strong contrast, the overall resource change
35 is considered moderate to high. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate for some
36 viewers and high for others. The viewing duration would be short for travelers and long for
37 adjacent residents. Viewer numbers are low, based on the apparent traffic levels on Alder Creek
38 Road and the small number of nearby residences. Consequently, the overall viewer response is
39 rated as moderate. Based on a moderate to high resource change and moderate viewer
40 response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 5-15 is rated as no more than moderate to high.

41 **View with Flagstaff Alternate**

42 As discussed above, some facilities on the Proposed Corridor north of KOP 5-15 would be seen
43 on the skyline at a distance of approximately 0.3 mile. The closest part of the Flagstaff Alternate
44 would be located approximately 3 miles to the northwest of the KOP, however. Bare-earth
45 viewshed analysis indicates the KOP is in an area where localized topographic conditions would
46 determine whether facilities on the alternative route would be visible. Review of site-specific
47 conditions at KOP 5-15 indicates that the low ridges northwest of the KOP, which form the west
48 side of the Alder Creek Valley, would block the Flagstaff Alternate from view at this location.

1 Therefore, the Flagstaff Alternate would create no visual contrast at this KOP, the overall
2 resource change would be none, and there would be no incremental visual impact (beyond
3 those already identified for the Proposed Corridor) from this alternative at KOP 5-15.

4 **4.2.5.5 KOP 5-16 I-84 Crossing, Weatherby**

5 KOP 5-16 is located on I-84 approximately 1.4 southeast of the Weatherby Rest Area. The site
6 is approximately 30 miles southeast of Baker City and 11 miles northwest of Huntington. The
7 view orientation is east and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.3 mile from the KOP. The
8 lands along the freeway and to the west are generally in private ownership, while federal lands
9 managed by the BLM are located east of the freeway; the surrounding area is predominantly
10 rangeland.

11 **Existing View**

12 KOP 5-16 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
13 view to the east consists of the flat surface of the narrow valley floor in the foreground and
14 middleground, framed by the gently rolling valley walls in the middleground. The primary land
15 uses near the KOP are transportation and range. Dominant lines in the landscape are diagonal
16 and vertical in the foreground, with the hard lines of I-84 creating a butt edge against the
17 adjacent valley walls. Strong horizontal lines of mountainous ridges are visible in the
18 background. Colors in the viewshed are limited and provide little contrast between vegetation
19 and land. Textures from the dominant valley walls are gentle, with medium to coarse vegetation
20 and exposed soils in the immediate foreground. Visual disruptions to the physical landscape are
21 prominent and include the paved freeway, linear road barriers and signs, and a few vertical-
22 frame transmission towers that are skylined on the horizon. The overall scenic quality is
23 considered low (Class C), largely due to the lack of a complex vegetation composition, adjacent
24 views, and color variation, with little contrast between land and vegetation.

25 **View with Project**

26 KOP 5-16 is located on a busy interstate highway where the surrounding land is used primarily
27 as range. KOP 5-16 represents travelers on I-84, where duration of visibility is low due to
28 mobility and high rates of speed. Viewer numbers are high (the average daily traffic volume for
29 2011 is approximately 8,200 vehicles [ODOT 2012]) and viewer sensitivity is presumed to be
30 moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. The Proposed
31 Corridor crosses I-84 approximately 0.3 mile to the east of this KOP. Viewers would have a
32 foreground view of transmission towers and conductors spanning the highway and visible on the
33 adjacent hillsides. Because of the inferior viewing position, the towers pads and any additional
34 access roads would not be visible from the KOP. A potential fly yard location north of the
35 Weatherby Rest Area, if used by the contractor, would not be visible from KOP 5-16. Based on
36 the existing and with-Project conditions, contrast levels are rated as moderate to strong. The
37 overall resource change is considered moderate, based on a Class C landscape and moderate
38 to strong contrast. With a moderate resource change and moderate viewer response, the
39 incremental visual impact at KOP 5-16 is rated as moderate.

40 **4.2.5.6 KOP 5-17 I-84 near Lime**

41 KOP 5-17 is located at the Rye Valley Lane exit of I-84 (Exit 340). The site is approximately 3
42 miles northwest of Lime, 5 miles northwest of Huntington, and 4 miles southeast of Weatherby.
43 The interchange provides an access point to the Snake River – Mormon Basin Backcountry
44 Byway; the byway designation was adopted by the BLM to promote use of a route along
45 secondary roads near the Snake River. The view orientation is east and north and the Proposed
46 Corridor is approximately 0.2 mile from the KOP. Lands around the KOP are predominantly in
47 private ownership and in rangeland use.

Existing View

KOP 5-17 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The view to the west is dominated by wide, open space in the foreground and middleground that transitions to steeply sloped ridges. The viewshed is dominated by I-84 in the foreground and middleground, with undulating mountain ridgelines in the background. The middleground viewshed is also characterized by a dense patch of sagebrush that has relatively uniform coverage on a prominent hillside. Colors in the area consist of dark to medium tans and browns, greens and olives from the deciduous trees, gray/purple hues from the mountains, and dark gray from the asphalt road surface. Textures from vegetation and landform are mostly fine to medium, while I-84 is smooth and somewhat reflective. Disruptions to the natural characteristics are varied and include the dominant lines and texture of I-84, vertical road signs, utility poles, and curving guardrails. Several utility poles extend above the skyline, creating vertical contrast against the horizontal viewshed. The overall scenic quality is considered medium (Class B) due to the variety in landform, simple, yet complex colors and shadows, and heavy cultural modifications dominating the foreground.

View with Project

KOP 5-17 primarily represents travelers on I-84. Duration of visibility from this KOP is short, the overall viewer sensitivity is moderate and viewer numbers are considered high (the average daily traffic volume in this area is between 780 to 1,200 vehicles [ODOT 2012]). Consequently, the overall viewer response to change is rated as moderate. The Project would be visible on the ridge west of the freeway at a distance of approximately 0.2 mile, as shown in Figure R-4-12. While several Project transmission towers would be prominent and seen partially above the skyline, they would be consistent with modifications in the existing developed landscape, including other transmission towers as well as I-84. The Project facilities would add co-dominant contrasting vertical elements to the focal and angular landscape, resulting in contrast levels rated as moderate. A potential fly yard location has been identified adjacent to Rye Valley Lane, between I-84 and the Proposed Corridor. If used by the contractor, the short-term presence of equipment and activity visible at this site would not add measurable to the contrast created by the Project transmission facilities. With a Class B landscape and moderate contrast, the overall resource change is considered moderate. Based on a moderate resource change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 5-17 is rated as moderate.

4.2.5.7 KOP 5-18 I-84 Baker Valley Rest Area

KOP 5-18 is located at the Baker Valley Rest Area along I-84, approximately 8 miles north of Baker City. The view orientation is east and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 1.5 east of the KOP. Lands outside of the I-84 right-of-way are in private ownership and are used for agriculture or as rangeland.

Existing View

KOP 5-18 is located in the Blue Mountain Basins Ecoregion. The view to the east consists of the flat and rolling terrain in the foreground and middleground that subtly gives way to higher, rounded ridges. Due to the viewing position of this KOP, some of the middleground view is partially obscured by the foreground terrain. The primary land uses in the vicinity are transportation and agriculture, including both cultivated fields and rangeland. Dominant lines in the landscape are largely horizontal, but the curved lines of the road in the foreground are co-dominant. Hazy ridgelines of distant background mountains are apparent against the skyline. Vertical intrusions from a few scattered trees penetrate the largely horizontal landscape and skyline. Colors in the landscape consist of browns, reds, and blues, greens and olive, grays, and tans. The dominant textures from the vegetation are medium to coarse from grasses and low-lying shrubs. Textures from the hills are smooth with soft undulating ridgelines. Visual

1 disruptions to the landscape include several buildings, lightposts, and roadways. The overall
2 scenic quality is considered low (Class C) due to the existing alterations of the landscape,
3 limited viewshed from intervening terrain, and limited color and overall visual complexity.

4 **View with Project**

5 KOP 5-18 is located at the Baker Valley Rest Area along I-84. It represents views available to
6 freeway travelers, and specifically to visitors to the rest area. Viewer sensitivity is moderate,
7 view duration of view is short and use volume is high (the average daily traffic volume on I-84 in
8 this area is approximately 8,700 vehicles, although only a portion of this traffic enters the rest
9 area). Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Bare-earth viewshed
10 analysis indicates the Project would be visible approximately 1.5 mile to the east. Site-specific
11 conditions indicate the Project would have a low level of visibility, because the topography in the
12 foreground would block views directly toward the Proposed Corridor. However, there is
13 potential visibility of some towers to the northeast through a natural depression in the terrain.
14 Given the viewing distance and partial screening, contrast levels from this KOP are rated as
15 weak. With a Class C landscape and low contrast, the overall resource change is would be low.
16 Based on a low resource change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact
17 at KOP 5-18 is rated as low to moderate.

18 *4.2.5.8 KOP 5-25a National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center*

19 The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTIC) site approximately 5 miles east
20 of Baker City is the general location for KOP 5-25. The site includes approximately 500 acres of
21 federal lands managed by the BLM. With the exception of the NHOTIC site, the surrounding
22 lands are private lands that are largely undeveloped rangeland. Five specific sites on the
23 NHOTIC property have been used to assess potential Project impacts at this location.

24 The specific site for KOP 5-25a is on the Flagstaff Hill Trail, approximately 600 feet south of the
25 main building and approximately 0.4 mile north of Highway 86. The view orientation at this site
26 is toward the southeast, where the Proposed Corridor is 1.1 miles distant. The Flagstaff
27 Alternate is approximately 1.3 miles west of the KOP.

28 **Existing View**

29 KOP 5-25 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. This
30 area lies in the rain shadow of the Cascade Range and Blue Mountains and is defined by wide
31 ranges of temperature, high evapotranspiration, and early season moisture stress. This results
32 in a wide distribution of desert shrubs varying by soil depth, texture, and elevation. The
33 landscape to the east and southeast from KOP 5-25a consists of almost flat to gently rolling
34 terrain in the foreground, subtly transitioning to steeper terrain in the middleground. These areas
35 have a relatively even cover of sagebrush and grass vegetation. The view to the southeast is
36 dominated by Big Lookout Mountain and similar mountainous terrain, which becomes the major
37 focal point in the background of the view. Modifications to the natural landscape characteristics
38 in the foreground are limited to the divided entrance road to the NHOTIC, several lines of split-
39 rail wood fencing, several small signs, the entrance station, and an associated outbuilding on
40 the NHOTIC property. Highway 86, Ruckles Creek Road, and roadside fencing and utility poles
41 are evident beyond the NHOTIC property. The overall scenic quality is considered medium
42 (Class B).

43 **View with Project**

44 A specific viewpoint for KOP 5-25 is located at a wagon encampment display situated to the
45 south of the main NHOTIC structure. This KOP represents recreational visitors to the NHOTIC,
46 who are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. View duration for this site
47 is moderate and viewer numbers are high. Consequently, the overall viewer response is

1 moderate to high. The Proposed Corridor is approximately 1.1 miles to the southeast, and would
2 be seen against a backdrop of valley terrain with relatively dark vegetation (see Figure R-4-14).
3 The proposed structures would contrast moderately with the texture, form, and line of the
4 landscape. (A multi-use area and potential fly yard located 4 miles to the north would either not
5 be visible from the NHOTIC or would not create noticeable sources of additional contrast. While
6 helicopter activity associated with the fly yard might be visible, the temporary and intermittent
7 occurrence of such activity within a relatively developed area would not represent a meaningful
8 increase to the visual contrast created by the Project in the NHOTIC vicinity.) With a Class B
9 landscape and moderate contrast, the overall resource change is rated as moderate. Based on
10 a moderate resource change and moderate to high viewer response, the impact to viewers at
11 KOP 5-25 is anticipated to be no more than moderate to high.

12 **View with Flagstaff Alternate**

13 The Flagstaff Alternate is located approximately 1.3 miles to the west of KOP 5-25a and would
14 not be evident from this specific viewing location because the alternative route is below the crest
15 of Flagstaff Hill. (A potential fly yard located about 1 mile to the west would be on the opposite
16 side of a ridge and would not be visible from the NHOTIC. While helicopter activity associated
17 with the fly yard might be visible, the temporary and intermittent occurrence of such activity
18 within a relatively developed area would not represent a meaningful increase to the visual
19 contrast created by the Project in the NHOTIC vicinity.) Therefore, the Flagstaff Alternate would
20 create no visual contrast at this KOP, the overall resource change would be none, and there
21 would be no incremental visual impact from this alternative at KOP 5-25a.

22 *4.2.5.9 KOP 5-25b National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center*

23 The specific site for KOP 5-25b is on the Flagstaff Hill Trail, approximately 200 feet north of the
24 main building and approximately 0.5 mile north of Highway 86. The view orientation at this site
25 is toward the northeast and east, and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 1.2 mile to the
26 southeast. The Flagstaff Alternate is approximately 1.3 miles west of the KOP.

27 **Existing View**

28 The view from KOP 5-25b overlaps somewhat with that for KOP 5-25a, and the landscape is
29 similar. The foreground includes rolling terrain in a small valley northeast of the interpretive
30 center, subtly transitioning to a steeper low ridge in the middleground. A portion of the open
31 terrain of the Virtue Flat area is visible to the east and southeast. These areas have a relatively
32 even cover of sagebrush and grass vegetation. Modifications to the natural landscape
33 characteristics in the foreground are limited to portions of the paved NHOTIC trail system,
34 several light fixtures in the parking area, and the Lode Mine building on the NHOTIC property.
35 The thin line of Highway 86 is evident beyond the NHOTIC property. The overall scenic quality
36 is considered medium (Class B).

37 **View with Project**

38 The Proposed Corridor is located approximately 1.2 miles to the east of KOP 5-25b. The terrain
39 to the northeast would block some of the Project facilities from view, but this location provides a
40 limited viewing window toward the route on both sides of the Highway 86 crossing. From this
41 vantage point the transmission line would be seen against a dark terrain backdrop and the
42 contrast created by the Project would be weak. With a Class B scenic quality and weak contrast,
43 the overall resource change would be low to moderate. As discussed above for KOP 5-25a, the
44 overall viewer response would be moderate to high. Based on a low to moderate resource
45 change and a moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact from the
46 Proposed Corridor at KOP 5-25b would be moderate.

View with Flagstaff Alternate

The Flagstaff Alternate is located approximately 1.3 miles to the west of KOP 5-25b. While this location provides a limited viewing window northwest to the floor of the Baker Valley, the alternative route would be blocked from view by the shoulder of Flagstaff Hill and by the low ridge to the north of the site, and would not be evident from this specific viewing location. Therefore, the Flagstaff Alternate would create no visual contrast at this KOP, the overall resource change would be none, and there would be no incremental visual impact from this alternative at KOP 5-25b.

4.2.5.10 KOP 5-25c National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

KOP 5-25c is situated at the Panorama Point viewing platform located at the end of a NHOTIC trail approximately 0.7 mile northwest of the NHOTIC main building. The view orientation is west and the Flagstaff Alternate is approximately 0.5 mile west of the KOP. The Proposed Corridor is located approximately 1.7 miles to the southeast.

Existing View

The view to the west from KOP 5-25c is dominated by the wide, open Baker Valley, typical of the Blue Mountain Basins Ecoregion. This ecoregion is defined by fault bound grabens or depressions filled with sediment. The Baker Valley, located in the rain shadow of the Elkhorn Mountains, is relatively dry and has an area of alkali soil. The Elkhorn Mountains are a major landform and focal point in the background of the view. Colors in the landscape consist of varying shades of browns, tans, and reds, with the gray/blue hues of the sagebrush and wide-open sky. Lines are largely horizontal and undulating from the foreground and middleground hilltops. Textures are coarse from the dotted sagebrush in the foreground, but smoother in the middleground. Some cultural modifications to the landscape are visible, including a roadway, several clusters of buildings, crop patterns, and a transmission line supported on wooden H-frame structures. These features do not appear dominant and much of the landscape is predominantly natural-appearing, resulting in a Class B (medium) scenic quality rating.

View with Project

The Proposed Corridor is located approximately 1.7 miles to the east of KOP 5-25c and would not be evident from this specific viewing location because the upper part of Flagstaff Hill is located between the alignment and this specific viewpoint. Therefore, the Proposed Corridor would create no visual contrast at this KOP, the overall resource change would be none, and there would be no incremental visual impact from this alternative at KOP 5-25c.

View with Flagstaff Alternate

Viewers at KOP 5-25c would have a moderate to high level of visibility of a portion of the Flagstaff Alternate down in the Baker Valley (as shown in the simulation provided as Figure R-4-16). Because the transmission towers and conductors would be seen against the backdrop of the valley floor and slightly beyond the existing transmission line, the contrast is rated as moderate. With a Class B scenic quality and moderate contrast, the overall resource change would be moderate. As discussed previously, the overall viewer response for typical NHOTIC visitors is rated as moderate to high. Therefore, the incremental visual impacts from the Flagstaff Alternate at KOP 5-25c are rated as moderate to high.

4.2.5.11 KOP 5-25d National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

The specific site for KOP 5-25d is within the main interpretive center building, at a large window on the west side of the building. The view orientation at this site is toward the northwest and west. The Proposed Corridor is approximately 1.2 miles east of the KOP.

Existing View

KOP 5-25d provides a view toward the Baker Valley, and the character of the view is similar to that described for KOP 5-25c. The Elkhorn Mountains to the west of the valley are a major landform and focal point. Colors in the landscape primarily consist of varying shades of browns and tans in the valley (based on the time of year), and the gray/blue hues of the distant mountains. Some cultural modifications to the landscape are visible, as discussed above; because of the greater viewing distance compared to KOP 5-25c, the existing transmission line is less noticeable in this view. Much of the landscape is predominantly natural-appearing, and the scenic quality rating is Class B (medium).

View with Project

The Proposed Corridor is located approximately 1.2 miles to the east of KOP 5-25d. While several NHOTIC sites near the crest of Flagstaff Hill provide views toward the Proposed Corridor, at KOP 5-25d the interior of the main building blocks views to the east. Therefore, the Proposed Corridor would create no visual contrast at this KOP, the overall resource change would be none, and there would be no incremental visual impact from this alternative at KOP 5-25d.

View with Flagstaff Alternate

Viewers at KOP 5-25d would have a moderate level of visibility of a short section of the Flagstaff Alternate in the Baker Valley (as shown in the simulation provided as Figure R-4-18). Because the transmission towers and conductors would be seen against the backdrop of the valley floor and slightly beyond the existing transmission line, the contrast is rated as moderate. With a Class B scenic quality and moderate contrast, the overall resource change would be moderate. As discussed previously, the overall viewer response for typical NHOTIC visitors is rated as moderate to high. Therefore, the incremental visual impacts from the Flagstaff Alternate at KOP 5-25d are rated as moderate to high.

4.2.5.12 KOP 5-25e National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

The specific site for KOP 5-25e is near the NHOTIC amphitheater, adjacent to the Flagstaff Hill Trail and approximately 400 feet south of the main building. The view orientation at this site is toward the northwest and west. The Flagstaff Alternate is approximately 1.3 miles west of the KOP.

Existing View

KOP 5-25e also provides a view toward the Baker Valley. The character of the view is similar to that described for KOP 5-25c, although this site is more than 0.5 mile farther to the east and at a higher elevation. The same cultural modifications to the landscape are evident, but are slightly less visible than at KOP 5-25c. Much of the landscape is predominantly natural-appearing, and the scenic quality rating is Class B (medium).

View with Project

The Proposed Corridor is located approximately 1.2 miles to the east of KOP 5-25e and would not be evident from this specific viewing location because it is on the opposite side of the crest of Flagstaff Hill, and exterior NHOTIC facilities are located between the alignment and this specific viewpoint. Therefore, the Proposed Corridor would create no visual contrast at this KOP, the overall resource change would be none, and there would be no incremental visual impact from this alternative at KOP 5-25e.

1 **View with Flagstaff Alternate**

2 Viewing conditions at KOP 5-25e would be very similar to those described for KOP 5-25d.
3 Viewers at KOP 5-25e would have a moderate level of visibility of a short section of the Flagstaff
4 Alternate in the Baker Valley (as shown in the simulation provided as Figure R-4-20). Because
5 the transmission towers and conductors would be seen against the backdrop of the valley floor
6 and slightly beyond the existing transmission line, the contrast is rated as moderate. With a
7 Class B scenic quality and moderate contrast, the overall resource change would be moderate.
8 As discussed previously, the overall viewer response for typical NHOTIC visitors is rated as
9 moderate to high. Therefore, the incremental visual impacts from the Flagstaff Alternate at KOP
10 5-25d are rated as moderate to high.

11 **4.2.5.13 KOP 5-26 Oregon Trail ACEC, Hill Creek Road**

12 KOP 5-26 is located on a bluff above I-84, approximately 15 miles southwest of Baker City,
13 along I-84. The view orientation is looking northeast and includes a small parcel of the Oregon
14 Trail Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The Proposed Corridor is approximately
15 0.8 mile northeast of the KOP. Lands are generally under private ownership and are primarily
16 rangeland.

17 **Existing View**

18 KOP 5-26 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills in the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
19 view to the northeast consists of gently rolling terrain in the foreground and middleground that
20 blocks the background view. The primary land uses in the vicinity are agriculture (predominantly
21 rangeland) and transportation. Lines in the landscape are largely horizontal, with an undulating
22 horizontal skyline throughout the viewshed. Colors in the landscape include browns, tans, grays,
23 umber, silver, and wood. Patches of dark brown grasses provide dark undertones to the overall
24 landscape. The dominant textures from the landform are smooth and rolling, while vegetation is
25 coarse and rough in the foreground with a relatively dense and even distribution of sagebrush in
26 the middleground. The smooth, flat surface of several residential buildings in the foreground is
27 also visible from this viewpoint. The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class C), due to
28 rolling terrain that lacks a high level of complexity or color contrast in an open viewshed. The
29 few cultural modifications do not add to or detract from the overall scenic quality.

30 **View with Project**

31 KOP 5-26 is located on a bluff just above I-84 and represents highway travelers, for whom
32 viewer sensitivity is considered moderate. However, one residence is located in the foreground
33 view from this KOP, and sensitivity for residential viewers is high. Bare-earth viewshed analysis
34 indicates the Project would potentially be visible from this location. On-site review indicates that
35 Project visibility would be low because the foreground hill terrain would block direct views to the
36 Proposed Corridor. As a result of the visibility conditions and the influence of existing landscape
37 modifications, Project contrast levels are rated as weak to none. With a Class C landscape and
38 weak or no contrast, the overall resource change is considered low, at most. In general, the
39 level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate, the viewing duration is short, and viewer
40 numbers are considered high. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate.
41 Based on the low visual resource change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual
42 impact at KOP 5-26 is rated as no more than low to moderate.

43 **4.2.5.14 KOP 5-29 Oregon Trail Crossing, Hixon Road**

44 KOP 5-29 is located on Hixon Road approximately 1 mile north of I-84 and 10 miles northwest
45 of Durkee. The view orientation is north and northeast and the Proposed Corridor is
46 approximately 0.1 mile from the KOP. Lands around the KOP are in private ownership and are
47 primarily rangeland.

Existing View

KOP 5-29 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The view to the north and northeast consists of a wide open, flat valley floor with a slightly convex curve to landscape. Distant mountains add variety to the landform and create butt edge with the foreground and middleground terrain. The KOP is surrounded by rangeland. Dominant lines in the landscape are horizontal, with several vertical intrusions into the skyline from wood-pole transmission structures dotting the landscape. The hard lines of Hixon Road create a high level of contrast against the adjacent grasses. Dominant colors in the viewshed have dark overtones and consist of browns, reds, blues, greens, oranges, and grays of the vegetation. The dominant textures from the vegetation are fine to medium from grasses and low-lying shrubs throughout the landscape. Vegetation coverage is dense. The gravel-surfaced Hixon Road is apparent in the foreground and middleground views. The foreground also includes fencing, gates, and corral structures. The overall scenic quality is considered medium (Class B), due to the background terrain, dense vegetation composition, wide open views, and sky.

View with Project

KOP 5-29 represents travelers on Hixon Road and viewers at one residence served by the road. Residents are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to change, while travelers have moderate sensitivity. Given this, duration of views is long from the residence and short from the road. The Project would be highly visible from this KOP, at a distance of approximately 0.1 mile. Transmission towers would add a new vertical element to the landscape that would dominate the viewshed from this KOP. Because the residence is located in a valley, however, topography would block the majority of the transmission line; it is likely that only the top portions of several transmission towers would be visible to the southwest, while more towers would be visible to the southeast as the transmission line would span a gully. A potential fly yard location has been identified slightly to the north of the Proposed Corridor, adjacent to the existing 138-kV transmission line. If the contractor used this facility, equipment and activity at the site would provide a short-term visual element that would not measurably change the overall Project contrast. The contrast with the Project is rated as moderate, largely as a result of the cultural modifications already present in the landscape. The overall resource change is considered moderate, based on a Class B existing scenic quality and moderate contrast. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP ranges from moderate to high, the viewing durations would be brief and long, and viewer numbers are very low for both viewer groups. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the moderate visual resource change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at from KOP 5-29 is rated as moderate.

4.2.5.15 KOP 5-30 Oregon Trail Crossing, Plano Road

KOP 5-30 is located on Plano Road, approximately 4.5 miles southeast of the town of Durkee. The KOP is near a location where the Proposed Corridor crosses and parallels the route of the Oregon Trail. The view orientation is looking north and east and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.5 mile east of the KOP and 1 mile north of the KOP. Lands around the KOP are in private ownership and are primarily rangeland.

Existing View

KOP 5-30 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The view to the west consists of gently rolling terrain in the foreground and beyond. The land surrounding the KOP is primarily rangeland used for grazing, although there is a small irrigated hayfield in the foreground and I-84 is located nearby. Lines in the landscape are largely horizontal, with an undulating horizontal skyline throughout the viewshed. Colors in the landscape include reds, browns, tans, grays and blues, silver and wood. The texture from the vegetation is medium to coarse in the foreground with a relatively even distribution of

1 sagebrush, to a more dotted and sparse vegetation landscape in the middleground and
2 background. The smooth, flat surface of Plano Road is located on the periphery of the view,
3 along with the solid surface of a small building. The overall scenic quality is considered medium
4 (Class B); the consistent, uninterrupted rolling terrain lacks a high level of complexity and color
5 contrast and the few cultural modifications do not detract from the overall scenic quality.

6 **View with Project**

7 KOP 5-30 is located on a little-traveled road that accesses a few private residences and farms,
8 where viewers are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. These viewers
9 would have a low level of Project visibility because low ridges between the KOP and
10 transmission line would block the view in most locations. However, the view is more open
11 through a small valley 0.5 mile east of the KOP, and several transmission towers might be
12 partially visible in this location. A communication station located where the Proposed Corridor
13 crosses Plano Road to the south would not be visible. Based on the expected degree of tower
14 visibility, contrast levels are rated as weak. The overall resource change is considered low to
15 moderate, based on Class B existing scenic quality and low contrast. The level of visual
16 sensitivity at this KOP is high, the viewing duration would be long, and viewer numbers are low.
17 Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high. Based on the low to
18 moderate visual resource change and moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual
19 impact at KOP 5-30 is rated as moderate.

20 *4.2.5.16 KOP 5-31 Oregon Trail Crossing, Weatherby*

21 KOP 5-31 is located at the Weatherby Rest Area off of Interstate 84, approximately 30 miles
22 southeast of Baker City. The KOP is near a location where the Proposed Corridor crosses the
23 route of the Oregon Trail. The view orientation is looking northeast and the Proposed Corridor is
24 approximately 0.3 miles east and north of the KOP. The KOP itself represents a transportation
25 use, while the lands surrounding the KOP are generally under private and state ownership and
26 are primarily rangeland.

27 **Existing View**

28 KOP 5-31 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
29 view to the east is dominated by two large, gently rolling hills that limit the viewshed of this KOP
30 to the immediate foreground. Dominant lines are horizontal and curving from the circular
31 ridgelines of foreground hills. Colors in the viewshed are limited to browns and grays, with a
32 touch of green and olive from the scant vegetation. Textures are medium to coarse, due to the
33 proximity of the hillside vegetation to the KOP. Although the KOP is located in a developed rest
34 area, associated facilities at the KOP are not readily apparent from this vantage point. Despite
35 this, the overall scenic quality is considered low (Class C) due to the existing alterations of the
36 landscape, limited viewshed from intervening terrain and limited color and overall visual
37 complexity.

38 **View with Project**

39 There would be no visibility of the Proposed Corridor from KOP 5-31 due to the placement of
40 the towers at a location beyond the horizon line that is visible from the KOP. Given this
41 relationship and the inferior viewing position, the foreground terrain would block all views of
42 proposed transmission line. A potential fly yard location has been identified along the east side
43 of I-84 approximately 0.5 mile north of KOP 5-31. If the contractor used a fly yard in this
44 location, equipment and activity at the facility might be partially visible from the KOP. To the
45 extent this occurred, the effect would be intermittent and temporary, and would not represent a
46 meaningful visual impact of the Project in this location. The Project would create no long-term
47 visual contrast, the overall resource change would be none, and there would be no adverse
48 visual impact at KOP 5-31 from the Proposed Corridor.

4.2.5.17 KOP 5-32 Oregon Trail Kiwanis Club Memorial

KOP 5-32 is located at a roadside interpretive site, known as the Oregon Trail Kiwanis Club Memorial, along the south side of State Highway 86, approximately 7 miles northeast of Baker City and 0.8 mile southwest of the NHOTIC. The facility consists of an enlarged gravel shoulder area at the side of the roadway, a series of terraced steps created by landscape timbers and surrounded by a split-rail wooden fence, and plaques mounted on two boulders. Highway 86 crosses the Oregon Trail route a short distance to the east of the site, and the NHOTIC facilities are visible on the hill to the northeast. The view orientation is east and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 1.8 miles east of the KOP. With the exception of the NHOTIC and the highway, surrounding lands are largely undeveloped rangeland.

Existing View

The view to the east from KOP 5-32 is mostly enclosed by Flagstaff Hill and adjacent rolling terrain to the north and south. The low saddle crossed by Highway 86 provides an open view to the southeast that includes Big Lookout Mountain and other high terrain in the distance. Dense cover dominated by sagebrush is present on the flatter areas and north slopes, while the slopes to the north and northeast are barren or have a thin grass cover. The view to the northwest from KOP 5-32 is dominated by the wide, open Baker Valley, typical of the Blue Mountain Basins Ecoregion. This ecoregion is defined by fault bound grabens or depressions filled with sediment. The Baker Valley, located in the rain shadow of the Elkhorn Mountains, is dry and has an area of alkali soil. The Elkhorn Mountains are a major landform and focal point in the background of the view. Cultural modifications to the landscape visible in the foreground are the memorial site facilities, views to the west and northwest, with the highway and the NHOTIC facilities, while additional transportation features and numerous farm and rural residential structures are visible in the Baker Valley to the northwest. The cultural modifications do not detract from the scenic quality, however, and the landscape is predominantly natural-appearing in character. The overall scenic quality for KOP 5-32 is rated as Class B.

View with Project

Viewers at KOP 5-32 are primarily State Highway 86 travelers who stop at the Oregon Trail Kiwanis Club Memorial. Based on their apparent historical interest, and because many of these viewers may be on their way to visit the NHOTIC, they are presumed to have a moderate to high level of sensitivity to change. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Project may potentially be visible from this location. On-site conditions, however, indicate that the intervening topography between the KOP and the Proposed Corridor would block views of the facilities from this location. As such, the transmission line and towers would not create visual contrast or incremental visual impacts at KOP 5-32.

View with Flagstaff Alternate

The ridge to the south of the highway and the rolling terrain to the north would limit visibility of the Flagstaff Alternate from KOP 5-32 to a short section (possibly only one structure) that would appear in the foreground just beyond the highway and existing transmission line. The visible Project facilities would be seen against the backdrop of the valley floor and in the context of the existing modifications, and would not dominate the landscape. As such, the visual contrast is rated as weak. With a Class B scenic quality and weak contrast, the overall resource change would be low to moderate. The overall viewer response for this location is moderate, as discussed previously. Based on a low to moderate resource change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact from the Flagstaff Alternate at KOP 5-32 is rated as low to moderate.

1 4.2.5.18 KOP 5-33 Oregon Trail Ruts Interpretive Site

2 KOP 5-33 is located at another Oregon Trail interpretive access site on State Highway 86, a
3 short distance to the east of KOP 5-32 and approximately 0.4 mile southwest of the NHOTIC. At
4 this location there is an expanded gravel shoulder on the north side of the highway that is
5 bordered by a split-rail wooden fence. The site is labeled as the "Ruts Access Trail" on the map
6 for the NHOTIC site (BLM 2012a); a paved path leads 180 feet from the parking area to an
7 Oregon Trail segment on which trail ruts are still visible. The primary view orientation is east,
8 where the Proposed Corridor is approximately 1.2 miles east of the KOP. The surrounding lands
9 beyond the highway corridor are largely undeveloped rangeland.

10 **Existing View**

11 The view to the east from KOP 5-33 is dominated by Lookout Mountain and the terrain of the
12 Continental Foothills Ecoregion, which lie in the rain shadow of the Cascade Range and Blue
13 Mountains. This ecoregion is defined by wide ranges of temperature, high evapotranspiration,
14 and early-season moisture stress. This results in a wide distribution of desert shrubs varying by
15 soil depth, texture, and elevation. Mountain mahogany and bitterbrush are also common. The
16 mountainous terrain becomes the major focal point in the background of the view. While some
17 man-made modifications to the landscape are visible, primarily the roadway and a local utility
18 line, the landscape is predominantly natural-appearing in character. The overall scenic quality is
19 rated as Class B.

20 **View with Project**

21 Viewers at KOP 5-33 are primarily recreational visitors to the NHOTIC site and/or travelers on
22 Highway 86 who stop at the site because of interest in the Oregon Trail features. As a result, the
23 viewers are presumed to have a high or moderate to high level of sensitivity to change. Bare-
24 earth viewshed analysis indicates the Project may potentially be visible from this location. On-
25 site conditions indicate that rolling terrain would generally block views of Project facilities north
26 of Highway 86; several towers would be visible where the route angles across a slope to the
27 southeast, however, and some would likely be seen against the skyline. Looking east, due to a
28 straight line distance of approximately 1.2 miles, visual contrast of the transmission line and
29 towers would be weak. The light and dark gray/blue and metallic finish of towers would be
30 visible, as would be the contrasting arrangement of lattice structures and the smooth, uniform
31 metallic finish of lattice towers. Hard lines from access roads and tower pads would also likely
32 be partially visible and would produce a weak level of contrast against the existing terrain and
33 vegetation. Given the viewing distance of approximately 1.2 miles and the character of the
34 visible changes, the visual contrast of the Project as seen from this location would be weak.
35 With a Class B scenic quality and weak contrast, the degree of resource change would be low
36 to moderate. The duration of the view would be short and the number of viewers would be
37 moderate, resulting in a moderate overall viewer response. Based on a low to moderate
38 resource change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact for KOP 5-33 is
39 anticipated to be low to moderate.

40 **View with Flagstaff Alternate**

41 The Flagstaff Alternate is located approximately 1 mile to the west of KOP 5-33. The rolling,
42 elevated terrain west of the KOP would block views of Project facilities on the Flagstaff
43 Alternate. Therefore, the Flagstaff Alternate would create no visual contrast at this KOP, the
44 overall resource change would be none, and there would be no incremental visual impact from
45 this alternative at KOP 5-33.

1 4.2.5.19 KOP 5-34 Powder River ACEC

2 KOP 5-34 is located on a native-surfaced, two-track road north of State Highway 203 in the
3 Lower Powder valley, approximately 11 miles northeast of Baker City. The site is on BLM-
4 administered lands designated as an ACEC. The ACEC was designated to protect habitat for
5 raptors and other wildlife, cultural resources, and scenic qualities. The view orientation is to the
6 south and west, and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 3.7 miles southwest of the KOP.

7 **Existing View**

8 KOP 5-34 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
9 view to the south and west consists of flat to slightly rolling terrain in the foreground,
10 middleground, and background. Dominant lines in the landscape are horizontal from the terrain
11 against the distant horizon line. Vegetation is mostly low-lying shrubs and grasses that have no
12 discernible line or shape. Vegetation becomes more evenly distributed in the middleground and
13 foreground. There are no trees in this view. Color complexity is limited to golden grasses and
14 greens, blues, and grays of the sagebrush. The dominant textures from the vegetation are fine
15 from grasses and coarse from the sagebrush in the foreground. Vegetation texture becomes
16 smooth and fine in the middleground and foreground. Visual disruptions from cultural
17 modifications are limited to the primitive, natural-surface two-track road in the foreground.
18 Otherwise, this is a naturally appearing landscape. The overall scenic quality is considered
19 moderate (Class B).

20 **View with Project**

21 KOP 5-34 represents potential recreational visitors to the Powder River ACEC, which is
22 accessed from a dirt road off of State Highway 203. Potential changes to land, water, and
23 vegetation would not be visible from the KOP due to intervening terrain and a viewing distance
24 of over 3 miles. Portions of the transmission line would be blocked from view by rolling terrain in
25 the foreground. However, several short, angular towers might be visible against the skyline in
26 the middleground. The angular lines from the transmission towers may appear as dark lines
27 against the light sky. In addition, visible towers would be viewed in a random, dotted order, but
28 would likely be partially absorbed by the existing stippled textures in the landscape. Based on
29 these characteristics the contrast is rated as weak and, with a Class B scenic quality, the overall
30 resource change would be low to moderate. Viewers at KOP 5-34 are presumed to have high
31 sensitivity to visual change. The view duration would be moderate and this site would have a
32 low number of viewers. As a result, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on
33 a low to moderate resource change and a moderate viewer response, the incremental visual
34 impact at KOP 5-34 is rated as low to moderate.

35 4.2.5.20 KOP 5-35 Powder River Wild and Scenic River Corridor, SH 203

36 KOP 5-35 is located on State Highway 230 (the Medical Springs Highway) approximately 12.5
37 miles northeast of Baker City and 5 miles northwest of the town of Keating. The site is near the
38 Powder River and within the designated Wild and Scenic River corridor. The primary view
39 orientation follows the highway to the southwest, although the viewpoint also provides open
40 views from the south through the north. The Proposed Corridor is approximately 5.5 miles west
41 of the KOP. Lands within the valley bottom area are generally under private ownership and are
42 used primarily for agriculture. The slopes adjoining the valley have a mixture of federal and
43 private lands.

44 **Existing View**

45 KOP 5-35 is located within the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
46 view to the south and west from KOP 5-35 consists of flat to gradual and increasingly rolling
47 terrain in the foreground, middleground, and background. Dominant lines in the landscape are

1 horizontal from the terrain against the distant horizon line. Vegetation is mostly low-lying shrubs
2 and grasses that have hard lines against Highway 203. Sagebrush vegetation becomes denser
3 and more evenly distributed in the middleground. The presence of the Powder River within the
4 landscape is evident, but the river itself is not visible. A linear band of riparian trees is apparent,
5 primarily in the left side view south of the highway bridge. Color complexity is limited to golden
6 grasses and greens, blues and grays of the sagebrush. The dominant textures from the
7 vegetation are fine from grasses and coarse from the sagebrush in the foreground. Vegetation
8 texture starts off fine in the immediate foreground, and then becomes coarse around the band of
9 trees. It then transitions back to fine and medium against the hillsides. The strong, angular lines
10 of the structures located near the river are apparent, but do not dominate the landscape. The
11 overall scenic quality is considered low (Class C), due to the lack of a complex vegetation
12 composition and a relatively common viewshed in this part of the Blue Mountains. Cultural
13 modifications include a paved-surface road, several fence lines, transmission poles and
14 conductors and a few structures; these detract slightly from the overall scenic quality.

15 **View with Project**

16 KOP 5-35 represents travelers on State Highway 203, who are presumed to have a low or
17 moderate level of sensitivity to visual change. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the
18 Project would potentially be visible from this location. It is evident from field review that the low
19 ridge west of the Powder River would block the most direct views toward the Proposed Corridor.
20 It is possible there would be a line of sight to the Project in a southerly direction, although the
21 riparian vegetation may provide a least a partial screen. Based on those conditions, the long
22 viewing distance and the contrast from existing cultural modifications, Project contrast levels
23 would be weak or none. This view is within a Class C landscape and the overall resource
24 change is considered low, at most. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is low or moderate,
25 the viewing duration would be short, and viewer numbers are considered low. Consequently, the
26 overall viewer response is rated as low. Based on the low visual resource change and low
27 viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 5-35 is also rated as no more than low.

28 *4.2.5.21 KOP 5-36 Powder River Wild and Scenic River Corridor, Thief Valley* 29 *Reservoir Road*

30 KOP 5-36 is also located within the designated Powder Wild and Scenic River corridor, similar
31 to KOP 5-35. This site is located near the river and about 4 miles east of the community of North
32 Powder. It is on Thief Valley Reservoir Road approximately 0.3 mile southwest of the southern
33 portion of the reservoir. The view orientation is to the west and the Proposed Corridor is
34 approximately 2.5 miles west of the KOP. Lands around the KOP are used for recreation and as
35 rangeland.

36 **Existing View**

37 KOP 5-36 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
38 view to the west is dominated by almost flat to gently rolling terrain in the foreground, subtly
39 transitioning to steeper terrain in the middleground. Background views are blocked by terrain in
40 the middleground. The monotone, stippled sagebrush vegetation dominates the scene in the
41 immediate foreground to the west. There are no man-made features visible to the west. Colors
42 in the area consist of various shades of browns and grays from the landform; browns, tans,
43 yellows, and olive hues from the vegetation visible in the viewshed. Textures from vegetation
44 are coarse and stippled in the foreground. The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class C)
45 due to the lack of diversity with vegetation and landform coverage, color, and textures in the
46 area seen from KOP 5-36.

47

View with Project

KOP 5-36 primarily represents recreational users, who have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. Due to the Wild and Scenic River status, viewer expectations are assumed to be high. The duration of view is moderate and use volume is low. As a result, the overall viewer response is moderate. Viewers at KOP 5-36 are expected to have no visibility of the Project, however, due to the viewing distance of approximately 2.5 miles and the elevated terrain between the reservoir and the KOP. The lack of visibility would result in no contrast associated with the Project, no change to the existing scenic quality, and no incremental visual impact at this KOP.

4.2.5.22 KOP 5-41 Journey Through Time Scenic Byway, Baker City

KOP 5-41 is located on State Highway 7 at the entrance to a residential area just south of Baker City. This portion of Highway 7 comprises the eastern segment of the Journey Through Time State Scenic Byway. The view orientation is east and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 5.8 miles east of the KOP. KOP 5-41 is located in an area of private land ownership where surrounding land uses are residential and agricultural, including pasture and rangeland.

Existing View

KOP 5-41 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The view to the east consists of a narrow valley floor enclosed by gently rolling terrain in the middleground that quickly transitions to rolling mountainous terrain in the background, creating a butt edge between the two horizon lines. Dominant lines in the landscape are horizontal. The hard lines of Highway 7 in the foreground create a high level of contrast in the horizontal landscape. Colors in the landscape are diverse and consist of browns, reds, with gray/blue hues; black from exposed soil/gravel, gold and tans of grasses, vibrant green of pasture grasses and dark gray; yellow, white, red, wood from the cultural modifications. The dominant textures from the vegetation are medium to coarse in the foreground, and smoother in the background due to distance. Textures from the land form are medium to coarse from the rough valley walls in the foreground. Visual disruptions from cultural modifications are a prominent part of the landscape and include transportation and farming infrastructure. The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class C), due to the cultural modifications that have altered that natural appearance of the landscape.

View with Project

KOP 5-41 represents travelers State Highway 7, who are presumed to have a moderate to high level of sensitivity to visual change due to the location of this KOP on a designated scenic byway. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates this location is at or near the edge of an area of potential Project visibility. Review of site-specific conditions indicates that intervening topography (primarily a low ridge in the middleground) and existing structures and vegetation would likely block or screen views of the Project. Based on the background viewing distance (5.8 miles), any structures that might be in the line of sight would not likely be noticeable. Therefore, the Project contrast level is rated as none, as is the overall resource change. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate to high, the viewing duration would be short, and viewer numbers are considered moderately high (the average daily traffic volume in this location in 2011 was approximately 1,300 vehicles). Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high. Based on the lack of visual resource change, there would be no incremental visual impact at KOP 5-41.

View with Flagstaff Alternate

Project facilities on the Flagstaff Alternate would not be visible from KOP 5-41 as a result of the viewing distance (approximately 3.3 miles), intervening topography, and view blockage by

1 existing man-made structures in the viewshed. As such, the Project would create no visual
2 contrast under the Flagstaff Alternate, the overall resource change would be none, and there
3 would be no adverse visual impact at KOP 5-41 from this alternative.

4 **4.2.5.23 KOP 5-43 Snake River – Mormon Basin Backcountry Byway, Oregon Trail** 5 **Boulevard**

6 KOP 5-43 is located on U.S. Highway 30 approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the town of
7 Huntington and 0.3 mile east of I-84 in southeastern Baker County. This section of U.S. 30 is
8 part of the Snake River – Mormon Basin Backcountry Byway (see previous discussion for KOP
9 5-17). There is little surrounding development near the KOP and the land use is primarily
10 agricultural. The view orientation is west; the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.6 mile west
11 of the KOP and makes a turn to the southwest at this location.

12 **Existing View**

13 KOP 5-43 is located within the Melange component of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The view
14 to the west from KOP 5-43 consists of the flat surface of the valley floor in the foreground, with
15 quick transitions to rolling terrain in the middleground and steeper terrain in the background
16 creating several butt edges and shelves in the viewshed. The primary land use around the KOP
17 is agriculture, including pasture and rangeland, while transportation and utility uses are also
18 evident. Dominant lines in the landscape are undulating horizontal ridgelines that create subtle,
19 digitate edges between the rolling land forms. The road cuts from Highway 30 and I-84 are
20 apparent in the viewshed. Vegetation is mostly a medium-textured carpet of low to medium-lying
21 grasses and sagebrush in the foreground that becomes dotted and patchy in the middleground.
22 Several clumps of vertical trees with circular canopies that stay below the horizon line are
23 apparent. The dominant texture from the vegetation and landform is medium to coarse in the
24 foreground but transitions to a smoother texture due to increased density in the middleground
25 and background. Visual disruptions to the natural landscape are limited to the flat, gravel-
26 surfaced road in the foreground and several vertical transmission line towers along the horizon
27 throughout the viewshed. The overall scenic quality is considered high to medium to high (Class
28 B), due to landform complexity, apparent color contrasts and complexity, variation in vegetation
29 cover, and few dominant cultural modifications.

30 **View with Project**

31 KOP 5-43 is located in an area with little surrounding development and it primarily represents
32 both recreational travelers and local travelers. These users are presumed to have moderate and
33 moderate to high of sensitivity to change, respectively. The Project would have a high level of
34 visibility in the middleground to the west of I-84 at a distance of less than 1 mile from the KOP
35 (see Figure R-4-22). Several towers would be back-dropped by the terrain, but other towers
36 would skyline on the horizon and add a contrasting vertical element in the undulating horizontal
37 skyline. Colors and textures would likely be partially absorbed by the surrounding terrain. Based
38 on these conditions, the height of the proposed transmission structures and the existing
39 landscape modifications, contrast levels are rated as moderate. With a Class B landscape and
40 moderate contrast, the overall resource change would be moderate. The viewer sensitivity is
41 moderate to high, with a short view duration and moderate viewer numbers. As a result, the
42 overall viewer response would be moderate. Because the overall resource change is considered
43 moderate, the overall viewer response is moderate, and the incremental visual impact for KOP
44 5-43 is rated as moderate.

45 **View with Willow Creek Alternate**

46 The Willow Creek Alternate would not be visible from KOP 5-43 because of intervening
47 topography, as indicated by bare-earth viewshed analysis and review of site-specific conditions.
48 As such, the Project would create no visual contrast, the overall resource change would be

1 none, and there would be no adverse visual impact at KOP 5-43 from the Willow Creek
2 Alternate.

3 *4.2.5.24 KOP 5-44 Snake River – Mormon Basin Backcountry Byway, Rye Valley* 4 *Lane*

5 KOP 5-44 is located near I-84 between Weatherby and Lime in southeastern Baker County. The
6 KOP is on Rye Valley Lane, a gravel road used to access residences in the valley, and is
7 approximately 0.7 mile west from the I-84 Rye Valley Lane exit. The view orientation is to the
8 east and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.2 mile east of the KOP. Land ownership is
9 generally private and the surrounding land uses are primarily residential and agricultural,
10 including rangeland.

11 **Existing View**

12 KOP 5-44 is located in the Melange portion of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The view to the
13 east consists of the flat surface of the narrow valley floor in the foreground and middleground,
14 framed by gently rolling but steeply sloped valley walls in the middleground. At the end of the
15 road, a distant horizontal ridgeline is visible in between valley walls. Dominant lines in the
16 landscape are diagonal and vertical in the foreground, with the hard lines of the road creating a
17 butt edge against the adjacent valley walls. Colors in the viewshed vary between light and dark
18 beige, tans and browns, blue/gray hues and dark rock formations sparsely scattered in the
19 viewshed. Textures from the dominant valley walls are medium to coarse in the immediate
20 foreground but transition to a smoother texture toward the middleground. Visual disruptions to
21 the natural landscape are limited to the gravel-surface road, linear fence and a few vertical, H-
22 frame transmission towers that are skylined on the horizon. The overall scenic quality is
23 considered medium (Class B), due to the complexity in landform, limited apparent cultural
24 modifications, lack of a complex vegetation composition, adjacent views, and simple colors
25 where there is little contrast between land and vegetation.

26 **View with Project**

27 KOP 5-44 primarily represents people traveling on the byway, who are presumed to have a
28 moderate to high level of sensitivity to visual change. The Project would be highly visible at a
29 distance of 0.2 mile from the KOP, and viewers would see transmission towers located on the
30 adjacent hillsides and conductors spanning the valley above the road. The primary source of
31 contrast would be the lattice transmission towers viewed against the skyline. Because the valley
32 walls would block the view beyond the crossing location and several existing transmission
33 towers are already visible, the contrast is rated as moderate. A potential fly yard location has
34 been identified adjacent to Rye Valley Lane, between I-84 and the Proposed Corridor. If used by
35 the contractor, the short-term presence of equipment and activity visible at this site would not
36 add measurable to the contrast created by the Project transmission facilities. The overall
37 resource change is also considered moderate, based on the Class B existing scenic quality and
38 moderate contrast. The viewer sensitivity is moderate to high, the viewing duration is short, and
39 viewer numbers are low. As a result, the overall viewer response is rated as low to moderate.
40 Based on the moderate resource visual resource change and low to moderate viewer response,
41 the incremental visual impact at this KOP is rated as no more than moderate.

42 *4.2.5.25 KOP 5-57 Haines Community*

43 KOP 5-57 is located in the small community of Haines (population 415 [Portland State
44 University 2011]) in northwestern Baker County. The site is on U.S. Highway 30, the primary
45 street through the town. Land uses in the immediate vicinity include commercial, residential,
46 agricultural, and institutional. The view orientation is to the east and the Proposed Corridor is
47 approximately 6.8 miles east of the KOP.

Existing View

KOP 5-57 is located in the Blue Mountain Basins portion of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The view to the east is dominated by wide, open flat terrain in the foreground, middleground, and background. Hazy, undulating ridgelines from mountains are visible in the distant background. The viewshed is dominated by a school playfield and open agricultural fields in the foreground, and gently undulating hills in the middleground and background. The hard lines of the adjacent buildings and fence lines dominate the viewshed in the immediate foreground and become increasingly narrow and diluted in the viewshed. Colors in the area consist of vibrant green from irrigated pastures, gold grasses, dark gray from the road surface, and brown/wood from the utility poles and fence posts as well as the white school structure, which is prominent in the foreground. Dominant textures include the smooth and fine carpet of lawn area and grazed pasture fields and structures as well as the stippled hills in the middleground to background. Disruptions to the natural characteristics are apparent throughout the viewshed and reflect a typical agricultural community. The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class C) due to the harmonious landscape that lacks visual complexity and variety.

View with Project

KOP 5-57 primarily represents residential viewers in the community of Haines, who are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. These viewers would have at most a low level of Project visibility because the rolling terrain east of the town would block views of the Proposed Corridor in most locations. The long viewing distance of approximately 6.8 miles would also further diminish the potential visibility of the Project. Due to the topographic conditions and distance to the Proposed Corridor, contrast levels would be weak or none. Within a Class C landscape and low or no contrast, the overall resource change is considered low at most. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high, the viewing duration would be long, and viewer numbers are moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high. Based on a low (at most) resource change and a moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 5-57 is rated as no more than moderate.

4.2.5.26 KOP 5-59 Spring Wilderness Inventory Unit

KOP 5-59 is also located adjacent to the Spring Wilderness Characteristic Area. The site is on a two-track road northeast of Lime and approximately 3.2 miles east of I-84. The view orientation is west, and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 4.4 miles west of the KOP. The KOP is located on lands managed by the BLM.

Existing View

KOP 5-59 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The view to the west is dominated by steeply-sloped mountains in the middleground and background. The viewshed is dominated by mountain and canyon terrain with undulating mountain ridgelines. The vegetation is generally characterized by dense patches of sagebrush that has relatively uniform coverage on the hillside in the foreground. Colors in the area consist of dark to medium tans and browns, greens and olives, and gray/purple hues from the mountains. Textures from vegetation and land form are mostly fine to medium, and are smoother in the background. Disruptions to the natural landscape characteristics include the road, which is visible in the foreground and middleground; a communications facility adjacent to the KOP that includes a lattice tower, gravel pad, small building and a propane tank; a road and agricultural fields in Rye Valley to the west; a large, light-colored scar from surface disturbance on a distant ridge to the west; and a distant windfarm with oscillating blades. I-84 is within the valley evident in the middleground, but is not visible. A gravel-surfaced access road is faintly visible crossing the middle of the slope on the opposite side of the valley. The overall scenic

1 quality is considered medium (Class B), primarily based on the degree of variety in landform
2 and vegetation.

3 **View with Project**

4 KOP 5-59 also primarily represents recreational visitors to the Spring Wilderness Inventory Unit.
5 Viewer sensitivity is high, the duration of view is moderate, and viewer numbers are considered
6 to be very low. Therefore, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Bare-earth
7 viewshed analysis indicates KOP 5-59 is at the edge of an area with potential visibility of the
8 Project. The level of Project visibility at this location would be low, based on the long viewing
9 distance (4.4 miles) to the Proposed Corridor, which would cross the slope on the opposite side
10 of the valley above the existing access road and 138-kV transmission line. Because the towers
11 and conductors would be seen against a terrain backdrop that is coarse and relatively dark in
12 color, contrast from these Project facilities would be weak. Tower pads would likely not be
13 perceptible from this KOP. The existing access road that is visible would be improved to support
14 the Project and some short sections of new road would be constructed, indicating that contrast
15 associated with access roads would increase to a minor degree. Overall, contrast levels with the
16 Project would be weak. Based on a Class B landscape and a weak contrast, the overall
17 resource change is considered low to moderate. Consequently, with a low to moderate resource
18 change and a moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 5-59 is rated as
19 no more than moderate.

20 *4.2.5.27 KOP 5-60 National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Entrance, State* 21 *Highway 86*

22 KOP 5-60 is located on the entrance road to the NHOTIC, a short distance to the north from
23 State Highway 86. The site is on lands managed by the BLM and within the NHOTIC property.
24 Relative to the Project, the view orientation is to the southeast and the Proposed Corridor is
25 approximately 0.4 mile from the KOP. The main NHOTIC facilities are to the northwest from the
26 KOP. The KOP is on land used for recreational purposes, although the site and adjacent lands
27 have the visual character of rangeland.

28 **Existing View**

29 KOP5-60 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The view
30 to the east and southeast is dominated by almost flat to gently rolling terrain in the foreground,
31 subtly transitioning to steeper terrain in the middleground. Background views are blocked by
32 terrain in the middleground. The hard lines of the NHOTIC entrance road and Highway 86
33 dominate the viewshed in the immediate foreground and become increasingly narrow and
34 diluted in the middleground. An operations building associated with the NHOTIC is an additional
35 focal point on the landscape. Colors in the area consist of various shades of browns and reds
36 from the landform; browns, tans, yellows, and golds, gray/blue hues from the vegetation and a
37 tan with a green undertone from the structures visible in the viewshed. Textures from vegetation
38 are coarse in the foreground, but transition to medium due to the dense carpet of grasses
39 throughout the viewshed. Modifications to the natural landscape characteristics are limited to
40 the divided entrance road to the NHOTIC, several lines of split-rail wood fencing, several small
41 signs, the entrance station, and an associated outbuilding on the NHOTIC property. Highway
42 86, Ruckles Creek Road, and roadside fencing and utility poles are evident beyond the NHOTIC
43 property. The entrance station and adjacent outbuilding are co-dominant features in the existing
44 view. The overall scenic quality is considered medium (Class B), due to the dense vegetation
45 coverage, high color variety and soft textures in the area, and relative lack of cultural
46 modifications.

1 **View with Project**

2 KOP 5-60 represents the views of recreational visitors to the NHOTIC, who have a high level of
3 sensitivity to visual change. The duration of view at this specific location is short and se volume
4 is high. The overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high. The Project would be highly
5 visible at a distance of approximately 0.5 mile from the KOP. From this distance, several bold
6 and angular lattice towers and horizontal cable conductors would be prominent in the
7 foreground, and the upper portions of several towers would extend above the horizon line (see
8 Figure R-4-24). The geometric shapes of the tower pads and associated roads may also be
9 visible and add to the contrast. Overall, the Project would introduce a high level of contrast in
10 the area. The overall resource change is considered moderate to high, based on Class B
11 existing scenic quality and high contrast. Based on the moderate to high visual resource change
12 and moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact at this KOP is rated as
13 moderate to high.

14 **View with Flagstaff Alternate**

15 The Flagstaff Alternate is located approximately 1.3 mile to the west of KOP 5-60. The mass of
16 Flagstaff Hill limits westward views to the foreground, and Project facilities on the Flagstaff
17 Alternate would not be visible. Therefore, the Flagstaff Alternate would create no visual contrast
18 at this KOP, the overall resource change would be none, and there would be no incremental
19 visual impact from this alternative at KOP 5-60.

20 **4.2.5.28 KOP 5-61 Hells Canyon Scenic Byway, Virtue Flat**

21 KOP 5-61 is located on State Highway 86 approximately 8 miles northeast of Baker City
22 approximately 2 miles due east from KOP 5-60. This segment of Highway 86 is part of the
23 designated route for the Hells Canyon State Scenic Byway. The view orientation is to the west
24 and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 1.5 mile west of the KOP. The lands surrounding
25 the KOP are managed by the BLM.

26 **Existing View**

27 KOP 5-61 is located within the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
28 view to the west is dominated by wide, open rolling terrain in the foreground and middleground,
29 with the Elkhorn Mountains in the background. The hard lines of Highway 86 also dominate the
30 immediate foreground and become increasingly narrow and diluted in the viewshed. Colors in
31 the area consist of light to medium tans and browns, with the blue, green, and gray hues of the
32 sagebrush. Textures from vegetation and land form are mostly fine and smooth, with dotted
33 individual sagebrush in the foreground that transitions to a dense, even carpet of sagebrush in
34 the middleground. Modifications to the natural landscape characteristics are limited to Highway
35 86, a few road signs, fencing, and several features on the NHOTIC property. The latter include
36 structures in the entrance area, the curving path of the entrance road on Flagstaff Hill, and the
37 main NHOTIC facility near the top of the hill. The overall scenic quality is considered medium
38 (Class B) because of the harmonious landscape, dense vegetation coverage and relative lack of
39 cultural modifications.

40 **View with Project**

41 State Highway 86 is used as a primary travel corridor between Baker City and the towns of
42 Richland and Keating. This road is also used by people touring on the scenic byway. Given
43 these characteristics, KOP 5-61 represents viewers considered to have moderate and moderate
44 to high sensitivity to visual change. This stretch of the highway experiences a comparatively
45 moderate level of traffic (the average daily traffic volume in 2011 was approximately 930
46 vehicles [ODOT 2012]) that nevertheless represents high viewer numbers. The duration of the
47 view is relatively short, due to the mobility and speed of the viewers, although the Project would

1 potentially be visible for some distance to the east of KOP 5-61. The overall viewer response is
2 rated as moderate to high. At this location westbound travelers would see the Project at a
3 distance of approximately 1.5 mile. At this distance, several of the transmission towers north of
4 the highway would appear as vertical intrusions on the horizontal landscape (see Figure R-4-
5 26). However, some towers may be partially absorbed by the background mountain terrain,
6 thereby reducing the overall level of contrast in this view. Other constructed components of the
7 Project, such as access roads and tower pads, would likely not be visible from this KOP.
8 Overall, the contrast introduced by the Project is rated as strong. The overall resource change is
9 considered moderate to high, based on Class B existing scenic quality and strong contrast.
10 Based on a moderate to high visual resource change and moderate to high viewer response,
11 the incremental visual impact at this KOP is rated as moderate to high.

12 *4.2.5.29 KOP 5-66 Baker City Western Heights*

13 KOP 5-66 is located on Koehler Lane in the Western Heights neighborhood just outside of
14 Baker City. The view orientation is east and the Flagstaff Alternate is approximately 6 miles east
15 of the KOP. Lands around KOP 5-66 are in private ownership and are primarily in residential
16 and agricultural use.

17 **Existing View**

18 KOP5-66 is located in the Blue Mountain Basins portion of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
19 landscape visible to the east is dominated by the wide open and flat floor of the Baker Valley,
20 with sweeping distant views of the Blue Mountain Range in the background. Colors in the
21 viewshed are light and dark browns, white/blue, olives, and greens. The hard lines of roadway
22 infrastructure in the residential development are a dominant feature in the foreground, and there
23 is a soft, undulating horizon line in the background. The mountainous terrain becomes the major
24 focal point in the view due to its dominant nature and scale. Dominant textures in the landscape
25 are smooth land forms and vegetation with dotted, coarse vegetation in the foreground. Cultural
26 modifications to the landscape include extensive urbanized development in the foreground and
27 middleground, and agricultural patterns on the valley floor. These features do not appear
28 dominant due to the vast, open landscape. The overall scenic quality is considered medium
29 (Class B), due to the sweeping open vista with background mountains.

30 **View with Flagstaff Alternate**

31 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Flagstaff Alternate would potentially be visible from
32 KOP 5-66. Based on further review of site-specific conditions, it is highly unlikely that viewers at
33 KOP 5-66 would be able to detect any Project facilities on this alignment. At a background
34 viewing distance of approximately 6 miles, the transmission line would be absorbed by the
35 backdrop of the elevated terrain on the east side of the valley (see Figure R-4-28). Therefore,
36 Project facilities on the Flagstaff Alternate would effectively create no visual contrast, the overall
37 resource change would be none, and there would be no adverse visual impacts at KOP 5-66
38 from this alternative.

39 *4.2.5.30 KOP 5-67 I-84 Northbound, Baker Valley*

40 KOP 5-67 is located on the floor of the Baker Valley along I-84 approximately 3 miles north of
41 Baker City. Relative to the Project the view orientation is to the east and northeast, and the
42 Proposed Corridor is approximately 5.5 miles east of the KOP. A segment of State Highway 203
43 runs parallel to I-84 on the east in this area before turning to the east and northeast. The lands
44 adjacent to the highway rights-of-way at KOP 5-67 are in private ownership and are used
45 primarily for agriculture.

46

Existing View

KOP 5-67 is located within the Blue Mountain Basins portion of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The view to the east is dominated by the wide, open valley floor in the foreground and middleground that subtly transitions to low-lying hills, with prominent mountains in the distant background to the northeast. Lines in the landscape are predominantly horizontal. I-84 and Highway 203 also dominate the view in the immediate foreground, but becomes increasingly narrow and diluted with distance. The middleground viewshed is also characterized by several clumps of vertical tree bands that create strong irregular, circular intrusions that are back-dropped by the darker terrain in the background. Colors in the area consist of light to medium beige and tans from the crops vegetation, browns from the deciduous trees, dark brown of the exposed soils, and blue, gray from the hazy background mountains. Textures from vegetation and landform are mostly fine to medium with subtle contrast to smooth, low-lying hills and sky in the background. Modifications to the natural landscape characteristics include I-84 and Highway 203, vertical fence rows, cultivated fields, irrigation equipment, and farm buildings. In addition, two existing utility lines supported on wood poles run parallel and perpendicular to the highway and create contrast in the foreground. The Baker Municipal Airport is approximately 1 mile to the north but is not evident in the view. The overall scenic quality is considered medium to low (Class B), as the landscape in this area lacks visual complexity and variety.

View with Project

KOP 5-67 represents travelers on I-8 and the parallel segment of State Highway 203. The Proposed Corridor is approximately 5.5 miles to the northeast of the KOP at the closest point, and the Project facilities would have at most a low level of visibility (see Figure R-4-30). The most likely location where the Project might be visible is where the Proposed Corridor runs along the base of the slope flanking the valley as it approaches Highway 203 in the area east of Schetky Road/Sunny Slope Road; to the south of Highway 203 the Proposed Corridor is behind a ridge and would be blocked from view. In locations with a direct line of sight, the towers would be absorbed by the rolling and mountain terrain behind the line, and it is unlikely that the towers would be detected by the typical viewer. Based on the viewing distance, terrain backdrop and presence of numerous existing landscape modifications, the contrast levels for the Project are rated as weak (at most). With a Class B landscape and weak contrast, the overall resource change is considered low to moderate. The level of sensitivity for viewers at this KOP is moderate. The viewing duration would be relatively short, and the Project would be seen in a peripheral view rather than within the more typical cone of vision. Viewer numbers are considered high, with an average daily traffic volume of approximately 8,800 vehicles (ODOT 2012). Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the low to moderate visual resource change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 5-67 is rated as no more than moderate.

View with Flagstaff Alternate

Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Flagstaff Alternate would potentially be visible from KOP 5-67. Viewers at this location would likely be able to detect structures on the Flagstaff Alternate, although the level of visibility would be low due to the middleground viewing distance of 3.3 miles. Certain sections of the alignment would be blocked or screened from view by structures and trees located on the valley floor. Structures that were visible would be seen against a dark terrain backdrop and within the context of numerous cultural modifications in the landscape. Therefore, the overall level of contrast is rated as weak. With a Class B landscape and weak contrast, the overall resource change is considered low to moderate. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate, the viewing duration would be short, and viewer numbers are considered high. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the low to moderate visual resource change and moderate viewer response, the

1 incremental visual impact at KOP 5-67 from the Flagstaff Alternate are rated as no more than
2 moderate.

3 **4.2.5.31 KOP 5-68 State Highway 203 Eastbound, Baker Valley**

4 KOP 5-68 is located on State Highway 203, also known as the Medical Springs Highway,
5 approximately 7 miles northeast of Baker City. The view orientation is to the east and the
6 Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.8 mile east of the KOP. KOP 5-68 is located on private
7 lands developed for agricultural and low-density rural residential uses.

8 **Existing View**

9 KOP 5-68 is located in the Blue Mountain Basins portions of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
10 view to the east is dominated by flat, open valley floor terrain in the foreground, subtly
11 transitioning to rolling terrain in the middleground. Background views are largely blocked by the
12 terrain. The hard lines of Highway 203 dominate the view in the immediate foreground and
13 become increasingly narrow and diluted, creating an axis point in the middleground. Colors in
14 the area consist of brown, red with dark highlights; gold and gray/blue hues from the dominant
15 sagebrush. Textures from vegetation are medium due to the dense carpet of grasses and
16 sagebrush in the foreground and middleground. The texture turns to smooth as the sagebrush
17 becomes denser in the middleground. Modifications to the natural landscape characteristics
18 include the highway, markers and signs along the road, fencing, a graded area with several
19 piles of stored aggregate material, two residences with adjacent outbuildings, a wood-pole utility
20 line parallel to the highway, and an existing 230-kV transmission line on wood H-frame
21 structures; the transmission line crosses the highway at a slight angle and is intersected at a
22 right angles by another transmission line extending to the east. The overall scenic quality is
23 considered medium (Class B), based on the vegetation coverage, color variety and soft textures
24 in the area.

25 **View with Project**

26 KOP 5-68 represents travelers on Highway 203, who are presumed to have a moderate
27 sensitivity to visual change. Viewers at this location would see the Project on the low ridge north
28 of the highway at a distance of approximately 0.8 mile. The proposed transmission line towers
29 and conductors would be plainly visible, and some structures would extend above the horizon
30 line; tower pads and access roads would also likely be visible in some locations. A potential fly
31 yard location has been identified 0.4 mile east of KOP 5-68 (along the route of the Flagstaff
32 Alternate). If the contractor used this location for a fly yard, viewers would also see equipment
33 and activity at the fly yard on a short-term basis. A construction multi-use area would be located
34 on the east (opposite) side of the transmission line; while the facility would be partially visible,
35 the short-term presence of this visual element would not have a measurable effect on the
36 overall contrast level. As a result of the existing visible linear elements, such as Highway 203
37 and the distribution and transmission lines, overall Project contrast levels are rated as
38 moderate. The overall resource change is considered moderate, based on Class B existing
39 scenic quality and moderate contrast. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate, the
40 viewing duration would be relatively brief, and viewer numbers are low to moderate (the average
41 daily traffic volume in 2011 was 200 vehicles [ODOT 2012]). Consequently, the overall viewer
42 response is rated as low to moderate. Based on the moderate visual resource change and low
43 to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at this KOP is rated as no more
44 than moderate.

45 **View with Flagstaff Alternate**

46 Travelers on Highway 203 would have a high level of Project visibility as they approached the
47 Flagstaff Alternate at a distance of approximately 0.4 mile. The transmission structures, pads,
48 conductors, and access roads would introduce new visual elements into the landscape. The

1 structures would largely be seen against the low ridges at the edge of the valley, although some
2 of the structures might extend above the skyline. With existing contrast from linear elements
3 such as Highway 203 and utility/transmission poles, contrast levels with the Project are rated as
4 moderate. The overall resource change is considered moderate to high, based on Class B
5 existing scenic quality and moderate contrast. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is
6 moderate, the viewing duration would be brief, and viewer numbers are low to moderate.
7 Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as low to moderate. Based on the moderate
8 visual resource change and low to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact
9 from the Flagstaff Alternate at this KOP is rated as no more than moderate.

10 4.2.5.32 KOP 5-69 State Highway 203 Westbound, Baker Valley

11 KOP 5-69 is also located on State Highway 203/Medical Springs Highway/, approximately 9
12 miles northeast of Baker City and 1.3 miles northeast along the highway from KOP 5-68. The
13 view orientation is to the west and southwest, and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.3
14 mile from the KOP. KOP 5-69 is surrounded by rangeland that is mostly in private ownership,
15 with some BLM-managed lands in the vicinity.

16 Existing View

17 KOP 5-69 is located within the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
18 view to the southwest consists of the flat terrain in the foreground and middleground,
19 transitioning to low rolling hills in the middleground and mountainous terrain in the background.
20 Dominant lines in the landscape are horizontal. Vertical lines of crossed fence posts are visible
21 in the foreground, and the middleground includes vertical lines of H-frame transmission
22 structures against the skyline. In the foreground, color complexity is comprised of light and dark
23 browns, tans, greens and olives, and blues and grays of the sagebrush. Background colors are
24 provided by the mountains and consist of browns, reds/maroons with white from snow across
25 the landscape. The dominant textures from the vegetation are fine to medium from grasses and
26 coarse from the sagebrush in the immediate foreground. Vegetation textures become smooth
27 and fine in the middleground and foreground. The overall scenic quality is considered medium
28 (Class B), due to the lack of complex vegetation and relatively common scenery for this part of
29 the Blue Mountains. In addition to the structures mentioned above, cultural modifications
30 apparent in the landscape include the highway, a gravel-surface road and adjacent utility line, a
31 cellular phone tower, and a residence partially obscured behind a tree screen.

32 View with Project

33 KOP 5-69 is located near a residence on a rural stretch of State Highway 203 between Baker
34 City and Keating. The KOP represents viewers at the residence and travelers on the highway.
35 The sensitivity level is considered high for residential viewers and moderate for travelers. The
36 Project would be prominent in the view at a distance of 0.3 mile to the Proposed Corridor, and
37 several towers would be seen above the skyline (see Figure R-4-32). A construction multi-use
38 area would be located on the east side of the transmission line (closer to the viewer); while the
39 facility would be clearly visible, the short-term presence of this visual element would not have a
40 measurable effect on the overall contrast level. Some transmission towers would be absorbed
41 by a terrain backdrop, however, and the tree screen would provide some view blockage for the
42 residence. Based on these factors and the contrast created by the existing cultural
43 modifications, the overall contrast rating for the Project is moderate. With a Class B landscape
44 and moderate contrast, the overall resource change is considered moderate. The level of visual
45 sensitivity at this KOP is high for residents and moderate for travelers. The viewing duration
46 would be short for travelers but long for residents. Viewer numbers are considered low to
47 moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the
48 moderate visual resource change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact
49 at KOP 5-69 is rated as moderate.

1 **View with Flagstaff Alternate**

2 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates KOP 5-69 is within a relatively narrow area in which the
3 Flagstaff Alternate would potentially be visible. Viewers at this location would have a moderate
4 to low level of Project visibility, comparable to the visibility of the existing transmission line. At a
5 distance of 0.9 mile, the top portions of several transmission structures might be visible. If so,
6 the contrast would be weak to moderate, as a result of the terrain backdrop and the similarity to
7 the existing transmission structures. With a Class B landscape and weak to moderate contrast,
8 the overall resource change is considered low to moderate. KOP 5-69 represents viewers of the
9 nearby residence and travelers on the highway. The overall viewer response is rated as
10 moderate. Based on the low to moderate visual resource change and moderate viewer
11 response, the incremental visual impact from the Flagstaff Alternate at KOP 5-69 is rated as no
12 more than moderate.

13 **4.2.6 KOP 5-82 Durkee Community**

14 KOP 5-82 is located on Old Highway 30 in the small, unincorporated community of Durkee in
15 southeastern Baker County. Highway 30 is the primary travel route through the town and runs
16 parallel to I-84. The view orientation from the KOP is looking northeast, and the Proposed
17 Corridor is approximately 1.7 miles northeast of the KOP. Lands around the KOP are generally
18 under private ownership and are primarily used for residential and other urbanized activities.

19 **Existing View**

20 KOP 5-82 is located in the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
21 view to the northeast consists of gently rolling terrain in the foreground and middleground, and
22 more mountainous terrain in the background. Lines in the landscape are largely horizontal, with
23 some vertical elements. Colors in the landscape include reds, browns, tans, grays and blues,
24 and metallic. The dominant texture from the vegetation is medium to coarse in the foreground,
25 with clusters of trees adjacent to some of the residential structures, changing to a more dotted
26 and sparse vegetation pattern in the middleground and background. The smooth, flat surface of
27 Old Highway 30 is located on the periphery and immediate foreground of the view, along with
28 the solid surface of many small buildings. Visible cultural modifications are extensive, including
29 local streets, a railroad, utility poles and lines, graded terrain for I-84, and an industrial facility on
30 the opposite side of the freeway. The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class C), due to
31 the extent of man-made developments that result in structural as well as color contrast.

32 **View with Project**

33 KOP 5-82 represents residential viewers who are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to
34 visual change. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Project would potentially be visible
35 from Durkee at a middleground distance of 1.7 mile. Review of conditions in the field
36 demonstrated that actual Project visibility would vary considerably with specific location within
37 the community. In many locations views would be blocked by buildings or large trees that are
38 common in the town. In other locations views would be at least partially blocked or screened. To
39 the extent that Project facilities would be visible, this would occur in scattered locations where
40 structures and vegetation allowed viewing windows in the direction of the Project. Where
41 transmission facilities would be visible they would likely be seen against a terrain backdrop,
42 although there is the possibility that some structures would appear on the skyline. Overall,
43 Project visibility and contrast are rated as low to moderate at most. The overall resource change
44 is considered low, based on Class C existing scenic quality and low to moderate contrast. The
45 level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high, the viewing duration would be long, and viewer
46 numbers are low. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high.
47 Based on the low visual resource change and moderate to high viewer response, the
48 incremental visual impact at KOP 5-82 is rated as less than moderate.

1 4.2.6.1 KOP 5-84 Virtue Flat OHV Area

2 KOP 5-84 is located on Ruckles Creek Road south of State Highway 86, in the Virtue Flat area
3 of central Baker County. The site is approximately 3 miles southeast of the NHOTIC and 8 miles
4 northeast of Baker City. The view orientation is northwest and southwest and the Proposed
5 Corridor is approximately 2 miles from the KOP. The KOP is located at an access point for the
6 Virtue Flat Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area, an area of nearly 5,000 acres designated by the
7 BLM as a Special Recreation Management Area and managed for OHV recreation. The Special
8 Recreation Management Area (SRMA) is bordered to the southwest by privately owned
9 rangelands.

10 Existing View

11 KOP 5-84 is within the Continental Zone Foothills of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The
12 landscape is dominated by the flat surface of the valley floor in the foreground, with a subtle
13 transition to rolling terrain in the middle ground and background. Views to the northwest are
14 dominated by undulating terrain in the foreground, which blocks views to the middle ground and
15 background in that direction. The dominant line in the landscape is the undulating horizontal
16 ridge line against the sky. Vertical thin fence posts in the foreground contrast with the
17 predominantly horizontal viewshed. The northwest view at the trailhead shows the hard vertical
18 edges of the gravel-surfaced road and parking area, which creates a butt edge against the
19 adjacent grasses. Vertical fence and sign posts and a horizontal fence line dominate the view to
20 the southwest. Vegetation is mostly a dense carpet of low to medium-lying sagebrush and
21 grasses. To the northwest, vegetation is patchy and irregular from the trailhead and associated
22 vehicular traffic and roads. The dominant texture from the vegetation is smooth from the even,
23 dense carpet of sagebrush in the southwest view to dotted, coarse and uneven in the northwest
24 view. Landform textures are smooth and rolling. Cultural modifications to the landscape are
25 limited to the flat, gravel surface road, various trailhead signs and portable toilets in the
26 foreground in the northwest view. The southwest view contains few alternations, including a
27 visible fence line with some circular, natural stone fence posts, and a structure and segment of
28 road in the distance. The overall scenic quality is considered medium (i.e. Class B), based on
29 the subtle transition from the flat valley floor to rolling terrain, moderate color contrast and
30 complexity, and dense vegetation cover.

31 View with Project

32 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Project would be visible from KOP 5-84. Review of
33 site-specific conditions indicates that the rolling terrain northwest of the KOP would block views
34 in that direction, while the Project facilities would be visible to the west and southwest, in the
35 north-south part of the alignment. Because the Project facilities would be seen against a dark
36 terrain backdrop at a distance of approximately 2.2 miles, the contrast created by the Project is
37 rated as weak. With a Class B landscape and weak contrast, the overall resource change would
38 be low to moderate. KOP 5-84 primarily represents recreational visitors using the Virtue Flat
39 OHV area. Recreational users are generally presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to
40 change. Because recreational users at Virtue Flat are likely to be focused more directly on their
41 recreational activity and somewhat less on their surroundings, viewer sensitivity in this case is
42 considered to be moderate to high. With moderate duration views and moderate viewer
43 numbers, the overall viewer response is moderate to high. Based on a low to moderate overall
44 resource change and moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP
45 5-84 is rated as moderate.

4.2.7 Washington County

4.2.7.1 KOP 7-1 Weiser Dunes OHV Area

KOP 7-1 is located at an undeveloped OHV play area known as the Weiser Dunes. The site is approximately 10 miles northwest of the town of Weiser, Idaho, and 6 miles southeast of Huntington, Oregon. The OHV area is on BLM-managed lands adjacent to the Snake River and is accessed from Olds Ferry Road. In addition to the OHV use, informal camping occurs at the site. There is little development adjacent to the site on the Idaho side of the river. The KOP is located directly across the river from the Farewell Bend State Recreation Area, and commercial, residential, and agricultural uses also occur on the Oregon side of the river. The view orientation is to the northwest and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 6.5 miles northwest of the KOP. Land ownership is generally federal on the Idaho side of the river and private and state on the Oregon side.

Existing View

KOP 7-1 is located within the Treasure Valley portion of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion, which is underlain by alluvial fan deposits. The view to the northwest includes flat river floodplain in the foreground and rolling hill terrain beyond. Vegetation is mostly sagebrush/grass associations and is dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, and cheatgrass. Vegetation texture is mostly a medium carpet of low to medium-lying grasses and sagebrush in the foreground that becomes dotted and patchy in the middleground. Several clumps of vertical trees are apparent in the view directly adjacent to the Snake River. The dominant textures from the vegetation and landform are medium in the foreground but transitions to a smoother texture in the middleground and background. A major focal feature includes the broad horizontal glassy band of the Snake River. Cultural modifications to the natural landscape in the foreground include cut slopes along Olds Ferry Road; open, flat unvegetated areas and user-made rock fire rings in the immediate foreground; and an adjacent railroad line with a parallel utility line. Numerous modifications are evident in middleground views, including I-84, U.S. Highway 30, several secondary roads, several geometric residential and commercial structures, a cellular phone tower, and an electric transmission line and local utility lines. The overall scenic quality is considered medium (Class B), based on a moderate degree of landform complexity, apparent color contrasts and complexity, variation in vegetation cover, and the water feature of the Snake River.

View with Project

KOP 7-1 primarily represents recreational visitors using the Weiser Dunes OHV play area. Recreational users are generally presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to change. Because recreational users at KOP 7-1 are likely to be focused more directly on their recreational activity and somewhat less on their surroundings, viewer sensitivity in this case is considered to be moderate to high. These viewers would have a low level of Project visibility, as KOP 7-1 is more than 6.5 miles from the Proposed Corridor. Several towers would likely be seen against a backdrop of rolling terrain; while other towers would possibly be seen against the skyline, adding a contrasting vertical element, based on the viewing distance they would not be readily perceptible. Colors and textures would likely be partially absorbed by the surrounding terrain. Including consideration of the existing linear elements that are visible, such as highways and utility structures, contrast levels would be weak. Based on weak contrast and a Class B landscape, the overall resource change would be low to moderate. With moderate to high viewer sensitivity, moderate duration views, and low viewer numbers, the overall viewer response is low to moderate. Based on a low to moderate overall resource change and low to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 7-1 is rated as low to moderate.

View with Willow Creek Alternate

Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Willow Creek Alternate would potentially be visible from KOP 7-1. More detailed review suggests that several towers would be seen against a terrain backdrop, while other towers would possibly be seen above the horizon. This would add a contrasting vertical element in the undulating horizontal skyline, although at a distance of more than 3 miles it would not be readily perceptible. As a result, the degree of contrast is rated as weak. With a Class B landscape and weak contrast, the overall resource change would be low to moderate. The overall viewer response is also considered low to moderate for this KOP. Based on the resource change and viewer response ratings, the incremental visual impact from the Willow Creek Alternate at KOP 7-1 is rated as low to moderate.

4.2.7.2 KOP 7-6 Steck Park BLM Recreation Site

KOP 7-6 is located at Steck Park, a BLM developed recreation site on the east side of Brownlee Reservoir (the Snake River), approximately 20 miles northwest of Weiser and 4 miles northeast of Huntington. The park has two camping areas with a total of 50 campsites, along with restrooms, two boat launch facilities, and boat docks (BLM 2012b). The lands surrounding the KOP are predominantly federal lands managed by BLM and there is little adjacent development. The view orientation is to the west and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 4.0 miles west of the KOP.

Existing View

KOP 7-6 is located within the Treasure Valley portion of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion. The view from the KOP is dominated by the steep canyon walls on the Oregon side of the river/reservoir. Vegetation is mostly sagebrush/grass associations and is dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, and cheatgrass. Vegetation is mostly a medium carpet of low to medium-lying grasses and sagebrush in the foreground that becomes dotted and patchy in the middleground. Several small clumps of trees and shrubs are apparent in the view directly adjacent to the river. The dominant textures from the vegetation and landform are medium in the foreground but transition to a smoother texture in the middleground and background. Major focal features include the broad horizontal glassy edge of the reservoir and the angular land features. Cultural modifications to the natural landscape in the foreground to middleground include the flat, low profiles of a road and railroad line above the opposite shoreline, a railroad bridge that spans the reservoir, a utility line along the railroad, a river access site on the opposite shoreline and an H-frame transmission alignment up the slope from the railroad. A wind turbine is noticeable on the skyline to the northwest, along with small portions of two other turbines. Landscape views are focal towards the canyon and Huntington though it should be noted that Huntington is not visible from this KOP. The overall scenic quality is considered medium (Class B), due to landform complexity, apparent color contrasts and complexity, variation in vegetation cover, and the presence of a water feature.

View with Project

KOP 7-6 represents campers and other recreational users at Steck Park. Recreational users are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to change. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Project would likely not be visible from this location. Field review confirms that the canyon walls on the west side of the reservoir would block views toward the Proposed Corridor at Steck Park. Therefore, the contrast level from the Project would be none and the overall resource change would be none. With high viewer sensitivity, moderate view duration, and moderate viewer numbers, the overall viewer response would be moderate to high. With no overall resource change, there would be no incremental visual impact for KOP 7-6.

1 **View with Willow Creek Alternate**

2 The Willow Creek Alternate would not be visible from KOP 7-6 because the steep canyon
3 topography would block views to the alignment approximately 5 miles from the site, as indicated
4 by bare-earth viewshed analysis. As such, the Project would create no visual contrast under the
5 Willow Creek Alternate, the overall resource change would be none, and there would be no
6 adverse visual impact at KOP 7-6 from this alternative.

7 **4.2.8 Malheur County**

8 **4.2.8.1 KOP 8-3 Birch Creek Interpretive Site**

9 KOP 8-3 is located at the Birch Creek Interpretive Site, a BLM recreation site with minimal
10 development within the Birch Creek Segment of the National Historic Oregon Trail ACEC. The
11 site is in the northeastern corner of Malheur County approximately 6 miles southeast of
12 Huntington, a short distance from Lockett Road and less than 1 mile west from I-84. The view
13 orientation is west and northwest and the Willow Creek Alternate is approximately 3.1 miles
14 west of the KOP. The area around the KOP has a mixture of privately-owned rangeland and
15 federal lands managed by the BLM. BLM manages the 119-acre parcel ACEC parcel
16 specifically to protect resources associated with the Oregon Trail. The ACEC parcel is bordered
17 by private lands to the east, north, and west. Other federal lands nearby, primarily to the west
18 and southwest, are VRM Class II. Features at the site include a parking turnout, a wagon rut
19 swale within a fenced enclosure, a short trail adjacent to the ruts, and interpretive panels (BLM
20 2002).

21 **Existing View**

22 KOP 8-3 is located within the Unwooded Alkaline Foothills portion of the Snake River Plain
23 Ecoregion. The view to the west consists of gently rolling terrain in the foreground and
24 middleground that subtly transitions to steeper terrain in the background. Alluvial fans and
25 natural bowls are apparent in the background terrain. Colors in the landscape are complex and
26 vary from light browns, tans, reds, grays, and blues to darker hues of browns, greens, black,
27 and blues. Lines in the landscape are undulating and horizontal with diagonal lines visible in the
28 middleground and background. The dominant texture from the land form is smooth and from the
29 vegetation is medium to coarse in the immediate foreground to fine, uniform and dotted in the
30 foreground and middleground. Cultural modifications to the natural landscape are few,
31 consisting of the gravel-surfaced road, the interpretive site facilities, and a residence. The
32 overall scenic quality is considered medium (Class B), due to the complexity and variability of
33 land form, colors and textures and a landscape that is largely unaltered.

34 **View with Willow Creek Alternate**

35 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Willow Creek Alternate would potentially be visible
36 from KOP 8-3. Review of site-specific conditions determined the KOP would provide an open,
37 expansive view of the alternative from a middleground distance of approximately 3.1 miles. The
38 panoramic landscape provides minimal opportunities for screening, and it is possible that
39 transmission structures would be seen above the horizon line and would attract the attention of
40 the casual observer. With few existing modifications in the viewshed, the contrast level with the
41 Project is rated as moderate. With a Class B landscape and moderate contrast, the overall
42 resource change would be moderate. KOP 8-3 primarily represents recreational visitors to the
43 interpretive site, who are expected to have a high sensitivity to visual change. There appears to
44 be very limited human activity in this area, however, indicating that viewer numbers are low, and
45 the duration of view at this site would be relatively brief. Consequently, the overall viewer
46 response is rated as low to moderate. Based on the moderate visual resource change and low
47 to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact from the Willow Creek Alternate at
48 this KOP is rated as no more than moderate.

1 4.2.8.2 KOP 8-4 Board Corral Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit

2 KOP 8-4 is located near the intersection of Succor Creek Road and Fisherman Road in an
3 undeveloped area of eastern Malheur County, approximately 10 miles south of Adrian. The
4 Proposed Corridor is approximately 1 mile north and northeast from the KOP. The KOP is
5 surrounded by federal lands managed by the BLM; the lands west of the Succor Creek Road
6 are within the Board Corral Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit.

7 **Existing View**

8 KOP 8-4 is located in the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Northern Basin and
9 Range Ecoregion. The view to the northeast consists of flat to slightly rolling terrain in the
10 foreground, with relatively low hills and ridges in the middleground to either side of the road.
11 Several undulating mounds visible in the landscape are co-dominant features. Dominant lines in
12 the landscape are horizontal from the terrain against the distant horizon line. The hard
13 vegetation lines against the adjacent natural-surface road contrast highly in a landscape with
14 few lines. Vegetation is mostly low-lying shrubs and grasses that have no discernible line or
15 shape. Vegetation becomes more evenly distributed in the middleground and foreground. There
16 are no trees in this view. Color complexity is limited to bright green grasses, blues and grays of
17 the sagebrush, and light brown of the exposed soil from the road. The dominant textures from
18 the vegetation are fine from grasses and coarse from the sagebrush in the foreground. Cultural
19 modifications to the landscape are limited to the wide, well-graded, natural-surfaced road in the
20 foreground and several lattice steel transmission structures visible in the middleground. The
21 overall scenic quality is considered medium (Class B), based on the relatively dense vegetation
22 coverage and few cultural modifications in the landscape.

23 **View with Project**

24 KOP 8-4 represents travelers on the Succor Creek Road, which provides local access for a
25 relatively large but lightly populated rural area of eastern Malheur County. It also represents
26 recreational visitors using the BLM-managed lands in this area. A short section of the Proposed
27 Corridor would be visible from the KOP, at a distance of 1.0 mile. The Project facilities would be
28 seen alongside the existing transmission line. While the low hills to the north would provide a
29 partial backdrop, portions of one or two structures would extend above the skyline. Based on
30 these viewing conditions, the contrast created by the Project is rated as moderate. With a Class
31 B landscape and moderate contrast, the overall resource change would be moderate. Travelers
32 on this road are presumed to have a moderate level of sensitivity to visual change, while
33 recreational viewers have a high sensitivity. The view duration would be short for travelers and
34 moderate for recreationists, and viewer numbers would be low for both groups. Consequently,
35 the overall viewer response would be low to moderate. Based on a moderate resource change
36 and low to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact from the Malheur S
37 Alternate at KOP 8-4 is rated as no more than moderate.

38 **View with Malheur S Alternate**

39 A short section of the Malheur S Alternate would be visible from KOP 8-4, at a distance of 1.0
40 mile. The Project facilities would be seen along the north side of the existing transmission line.
41 While the low hills to the north would provide a partial backdrop, portions of one or two
42 structures would extend above the skyline. Based on these viewing conditions, the contrast
43 created by the Project transmission facilities is rated as moderate. A potential fly yard location
44 has been identified along the east side of the Malheur S route and the north side of Succor
45 Creek Road. Equipment at this facility (if used) would be seen against the terrain and would
46 likely not be distinct. While helicopter activity would be evident, the short-term and intermittent
47 nature of this activity would not add measurably to the overall contrast level. With a Class B
48 landscape and moderate contrast, the overall resource change would be moderate. Travelers

1 on this road are presumed to have a moderate level of sensitivity to visual change, while
2 recreational viewers have a high sensitivity. The view duration would be short for travelers and
3 moderate for recreationists, and viewer numbers would be low for both groups. Consequently,
4 the overall viewer response would be low to moderate. Based on a moderate resource change
5 and low to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact from the Malheur S
6 Alternate at KOP 8-4 is rated as no more than moderate.

7 **4.2.8.3 KOP 8-5 Bully Creek Reservoir**

8 KOP 8-5 is located at Bully Creek Reservoir, an irrigation reservoir of 1,000 surface acres (when
9 full) developed on a tributary of the Malheur River. The KOP is accessed via Bully Creek Road
10 and is approximately 8 miles northwest of Vale. The specific site for the KOP is at Bully Creek
11 Park, a developed recreation facility operated by the Malheur County Parks Department and
12 located on the east side of the reservoir upstream from the dam. The park facilities include 40
13 fee campsites with electrical hookups, restrooms with showers, a two-lane boat ramp with a
14 dock, and a day-use area with picnic shelters (Malheur County Parks Department 2012). The
15 Proposed Corridor is approximately 4 miles west of the KOP.

16 **Existing View**

17 KOP 8-5 is located within the Treasure Valley portion of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion. The
18 landscape consists of the flat and smooth surface of Bully Creek Reservoir in the foreground
19 and middleground, which gives way to gently rolling terrain in the middleground on the left
20 (south) and low hills on the right (west and north). The flat horizon line over the Reservoir
21 persists in the center viewshed. Dominant lines in the landscape are horizontal from the
22 discontinuous ridge against the horizon line. Vertical, irregular lines of trees are visible
23 sporadically throughout the viewshed, but are largely absorbed by the background terrain. Color
24 complexity is limited to browns, tans, blues and whites, including the highly reflective grays,
25 blues, and whites of the reservoir. Most textures in the landscape are smooth and uniform, with
26 patches of medium to coarse texture for trees in the foreground and middleground. The overall
27 scenic quality is considered medium (Class B), based on the wide open spaces, a relatively
28 uncommon viewshed in the Snake River Plain, brilliant sky and reflective water in the
29 landscape.

30 **View with Proposed Corridor**

31 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Proposed Corridor would not be visible from Bully
32 Creek Reservoir. Review of site-specific conditions indicates that the terrain west of the
33 reservoir would block views in that direction. Therefore, the Project would not create any
34 contrast or resource change and there would be no incremental visual impact at KOP 8-5.

35 **4.2.8.4 KOP 8-6 Brogan Community**

36 KOP 8-6 is located at the edge of the small, unincorporated community of Brogan, Oregon,
37 approximately 23 miles northwest of Vale in northern Malheur County. The view orientation is
38 southwest, west, and northwest and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 3.5 miles from the
39 KOP. The KOP is adjacent to a residential area along U.S. Highway 26. Lands around the KOP
40 are in private ownership and the existing land uses in the area are primarily residential and
41 agricultural, including rangeland.

42 **Existing View**

43 KOP 8-6 is located within the Unwooded Alkaline Foothills in the Snake River Plain Ecoregion.
44 The view consists of moderate rolling terrain in the foreground and middleground with
45 mountainous terrain in the background creating a transitional edge between the middleground
46 and background. Lines in the landscape are varied in all directions, with the dominant horizontal
47 lines of the mountain ridge top against the skyline. Vertical and horizontal lines created by fence

1 lines and posts and utility poles are scattered throughout the landscape. Agriculture structures
2 and operations, such as haystacks, dominate the foreground and middleground views. Colors in
3 the viewshed are slightly complex, consisting of dark brown/black from exposed soils, light and
4 dark greens, tans, and beige of the vegetation, and woods, browns and grays from the
5 structures. The dominant landform textures are fine to medium from the exposed soils with
6 coarse mountainous terrain with a high degree of shadows in the background. Vegetation is
7 sparse and patchy varying between fine, medium, and coarse. Strong, angular lines and solid
8 textures from structures add a high level of visual contrast in the landscape. The overall scenic
9 quality is considered low (Class C), based on relatively limited landform, vegetation and color
10 complexity and the level of contrast from cultural modifications.

11 **View with Project**

12 KOP 8-6 represents the residents of Brogan, who are presumed to have a high level of
13 sensitivity to visual change. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Project structures would
14 potentially be visible from this location, at a distance of approximately 3.9 miles. (A construction
15 multi-use area and potential fly yard located along Highway 26 approximately 2 miles northwest
16 of Brogan would not be noticeable from the community.) The Project would generally have a low
17 level of visibility, as a result of the distance and the presence of low ridges that would block
18 views toward the Proposed Corridor in some locations. Several towers would be visible to the
19 west from the community, although they would be seen against a dark terrain backdrop that
20 would absorb the towers (see Figure R-4-34). Considering the viewing conditions and the
21 existing contrast from cultural modifications, contrast levels for the Project would be weak. With
22 a Class C landscape and weak contrast, the overall resource change is considered low. The
23 level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high, the viewing duration would be long, and viewer
24 numbers are considered low. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate to
25 high. Based on the low visual resource change and moderate to high viewer response, the
26 incremental visual impact at KOP 8-6 is rated as no more than moderate.

27 **View with Willow Creek Alternate**

28 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Willow Creek Alternate would potentially be visible
29 from KOP 8-6. The level of Project visibility from KOP 8-6 would be low to moderate, due to the
30 viewing distance of approximately 4 miles. Visible towers would likely be seen against a terrain
31 backdrop. It is possible that some structures would be seen on the skyline; if so, the viewing
32 distance indicates they would not dominate the view. Given these conditions and the existing
33 landscape alternations in the area, the contrast level with the Project is rated as weak. With a
34 Class C landscape and weak contrast, the overall resource change would be low. The overall
35 viewer response for this KOP is moderate to high. Based on a low resource change and
36 moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact from the Willow Creek
37 Alternate at KOP 8-6 is rated as no more than moderate.

38 **4.2.8.5 KOP 8-8 Jamieson Community**

39 KOP 8-8 is located adjacent to a residential area along South Road K at the edge of the small,
40 unincorporated community of Jamieson, Oregon. The community is on U.S. Highway 26,
41 approximately 17 miles southwest of Huntington and 19 miles northwest of Vale. The Willow
42 Creek Alternate crosses Highway 26 about 2 miles northwest of Jamieson before turning to the
43 southwest and passing approximately 1.2 miles west of the KOP. The view to the west is used
44 for the visual assessment. Lands surrounding the KOP are in private ownership and support
45 irrigated agricultural, rangeland and residential uses.

46 **Existing View**

47 KOP 8-8 is located within the Unwooded Alkaline Foothills portion of the Snake River Plain
48 Ecoregion. The view to the west consists of flat and slightly rolling terrain in the foreground and

1 middleground that subtly gives way to rolling and mountainous terrain in the background. There
2 is relatively high color complexity and contrast in the viewshed, consisting of light, medium, and
3 dark reds, blues, browns, oranges, reflective grays, and whites, dark greens, olive, beige,
4 umber, gray and blue hues of the vegetation. Lines in the landscape are varied in all directions,
5 with the dominant horizontal lines of the mountain ridge top against the skyline. Vertical
6 intrusions from a few scattered trees penetrate the largely horizontal landscape. A small clump
7 of trees penetrates the skyline in the center-right view. The dominant textures from the
8 vegetation are fine to medium from grasses and low-lying shrubs throughout the landscape.
9 Textures from the distant mountains are smooth to coarse, given the distance and atmospheric
10 conditions. Cultural modifications to the natural landscape include several structures in the
11 community, a gravel-surfaced road and parallel utility line, fencing, agricultural equipment, a
12 large haystack, and Highway 26 nearby. The overall scenic quality is considered medium (Class
13 B), based on the moderate level of color and vegetation complexity and the wide open views
14 and sky.

15 **View with Willow Creek Alternate**

16 KOP 8-8 primarily represents the residents of Jamieson, who are presumed to have a high level
17 of sensitivity to visual change. These viewers would have a moderate level of Project visibility at
18 a viewing distance of 1.2 mile. Rolling terrain and scattered clumps of trees might limit views of
19 the Willow Creek Alternate to the southwest and northwest. A section of the route to the west
20 would be in direct view, although it would be seen against the backdrop of the distant mountains
21 (see Figure R-4-36). A construction multi-use area would be located along S Road L more than
22 2 miles northwest of KOP 8-8; based on the viewing distance and the placement of this facility
23 west of (beyond) the Willow Creek Alternate, it is unlikely to be visible from Jamieson. Given
24 these viewing conditions and existing contrast from the developed nature of the area, contrast
25 created by the Project transmission facilities is rated as weak. Therefore, the overall resource
26 change is considered low to moderate, based on Class B existing scenic quality and weak
27 contrast. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high, the viewing duration is long, and
28 viewer numbers are low. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate to
29 high. Based on the low to moderate visual resource change and moderate to high viewer
30 response, the incremental visual impact from the Willow Creek Alternate at this KOP is rated as
31 moderate.

32 **4.2.8.6 KOP 8-16 Keeney Pass Interpretive Site**

33 KOP 8-16 is located at an Oregon Trail interpretive site in the Keeney Pass area in northeastern
34 Malheur County. The site is accessed via Lytle Boulevard, a secondary road that connects Vale
35 with State Highway 201 near Adrian and Nyssa. The KOP is approximately 5 miles southeast of
36 Vale and 10 miles west of the Snake River. Relative to the Project, the view orientation is
37 southwest and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 7 miles southwest of the KOP. The KOP
38 is on federal lands managed by the BLM within the Oregon Trail Keeney Pass ACEC.

39 **Existing View**

40 KOP 8-16 is located in the Treasure Valley portion of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion. The
41 view to the southwest is dominated by a large, gently rolling hill in the foreground that converges
42 with an adjacent hill in the foreground. The rolling hill limits views from this KOP to the
43 foreground area. A distant hill is visible in the background, but it is hazy and does not at all
44 distinct. The hard, symmetrical lines of the circular roadway/pathway and shelter, concrete pad
45 and kiosks also dominate the view in the immediate foreground. Colors in the area consist of
46 light to medium tans and browns, with the blue, green, and gray hues of the sagebrush.
47 Blackish underlying soils are visible and the dark browns, blacks, and shadows cast from the
48 shelter are apparent. Textures from vegetation and land form are mostly fine and smooth with
49 dotted individual boulders in the foreground. A more uniform carpet of sagebrush is also visible

1 in the foreground. Disruptions to the natural landscape characteristics from the
2 roadway/pathway, shelter, concrete pad, and kiosks are apparent. The overall scenic quality is
3 considered low (Class C), based on the alterations of the landscape, limited viewshed from
4 intervening terrain and limited color and overall visual complexity.

5 **View with Project**

6 KOP 8-16 represents travelers on Lytle Boulevard, which connects the towns of Adrian and
7 Nyssa with Vale, and recreational visitors interested in the Oregon Trail. Travelers are
8 presumed to have a moderate level of sensitivity to visual change, while recreational viewers
9 have high sensitivity. The proposed transmission line and associated infrastructure would not be
10 seen from this KOP, due to the intervening terrain that limits views to the foreground.
11 Consequently, the Project would create no visual contrast and there would be no incremental
12 visual impact at KOP 8-16.

13 *4.2.8.7 KOP 8-18 Lake Owyhee State Park*

14 KOP 8-18 is located at the Gordon Gulch boat launch/day-use recreation area in Lake Owyhee
15 State Park. The site is on Owyhee Lake Road approximately 2 miles south of Owyhee Dam.
16 OPRD manages the park, which includes two campgrounds in addition to the day-use facility.
17 The view orientation is northeast and the Malheur S Alternate is approximately 2.8 miles from
18 the KOP. Lands immediately surrounding the KOP are under state jurisdiction and are used for
19 recreation. Areas adjacent to the park and along the reservoir are managed by the Bureau of
20 Reclamation, while the BLM manages the surrounding federal lands.

21 **Existing View**

22 KOP 8-18 is within the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Northern Basin and Range
23 Ecoregion. The landscape to the north and northeast consists of the flat surface of Lake
24 Owyhee in the foreground and middleground. The lake contrasts with the rough, rugged canyon
25 walls with jagged flat-top mesas on both sides of the lake, which enclose views in the
26 middleground and background. Dominant lines in the landscape are horizontal and diagonal due
27 to the horizon lines due to the interesting variety of terrain and glassy lake surface. Horizontal
28 rock bands are apparent on the upper slopes of the flat-top mesas, intermixed with jagged
29 mountain tops in the middleground and background viewsheds. Vegetation is mostly low-lying
30 shrubs and grasses, with clusters of trees adjacent to the day-use and camping areas. The
31 variety of colors in the viewshed is relatively complex, consisting of light beige and tans, umber
32 and grey with deep blue-gray hues (almost metallic) color of the water, a variety of greens and
33 olive of the vegetation in the foreground and middleground. The dominant textures from the
34 vegetation can be characterized as medium to coarse. Cultural modifications to the landscape
35 are limited to the flat, paved surface of the parking area and roadway, a dock, and a utility line
36 along the road. These features contrast little with the landscape, and the overall scenic quality is
37 considered high (Class A), based largely on the complex vegetation composition and presence
38 of a substantial water feature.

39 **View with Malheur S Alternate**

40 Viewers at KOP 8-18 are primarily recreational users of Owyhee Lake State Park, and are
41 presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. Their viewing duration would be
42 moderate and viewer numbers are considered moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer
43 response is rated as moderate to high. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates that the Malheur
44 S Alternate would not be visible from this location, because the tall, steep canyon walls would
45 block views to the northeast. Therefore, the Project would create no visual contrast, the overall
46 resource change would be none, and there would be no adverse visual impact from the Malheur
47 S Alternate at KOP 8-18.

1 4.2.8.8 KOP 8-21 McIntyre Ridge Wilderness Inventory Unit

2 KOP 8-21 is located in the Succor Creek area of eastern Malheur County, approximately 13
3 miles south of Adrian and the same distance east of Lake Owyhee. Access to the site is via the
4 Succor Creek Road and McIntyre Spring Road. The view orientation is northeast and the
5 Proposed Corridor is approximately 2.8 miles northeast of the KOP. The KOP is on federal
6 lands managed by the BLM and is adjacent to the McIntyre Ridge Wilderness Inventory Unit.

7 **Existing View**

8 KOP 8-21 is located within the Treasure Valley portion of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion. The
9 view to the northeast is dominated by wide, open, rolling terrain with sporadic sagebrush cover
10 in the foreground, middleground, and background. Colors in the area consist of light to medium
11 tans and browns, with the blue, green, olive, and gray hues of the sagebrush. Textures from
12 vegetation and land form are mostly rough to smooth (gradational) with dotted individual
13 sagebrush in the foreground that transitions to a dense, even carpet of sagebrush in the
14 middleground. Cultural modifications evident in the landscape are limited to the gravel-surfaced
15 road, an intersecting two-track road that is faintly visible, and two roadside markers. The overall
16 scenic quality is considered low (Class C), as the landscape is harmonious but lacks visual
17 complexity and variety.

18 **View with Project**

19 KOP 8-21 represents recreational visitors using the McIntyre Ridge Wilderness Inventory Unit
20 and other BLM-managed lands in the vicinity. Recreationists in this area are presumed to have
21 a high level of sensitivity to visual change. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates that
22 transmission facilities on the Proposed Corridor likely would not be evident from this KOP, as
23 the Project would be approximately 2.8 miles distant and behind the rolling terrain seen in the
24 middleground. Consequently, the Project would not create visual contrast or visual impact at
25 KOP 8-21.

26 4.2.8.9 KOP 8-24 Oregon Trail ACEC, Tub Mountain

27 KOP 8-24 is located within the Tub Mountain Segment of the National Historic Oregon Trail
28 ACEC designated by the BLM. This part of the ACEC includes approximately 7,900 acres and
29 forms a relatively narrow corridor approximately 10 miles long in the Tub Mountain area of
30 northeastern Malheur County. The site is near the north end of the ACEC parcel, along Old
31 Oregon Trail Road approximately 8 miles south of Huntington and 17 miles north of Vale. The
32 area around the KOP primarily has federal lands managed by the BLM, although extensive
33 areas of privately-owned rangeland are nearby. Old Oregon Trail Road is a native-surfaced,
34 two-track road maintained by Malheur County that is roughly parallel to the Oregon Trail route
35 and overlaps it in places. The Willow Creek Alternate is approximately 2.7 miles northwest of
36 the KOP.

37 **Existing View**

38 KOP 8-24 is within the Unwooded Alkaline Foothills portion of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion.
39 The view to the northwest consists of gently rolling terrain in the foreground and middleground
40 that subtly transitions to steeper terrain in the background. Alluvial fans and natural bowls are
41 apparent in the background terrain. Colors in the landscape are limited to light browns, tans,
42 grays and blues. Lines in the landscape are primarily undulating and horizontal, with diagonal
43 lines visible in the middleground and background. The dominant textures are smooth from the
44 landforms, and from the vegetation are medium to coarse in the immediate foreground to fine,
45 uniform and dotted in the foreground and middleground. Textures of Old Oregon Trail Road are
46 smooth. Cultural modifications to the natural landscape are few, consisting of the road and
47 some evidence of grazing and OHV use. The overall scenic quality is considered medium

1 (Class B), based on moderate variability of landform, simple colors and textures, and a
2 landscape that is largely unaltered.

3 **View with Willow Creek Alternate**

4 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Willow Creek Alternate would not be visible from
5 KOP 8-24, as the low hill terrain in the foreground and middleground would block views to the
6 route located approximately 2.7 miles to the northwest. As such, the Project would create no
7 visual contrast under the Willow Creek Alternate, the overall resource change would be none,
8 and there would be no adverse visual impact at KOP 8-24 from this alternative.

9 *4.2.8.10 KOP 8-25 Oregon Trail ACEC, Keeney Pass*

10 Similar to KOP 8-16 (3.4 miles to the northwest), KOP 8-25 is also located along Lytle
11 Boulevard in the Keeney Pass area of eastern Malheur County. The view orientation is
12 southwest and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 6 miles southwest of the KOP. The KOP
13 is on federal lands managed by the BLM, and is within the Keeney Pass ACEC. Interpretive
14 facilities are not present at this site, although a concrete marker near the side of the road
15 indicates the route of the Oregon Trail.

16 **Existing View**

17 KOP 8-25 is located within the Treasure Valley portion of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion. The
18 view to the southwest includes wide, open rolling terrain in the foreground, middleground, and
19 background. The viewshed is dominated by open fields in the foreground and middleground,
20 with gently undulating hills in the background. The hard lines of Lytle Blvd are prominent in the
21 immediate foreground and become increasingly narrow and diluted with distance. Colors in the
22 area consist of light to medium tans and browns, with the blue, green, and gray hues of the
23 sagebrush. Textures from vegetation and landforms are mostly fine and smooth, with dotted
24 individual sagebrush in the foreground that transitions to a dense, even carpet of sagebrush in
25 the middleground. Cultural modifications to the natural landscape characteristics evident in the
26 foreground are limited to Lytle Boulevard, a road sign, the Oregon Trail marker, and a barbed
27 wire fence that is partly obscured by vegetation. A narrow, winding gravel road approaching
28 Lytle Boulevard can be seen in the middleground, as can two gravel-surfaced areas used for
29 vehicle parking and storage. The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class C) due to the
30 harmonious landscape that lacks visual complexity and variety in the area.

31 **View with Project**

32 KOP 8-25 represents travelers on Lytle Boulevard and recreational visitors interested in the
33 Oregon Trail. Travelers on this road are presumed to have a moderate level of sensitivity to
34 visual change, while recreational users have high sensitivity. Similar to KOP 8-16, the proposed
35 transmission line and associated infrastructure would not be seen from this KOP due to
36 intervening terrain. Consequently, the Project would create no contrast and would have no
37 incremental visual impact at KOP 8-25.

38 *4.2.8.11 KOP 8-31 Mitchell Butte Road*

39 KOP 8-31 is located on Mitchell Butte Road, a native-surfaced road that provides local access in
40 a relatively remote area of northeastern Malheur County. The site is approximately 15 miles
41 south of Vale and 8 miles west of Adrian. The view orientation is south, west, and northwest and
42 the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.1 from the KOP. The KOP is on BLM-managed lands
43 and is adjacent to the Chalk Butte and Deer Butte Wilderness Inventory Units.

44 **Existing View**

45 KOP 8-31 is located within the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Northern Basin and
46 Range Ecoregion. The view to the south, west, and northwest consists of flat to gradual and

1 increasingly rolling terrain in the foreground, middleground, and background. Dominant lines in
2 the landscape are horizontal from the terrain and the distant horizon line. Vegetation is mostly
3 low-lying shrubs and grasses that have no discernible line or shape. Vegetation becomes more
4 evenly distributed in the middleground and foreground. There are no trees evident in this
5 viewshed. Color complexity is limited to golden grasses and greens, blues and grays of the
6 sagebrush. The dominant textures from the vegetation are fine from grasses and coarse from
7 the sagebrush in the foreground. Vegetation texture becomes smooth and fine in the
8 middleground and foreground. Cultural modifications are limited to a gravel-surfaced road and
9 fence line. Although stone-filled cribs used as fence posts are visible, they are consistent with
10 the overall rangeland character of the area. The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class
11 C), because the vegetation composition is simple and this is a relatively common view in this
12 area.

13 **View with Project**

14 Viewers at KOP 8-31 are primarily recreational users and local ranchers traveling on Mitchell
15 Butte Road, and are presumed to have a high or moderate level of sensitivity to visual change.
16 These viewers would have a high level of Project visibility near the location where the Proposed
17 Corridor crosses the road. At a distance of 0.1 mile or less, the transmission line and towers
18 would present a strong vertical contrast and would dominate the landscape. Tower pads and
19 access roads would also be visible, creating hard angular and linear lines that contrast with the
20 natural terrain. Due to the close viewing distance and undeveloped landscape, contrast levels
21 would be high. With a Class C landscape and high contrast, the overall resource change is
22 considered moderate. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high or moderate, the viewing
23 duration would be short, and viewer numbers are quite low. Consequently, the overall viewer
24 response is rated as moderate. Based on a moderate resource change and moderate viewer
25 response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 8-31 is rated as moderate.

26 **4.2.8.12 KOP 8-33 Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Twin Springs Road**

27 Similar to KOP 8-31, KOP 8-33 is also located on Twin Springs Road in a largely undeveloped,
28 rural area in northeastern Malheur County. The site is approximately 9 miles southwest of Vale
29 and 14 miles northwest of Adrian. The view orientation is to the northeast and the Proposed
30 Corridor is approximately 0.2 mile from the KOP. The KOP is on BLM-managed lands and is
31 adjacent to the Double Mountain and Chalk Butte Wilderness Inventory Units.

32 **Existing View**

33 KOP 8-33 is located in the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Northern Basin and
34 Range Ecoregion. The view to the northeast from KOP 8-33 consists of flat to gradual and
35 increasingly rolling terrain in the foreground, middleground, and background. Dominant lines in
36 the landscape are horizontal from the terrain against the distant horizon line. Vegetation is
37 mostly low-lying shrubs and grasses that have no discernible line or shape. Vegetation
38 becomes more evenly distributed in the middleground and foreground. There are no trees in this
39 viewshed. Color complexity is limited to golden grasses and greens, blues and grays of the
40 sagebrush. The dominant textures from the vegetation are fine from grasses and coarse from
41 the sagebrush in the foreground. Vegetation texture becomes smooth and fine in the
42 middleground and foreground. Cultural modifications are limited to a gravel-surface road and
43 some fencing. The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class C), primarily due to the lack of
44 landform, vegetation, and color complexity and scenery that is common for the region.

45 **View with Project**

46 Viewers at KOP 8-33 are primarily recreational users and local ranchers traveling on Twin
47 Springs Road, and are presumed to have either a high or moderate level of sensitivity to visual
48 change. The proposed transmission line would be highly visible from this location and would

1 present a strong vertical contrast that would dominate the landscape. Tower pads and access
2 roads would also be visible and provide additional contrast with the natural terrain. A potential
3 fly yard location has been identified along the north side of Cow Hollow Road where it intersects
4 with Twin Springs Road, approximately 0.7 mile northeast of KOP 8-33. While equipment and
5 activity at this facility (id used by the contractor) would be visible in the near middleground, this
6 additional short-term contrast would not raise the overall contrast level for the Project. With a
7 Class C landscape and strong contrast, the overall resource change is considered moderate.
8 The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high or moderate, the viewing duration would be
9 short, and viewer numbers are quite low. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as
10 moderate. Based on a moderate resource change and moderate viewer response, the
11 incremental visual impact at KOP 8-31 is rated as moderate.

12 **View with Double Mountain Alternate**

13 Viewers at KOP 8-33 would have a high level of visibility of the Double Mountain Alternate, as
14 the KOP is located directly adjacent to this alignment. The contrast created by the Project would
15 be strong, based on the undeveloped nature of the area and the factors addressed for the
16 Proposed Corridor. With a Class C landscape and strong contrast, the overall resource change
17 is considered moderate. The overall viewer response is rated as moderate, as discussed
18 previously. Therefore, the incremental visual impact from the Double Mountain Alternate at KOP
19 8-33 is rated as moderate.

20 *4.2.8.13 KOP 8-37 Succor Creek State Natural Area, North*

21 KOP 8-37 is located in the Succor Creek area of eastern Malheur County. The site is
22 approximately 11 miles southeast of Owyhee Dam and 15 miles southwest of Adrian. Access to
23 the area from Adrian is via State Highway 201 and the Succor Creek Road. The view orientation
24 is to the northeast and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 3.8 miles from the KOP. Lands
25 within the valley along Succor Creek are generally under state and private ownership; there are
26 few developed land uses and most of the area is rangeland. The KOP is within a 160-acre
27 parcel of state-owned land that is part of the Succor Creek State Natural Area. A larger portion
28 of the natural area begins about 1 mile to the south and extends southward for approximately
29 5 miles. No visitor facilities are within the parcel where KOP 8-37 is located.

30 **Existing View**

31 KOP 8-37 is located within the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Northern Basin and
32 Range Ecoregion. The view to the northeast consists of flat to gradual and increasingly rolling
33 terrain in the foreground, middleground, and background. Dominant lines in the landscape are
34 horizontal from the terrain against the distant horizon line. Vegetation is mostly low-lying shrubs
35 and grasses that have no discernible line or shape. Vegetation becomes more evenly
36 distributed in the middleground and foreground. There are no trees in this viewshed. Color
37 complexity is limited to golden grasses and greens, blues and grays of the sagebrush. The
38 dominant textures from the vegetation are fine from grasses and coarse from the sagebrush in
39 the foreground. Vegetation texture becomes smooth and fine in the middleground and
40 foreground. Cultural modifications include a gravel-surface road, fencing, a metal-sided farm
41 storage building and a wooden garage or shed, and a number of utility poles. The overall scenic
42 quality is considered low (Class C), primarily due to the lack of landform, vegetation, and color
43 complexity, and scenery that is common for the region.

44 **View with Project**

45 Viewers at KOP 8-37 are primarily recreational visitors to the Succor Creek State Natural Area,
46 and are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. (It should be noted,
47 however, that use within the natural area primarily occurs several miles to the south of KOP 8-
48 37 and use near the KOP appears to be quite low.) Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the

1 Project would not likely be visible from this location. Review of site-specific conditions also
2 indicates that the intervening terrain would block views toward the Proposed Corridor.
3 Therefore, the Project would create no contrast, overall resource change or incremental visual
4 impact at KOP 8-37.

5 *4.2.8.14 KOP 8-41 U.S. Highway 20 Crossing*

6 KOP 8-41 is located on U.S. Highway 20 in northern Malheur County, approximately 12 miles
7 west of Vale and 9 miles east of the unincorporated community of Harper. Relative to the
8 Project, the view orientation is to the northeast and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.4
9 mile from the KOP. Lands surrounding the KOP are federal lands managed by the BLM.

10 **Existing View**

11 KOP 8-41 is located in the Treasure Valley portion of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion. The
12 view to the north and northeast consists of a wide, open, flat floor with slightly undulating low-
13 lying ridgelines against the background sky. Distant mountains are apparent in the background,
14 creating a dominant axis point in the landscape. Other dominant lines include the horizontal
15 ridgelines and contrasting vertical transmission/utility poles spread throughout the landscape.
16 The hard lines of Highway 20 create a high level of contrast against the adjacent grasses and
17 contribute to the axis point in the landscape. Dominant colors in the viewshed have light
18 undertones of gray from exposed soils. Vegetation is brown/tan/beige and the dark and light
19 grays from Highway 20 provide a high contrast from the light undertones of the overall
20 landscape. The dominant textures from the vegetation are fine to medium from grasses and
21 low-lying shrubs throughout the landscape. Textures from Highway 20 are fine and smooth from
22 the flat, paved surface. The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class C), due to the lack of
23 a much variety or complexity in the landscape and the dominance of Highway 20.

24 **View with Project**

25 KOP 8-41 represent travelers on Highway 20, who are presumed to have a medium level of
26 sensitivity to visual change. The Project transmission facilities would be highly visible in the
27 foreground at a distance of 0.4 mile. Several lattice transmission towers would add noticeably to
28 the existing vertical intrusions on the landscape, and contrast levels would be strong. A
29 communications station located within the right-of-way just south of Highway 20 would also be
30 visible, but would be subordinate to the prominence of the towers and conductors. A
31 construction multi-use area would also be located along the south side of the highway and
32 adjacent to KOP 8-41. While equipment and activity at this facility would be visible in the
33 immediate foreground, this additional short-term contrast would not raise the overall contrast
34 level for the Project. With a Class C landscape and high contrast, the overall resource change is
35 considered moderate. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate, the viewing
36 duration would be short, and viewer numbers are moderate to high (the average daily traffic
37 volume in this location in 2011 was approximately 1,400 vehicles [ODOT 2012]). Consequently,
38 the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the moderate visual resource
39 change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 8-41 is rated as
40 moderate.

41 **View with Malheur S Alternate**

42 KOP 8-41 is essentially adjacent to the locations where both the Proposed Corridor and the
43 Malheur S Alternate cross Highway 20. Therefore, as discussed previously for the Proposed
44 Corridor, contrast with this alternative is rated as strong. With a Class C landscape and strong
45 contrast, the overall resource change would be moderate. As discussed above, the overall
46 viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the moderate ratings for visual resource
47 change and viewer response, the incremental visual impact from the Malheur S Alternate at
48 KOP 8-41 is rated as moderate.

View with Double Mountain Alternate

Project facilities on the Double Mountain Alternate would not be visible from KOP 8-41, as indicated by bare-earth viewshed analysis. Low ridges to the south of U.S. Highway 20 would block views of this alternative 1.2 miles to the southeast. Therefore, there would be no visual contrast specifically associated with the Double Mountain Alternate, the overall resource change would be none, and there would be no incremental visual impact at KOP 8-41 from this alternative. (Viewers at KOP 8-41 would still experience visual impacts from the Proposed Corridor at this location, as described above.)

4.2.8.15 KOP 8-42 U.S. Highway 26 Crossing

KOP 8-42 is located on U.S. Highway 26 in northern Malheur County, approximately 18 miles southwest from Huntington, 4 miles west of the community of Brogan, and 1.5 miles west of Pole Creek Reservoir. The view orientation is to the northwest, west and southwest and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.2 mile from the KOP. Lands around the KOP are generally under private ownership and primarily used for transportation and agriculture.

Existing View

KOP 8-42 is located within the Melange portion of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. The view consists of gently rolling terrain in the foreground and middleground. Lines in the landscape are undulating and horizontal, with several rolling ridgelines that are near vertical. Hard lines of Highway 26 create a butt edge against the adjacent vegetation. Colors in the landscape vary from light browns, tans, grays and blues to darker hues of browns, black and blues. The dominant textures from the vegetation are medium to coarse in the immediate foreground to fine, uniform and dotted in the foreground and middleground. The smooth, flat surface of Highway 26 is a prominent feature in the immediate foreground, but becomes narrow and eventually invisible in the viewshed. Cultural modifications include the highway, a secondary road, utility poles, and a farm residence, outbuilding, and equipment; these features do not significantly detract from scenic quality. The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class C), due to the general lack of variation or complexity in land form, vegetation and color.

View with Project

Viewers at KOP 8-42 are predominantly travelers on Highway 26, who are presumed to have a medium level of sensitivity to visual change. Project structures and conductors would be highly visible in the immediate foreground (see Figures R-4-38 and R-4-40). It would introduce a new vertical element into the landscape that does not currently exist, and contrast levels would be high. With a Class C landscape and high contrast, the overall resource change is considered moderate. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate, the viewing duration would be short, and viewer numbers are moderate, based on an average daily traffic count of 550 vehicles. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as low to moderate. Based on the moderate visual resource change and low to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 8-42 is rated as low to moderate.

4.2.8.16 KOP 8-51 Big Bend Access Site

KOP 8-51 is located on the Snake River and adjacent to State Highway 201 near the eastern edge of Malheur County. The site is approximately 2 miles southwest of Adrian. Relative to the Project, the view orientation is to the west and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 3 miles west of the KOP. The area around the KOP includes a mix of private lands and federal lands managed by the BLM.

Existing View

KOP 8-51 is located within the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion. The view to the west from KOP 8-51 consists of the flat floodplain of the Snake River in the foreground and rolling terrain topped with jagged flat-top mesas in the middleground and background. Dominant lines in the landscape are horizontal and diagonal due to the horizon lines converging down to the valley floor. Horizontal rock bands are apparent on the upper slopes of the flat-top mesa in the middleground. Vegetation is mostly low-lying shrubs and grasses that are consistent with the lines in the viewshed due to the linear shrub lines along the road and gravel piles in the foreground. The variety of colors in the viewshed is not highly complex; light beige and tans, umber and maroon on present the lower hillsides/slopes, with olive-colored vegetation in the foreground and middleground and a brighter green in an irrigated field in the foreground. The dominant textures from the vegetation are rough in the foreground and medium on the upper flat-top mesas. Cultural modifications to the natural landscape include the highway, a roadside utility line, a parallel railroad line, and an industrial facility that is prominent in the view. The latter facility includes a cluster of light-colored, geometric structures, several piles of raw or processed materials, and multiple, small stacks of geometric bee boxes. The cultural modifications, especially the industrial structures, contrast with the natural landscape and detract from the scenic quality of the viewshed. The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class C).

View with Project

Viewers at KOP 8-51 are primarily recreational visitors at the Big Bend Launch Site, and are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Project transmission facilities would potentially be visible from this KOP. Conditions present at the site, however, indicate that the elevated terrain west of the Snake River would block direct views toward the Proposed Corridor, which is 2.7 miles distant at this point. Similarly, riparian vegetation would screen views toward a construction multi-use area and potential fly yard location adjacent to the railroad and highway approximately 0.5 mile south of the KOP. With a Class C landscape and weak or no contrast, the overall resource change is considered low at most. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high, the viewing duration would be moderate, and viewer numbers are considered low. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the low or no visual resource change and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 8-51 is rated as no more than low to moderate.

4.2.8.17 KOP 8-52 Lower Owyhee Interpretive Site

KOP 8-52 is located in Owyhee Canyon along the Owyhee Lake Road, approximately 7 miles west of Adrian. The Lower Owyhee Canyon Watchable Wildlife Area interpretive site is the specific location for the KOP. The site provides a gravel-surfaced parking area, two picnic tables, a toilet, and interpretive displays (see Exhibit T of the Application for Site Certificate, Section 3.3.1, for additional discussion). The view orientation is to the northeast and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.3 mile northeast of the KOP. The KOP is located on BLM-managed lands within the Owyhee River Below Dam SRMA.

Existing View

KOP 8-52 is located in the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Snake River Plan Ecoregion. The view to the north and northeast consists of the flat surface of the valley floor in the foreground (and middleground, which is framed by rolling terrain, topped with jagged flat-top mesas on both sides of the valley in the middleground. Dominant lines in the landscape are horizontal and diagonal due to the horizon lines converging down to the valley floor. Horizontal rock bands are apparent on the upper slopes of the flat-top mesa in the middleground.

1 Vegetation is mostly low-lying shrubs and grasses that are consistent with the lines in the
2 viewshed due to the linear shrub lines along the road and parking area. The few trees apparent
3 in the viewshed have circular canopies that stay below the horizon line and are mostly absorbed
4 by the rolling terrain on the lower slopes. The variety of colors in the viewshed is apparent, but
5 not very complex, consisting of light beige and tans, umber and maroon on the lower
6 hillsides/slopes with blue-gray hues, light and dark greens, and olive of the vegetation in the
7 foreground and middleground. The dominant textures from the vegetation are fine in the
8 foreground and from the upper flat-top mesas can be characterized as medium to coarse.
9 Cultural modifications to the natural landscape are limited to the flat, gravel surface parking
10 area, a wood-rail fence, flat and long parking barriers and a large pipeline (the Owyhee Siphon,
11 a key conveyance feature in the local irrigation infrastructure) cutting across the valley walls.
12 The strong linear form and light gray color of the pipeline provide strong contrast with the
13 landscape and make the pipeline a co-dominant focal point in the view. The cultural
14 modifications, primarily the pipeline, detract significantly from the overall scenic quality. The
15 overall scenic quality is considered medium (Class B), due to the lack of a complex vegetation
16 composition and a relatively common scene for this region.

17 **View with Project**

18 Viewers at KOP 8-52 are primarily recreational visitors to the Lower Owyhee Canyon Watchable
19 Wildlife Area, who are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. The
20 Proposed Corridor crosses the Owyhee Canyon 0.3 mile to the northeast of the KOP and the
21 Project transmission facilities would be highly visible in the foreground (see Figure R-4-42). One
22 Project transmission structure would be positioned on top of the valley wall on the north side of
23 the river, and the structure and conductor span would create strong contrast with the existing
24 landscape. A construction multi-use area and an adjacent fly yard location are situated along
25 the Lake Owyhee Road approximately 0.5 mile northeast of the Proposed Corridor as it passes
26 near the eastern edge of the SRMA. Features at these facilities would not be visible from the
27 KOP because the ridges near the mouth of the canyon would block views in that direction,
28 although some viewers could observe intermittent helicopter activity. Given the timing
29 characteristics of this activity, it would not represent a meaningful component of the visual
30 impact created by the Project at KOP 8-52. With a Class B landscape and high contrast, the
31 overall resource change is considered moderate to high. The level of visual sensitivity at this
32 KOP is high, the viewing duration would be moderate (for some visitors stopping at the Owyhee
33 Watchable Wildlife Area, but short for other visitors and travelers on the Owyhee Lake Road),
34 and viewer numbers are considered low to moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer
35 response is rated as moderate to high. Based on the moderate to high visual resource change
36 and moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 8-52 is rated as
37 moderate to high.

38 **4.2.8.18 KOP 8-55 Adrian Community**

39 KOP 8-55 is located on State Highway 201 at the western edge of the community of Adrian, 0.5
40 mile west of the Snake River in eastern Malheur County. The view orientation is to the west and
41 the Proposed Corridor is approximately 3.8 miles from the KOP. The lands surrounding the KOP
42 are under private ownership. Lands west of the KOP (toward the Project) are used
43 predominantly for agriculture, while the primary uses to the east (within the community) are
44 residential, commercial, and transportation.

45 **Existing View**

46 KOP 8-55 is located within the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Snake River Plain
47 Ecoregion. The view to the west consists of the flat floodplain of the river in the foreground and
48 rolling terrain topped with jagged conical and flat-top mesas in the middleground and
49 background. Dominant lines in the landscape are horizontal and diagonal rising up from the

1 valley floor. Horizontal rock bands are apparent on the upper slopes of the flat-top mesa in the
2 middleground and background. Vegetation includes low-lying shrubs and grasses in a linear
3 pattern along the road and several types of crops in the irrigated fields. The colors in the
4 viewshed consist of light beige and tans, raw sienna and maroon on the lower slopes of the
5 landforms, pale olive and light brown with the natural vegetation in the foreground and
6 middleground, dark green and yellow-green in several patches of planted trees, and several
7 shades of deep green for the crops that frame the view. The dominant textures are rough from
8 the vegetation in the foreground and medium from the flat-topped mesas. Cultural modifications
9 to the natural landscape evident in the view to the west include the roadway, a roadside utility
10 line, irrigated fields, irrigation equipment, areas of planted trees, several clusters of farm
11 structures, some rural residences, and a light-colored "A" (for Adrian) marked on the ridge in the
12 middle of the view. Additional cultural modifications from urbanized uses in Adrian are visible in
13 the opposite direction. The numerous cultural modifications detract from the natural scenic
14 quality and are a focal point in the viewshed. The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class
15 C), based on the degree of landform and color variety and vegetation complexity, and the
16 influence of the cultural modifications

17 **View with Project**

18 KOP 8-55 primarily represents residents in Adrian, who are presumed to have a high level of
19 sensitivity to visual change. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Project would potentially
20 be visible from this KOP. Review of site-specific conditions indicates the Project would not be
21 visible, however, because the most direct views to the transmission structures on the Proposed
22 Corridor would be blocked by the elevated terrain in the middleground. Based on this condition
23 and the viewing distance (3.8 miles), the contrast with the existing horizontal landscape is rated
24 as none and there would be no overall resource change. The level of visual sensitivity at this
25 KOP is high, the viewing duration would be long, and viewer numbers are considered low.
26 Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high. Based on the lack of
27 visual resource change and moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact at
28 KOP 8-55 is rated as none.

29 *4.2.8.19 KOP 8-62 Hunter Spring Wilderness Inventory Unit, Keeney Creek Road*

30 KOP 8-62 is located on Keeney Creek Road in an undeveloped part of northern Malheur County
31 approximately 6 miles south of Harper. The Malheur S Alternate is approximately 7.1 miles east
32 of the KOP. The KOP is surrounded by federal lands managed by the BLM; the site is within the
33 area that BLM has identified as the Hunter Spring Wilderness Inventory Unit.

34 **Existing View**

35 KOP 8-62 is located in the Treasure Valley portion of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion. The
36 landscape to the east in consists of a wide open, gently sloping valley floor with slightly
37 undulating low-lying ridgelines against the background sky. Distant hills and rolling terrain are
38 apparent in the background, creating a focal point in the landscape. The hard lines of the
39 roadway and adjacent fence create a low to moderate level of contrast against the adjacent
40 grasses and provide a break in the landscape. Dominant colors in the view have light
41 undertones of gray from exposed soils. Vegetation is brown/tan/beige and dark and light grays,
42 which provide a moderate contrast from the light undertones of the overall landscape. The
43 dominant textures from the vegetation are fine to medium from grasses and low-lying shrubs
44 throughout the landscape. Textures are fine and smooth. Cultural modifications to the
45 landscape are limited to the native-surfaced road and some fencing. The overall scenic quality
46 is considered low (Class C), based on the lack of variety or complexity in the landscape.

47

1 **View with Malheur S Alternate**

2 KOP 8-62 primarily represents travelers on the Keeney Creek Road, many of whom are
3 expected to be recreational visitors using the BLM-managed lands in the area; these viewers
4 are presumed to have a moderate to high level of sensitivity to visual change. These viewers
5 would have a low to none level of Project visibility due to the distance of the Malheur S Alternate
6 (7.1 miles) in the background. The only visible man-made element adjacent to this location is
7 fencing. Due to the distances contrast levels and visibility would be low to none. At this distance,
8 the lattice transmission towers would have low visibility in the viewshed. This view is within a
9 Class C landscape and the overall resource change is considered low, based on a contrast level
10 of low to none. The viewing duration would be short or moderate, and viewer numbers are low
11 because this area is remote and access is limited. Consequently, the overall viewer response is
12 rated as low to moderate. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates that the Malheur S Alternate
13 7.1 miles to the east would not be visible from this location, because the rolling terrain would
14 block views in that direction. Therefore, the Project would create no visual contrast, the overall
15 resource change would be none, and there would be no adverse visual impact from the Malheur
16 S Alternate at KOP 8-62.

17 **4.2.8.20 KOP 8-74 McIntyre Ridge Wilderness Inventory Unit, Succor Creek Road**

18 KOP 8-74 is located in the Succor Creek area of eastern Malheur County, approximately 14
19 miles south of Adrian and about the same distance east of Lake Owyhee. The BLM has
20 identified an area of approximately 14,600 acres lying to the west of the Succor Creek Road as
21 the McIntyre Ridge Wilderness Inventory Unit; the specific location for the KOP is along the
22 Succor Creek Road and near the eastern edge of the Wilderness Inventory Unit. KOP 8-74 is
23 approximately 1 mile south of KOP 8-21, which is also adjacent to the McIntyre Ridge
24 Wilderness Inventory Unit. The view orientation is to the northeast and east and the Proposed
25 Corridor is approximately 3.1 miles from the KOP.

26 **Existing View**

27 KOP 8-74 is located within the Treasure Valley portion of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion. The
28 view to the northeast from KOP 8-74 is dominated by wide, open rolling terrain with sporadic
29 sagebrush cover in the foreground, middleground, and background, with gently undulating hills
30 also in the background. Colors in the area consist of light to medium tans and browns, with the
31 blue, green, olive, and gray hues of the sagebrush and grass. Textures from vegetation and
32 land form are mostly smooth with some rough patches of grass adjacent to the roadway. The
33 gravel-surfaced Succor Creek Road is the most prominent cultural modification to the
34 landscape. Other evidence of human activity includes a small road cut angling across a facing
35 slope in the foreground, some fencing, and a roadside post and utility box. The overall scenic
36 quality is considered moderate (Class B), as the landscape is harmonious but lacks visual
37 complexity and variety.

38 **View with Project**

39 KOP 8-74 represents recreational visitors to the McIntyre Ridge Wilderness Inventory Unit, who
40 are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. The KOP also represents
41 travelers on the Succor Creek Road, who are presumed to have a moderate sensitivity. Bare-
42 earth viewshed analysis indicates KOP 8-74 is along the edge of an area within which the
43 Proposed Corridor would potentially be visible. Conditions present at the site, however, indicate
44 views toward the Project 3.1 miles distant would be blocked by the rolling terrain in the
45 foreground and middleground. Therefore, the Project would not create visual contrast and would
46 not cause visual impacts at KOP 8-74.

View with Malheur S Alternate

Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Malheur S Alternate would potentially be visible from KOP 8-74, at a distance of approximately 4 miles. Review of site-specific conditions suggests that elevated terrain would at least partially block views of this alternative. Any Project facilities that would be visible would be seen against a terrain backdrop. Therefore, given the deep middleground viewing distance, the contrast created by the Project is rated as weak. With a Class B landscape and weak contrast, the overall resource change would be low to moderate. The overall viewer response for this KOP is moderate, as discussed previously. Consequently, the incremental visual impact from the Malheur S Alternate at KOP 8-74 is rated as no more than moderate.

4.2.8.21 KOP 8-75 Antelope Creek Wilderness Inventory Unit

KOP 8-75 is located in the Succor Creek area of eastern Malheur County, approximately 15 miles south of Adrian, 14 miles east of Lake Owyhee, and 1.5 mile west of the Idaho state line. The BLM has identified an area of approximately 10,700 acres lying to the east of the Succor Creek Road as the Antelope Creek Wilderness Inventory Unit; the specific location for the KOP is along a low-standard gravel road along the northeastern edge of the WCA. The view orientation is northeast and east and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 1.7 miles from the KOP.

Existing View

KOP 8-75 is located within the transition zone between the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons and Treasure Valley portions of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion. The view to the northeast from KOP 8-75 is dominated by wide, open rolling terrain in the foreground, middleground, and background. The vegetation is primarily sporadic sagebrush, with low grasses also evident in the foreground. Colors in the area consist of light to medium tans and browns, with the blue, green, olive, and gray hues of the sagebrush and grass. Textures from vegetation and land form are mostly rough to smooth (gradational). The overall scenic quality is considered moderate (Class B), as the landscape is harmonious but lacks visual complexity and variety. Two gravel roads evident from the KOP represent the only cultural modifications that are evident.

View with Project

This KOP represents recreational viewers in the Antelope Creek Wilderness Inventory Unit, who are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Project would potentially be visible from KOP 8-75. Conditions observed in the field indicate that a low ridge in the foreground would block the view to a portion of the Proposed Corridor, but parts of the line would be visible to the left (and possibly to the right) of the ridge. The Project facilities would be seen against a terrain backdrop at a distance of over 1.7 miles. Based on those conditions, the degree of contrast is rated as weak. With a Class B scenic quality and weak contrast, the overall resource change is rated as low to moderate. The overall viewer response is rated as moderate, based on high sensitivity, moderate view duration, and low viewer numbers. Consequently, the incremental visual impact at KOP 8-75 is rated as no more than moderate.

4.2.8.22 KOP 8-84 Burnt Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit

KOP 8-84 is located in Owyhee Canyon, a short distance to the west of the river and approximately 1.6 miles northwest of Owyhee Dam. The view orientation is east and the Malheur S Alternate is approximately 1.7 miles from the KOP. The KOP itself is on federal land managed by the BLM, and is within an area identified as the Burnt Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit. An adjacent parcel is in private ownership, and other nearby lands within the canyon are managed by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Existing View

KOP 8-84 is within the Owyhee Uplands and Canyon portion of the Northern basin and Range Ecoregion. The landscape east and southeast from the KOP consists of the flat surface of the narrow valley floor in the foreground and middleground, which is framed by the gently rolling, but steeply sloped valley walls in the middleground. Dominant lines in the landscape are diagonal and vertical, with the hard lines of a paved road (the Owyhee Lake Road) creating a butt edge against the adjacent valley walls. Several rock bands on mountain valley walls are apparent. Colors vary between light and dark beige, tans, browns, reds, blue/gray hues and dark rock formations scattered in the viewshed. Textures from the dominant valley walls are medium to coarse in the foreground but are smoother in the middleground. Several cultural modifications to the landscape are evident. The most visible alteration is an existing high-voltage transmission line on steel lattice structures, which contrasts highly with the natural landscape because it is seen on the skyline above the rock features. Other modifications include the curving paved road along the opposite side of the river, a gravel-surfaced road leading to the viewing location, a short segment of another gravel road on the opposite canyon wall, and a complex of structures surrounded by planted trees on the private parcel. The overall scenic quality is considered medium (Class B), based on the moderate complexity in landform and vegetation, and the influence of the cultural modifications.

View with Malheur S Alternate

KOP 8-84 primarily represents recreational users of the BLM-managed lands in the local area, who are considered to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. The view duration would be moderate and viewer numbers are low. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Malheur S Alternate would likely not be visible from this location. Review of site-specific conditions indicates this alternative route is located far enough to the east (about 1 mile beyond the existing transmission line in the view) that the canyon terrain would block it from view. Therefore, the Project would create no visual contrast, the overall resource change would be none, and there would be no adverse visual impact from the Malheur S Alternate at KOP 8-84.

4.2.8.23 KOP 8-85 Sourdough Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Twin Springs Road

KOP 8-85 is located at the intersection of Twin Springs Road and Rock Canyon Road in an undeveloped part of northern Malheur County. The Malheur S Alternate is approximately 0.3 mile north of the KOP. The KOP is surrounded by federal lands managed by the BLM, and is within an area identified by the BLM as the Sourdough Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit.

Existing View

KOP 8-85 is within the Unwooded Alkaline Hills portion of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion. The landscape to the north and east from KOP 8-85 consists of the flat surface of the valley floor in the foreground, with a bold transition to rolling terrain with dramatic buttes in the foreground and middleground. Dominant lines in the landscape are undulating horizontal ridge lines that create subtle, digitate edges between the rolling land forms. Vegetation is mostly a dense to medium carpet of low to medium-lying sagebrush and grasses with no apparent line. Few trees are apparent in the view. The dominant texture from the vegetation is medium to coarse in the foreground but becomes smoother due to increased vegetation density in the middleground and background. Landform textures are smooth and rolling. Cultural modifications to the landscape are limited to the flat, gravel-surfaced road in the foreground and middleground. The view to the south from this location also includes portions of two steel lattice transmission structures on an existing line located approximately 2 miles away. The overall scenic quality is considered

1 medium (Class B), based on the subtle landform transition, moderate color contrast and
2 complexity, and relatively dense vegetation cover.

3 **View with Malheur S Alternate**

4 Viewers at KOP 8-85 are primarily recreational users of the BLM-managed lands in the local
5 area, who are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. These viewers
6 would have a high level of Project visibility at a distance of approximately 0.3 mile. The Project
7 facilities would largely be seen against a terrain backdrop, but at this close distance it is
8 possible some structures would extend above the skyline. Based on the foreground viewing
9 distance and undeveloped character of the area, the contrast level is rated as strong. A potential
10 fly yard location has also been identified along the east side of Twin Springs Road
11 approximately 0.5 mile south of the KOP. While equipment and activity at this facility (if used by
12 the contractor) would be visible from KOP 8-85, this short-term effect is not considered sufficient
13 to add measurably to the contrast associated with the transmission facilities. With a Class B
14 landscape and strong contrast, the overall resource change is considered moderate to high. The
15 level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high, the viewing duration would be moderate, and
16 viewer numbers are considered low. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as
17 moderate. Based on the moderate to high visual resource change and moderate viewer
18 response, the incremental visual impact from the Malheur S Alternate at KOP 8-85 is rated as
19 moderate to high.

20 *4.2.8.24 KOP 8-88 Broken Rim Wilderness Inventory Unit, Hoo Doo Road North*

21 KOP 8-88 is located in the Sand Hollow area of eastern Malheur County, approximately 12
22 miles southwest of Vale and 9 miles east of Harper. The BLM has identified an area of
23 approximately 26,200 acres lying generally to the west of Hoo Doo Road and east of Daisy
24 Basin Road as the Broken Rim Wilderness Inventory Unit; the specific location for the KOP is
25 along Hoo Doo Road North along the eastern edge of the Wilderness Inventory Unit. The view
26 orientation is to the northeast and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 2.4 miles from the
27 KOP.

28 **Existing View**

29 KOP 8-88 is located in the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Snake River Plain
30 Ecoregion, although it also provides views to areas within the Northern Basin and Range
31 Ecoregion. The view to the northeast consists of flat to slightly rolling terrain in the foreground,
32 middleground, and background. Several undulating mounds are visible in the landscape and are
33 co-dominant features. Dominant lines in the landscape are horizontal from the terrain against
34 the distant horizon line. The mottled vegetation lines against the adjacent native-surface road
35 contrast slightly in a landscape with few lines. Vegetation is mostly low-lying shrubs and grasses
36 with little discernible line or shape. A linear area of darker, denser shrub cover is evident in the
37 foreground to the right of the road. Vegetation becomes more evenly distributed in the
38 middleground and foreground as well as stippled. There are no trees in this viewshed. Color
39 complexity is limited to dull tan grasses, olives, and grays of the sagebrush, and light brown and
40 tan of the exposed soil from the road. The dominant textures from the vegetation are fine from
41 grasses and coarse from the sagebrush in the foreground. Visual disruptions from cultural
42 modifications are limited to the native-surfaced, two-track road and fence structures in the
43 foreground. The overall scenic quality is considered medium (Class B).

44 **View with Project**

45 KOP 8-88 represents recreational visitors and local residents traveling on Hoo Doo Road, who
46 are presumed to have high and moderate levels of sensitivity, respectively, to visual change.
47 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Project would potentially be visible from KOP 8-88,
48 at a distance of 2.4 miles. The Project would create a moderate level of contrast; with a Class B

1 scenic quality, the overall resource change would also be rated as moderate. The levels of
2 visual sensitivity at this KOP are moderate and high, the viewing duration would be short and
3 moderate, and viewer numbers are low. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as
4 low to moderate. Based on the moderate visual resource change and low to moderate viewer
5 response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 8-88 is rated as no more than moderate.

6 **View with Malheur S Alternate**

7 Facilities on the Malheur S Alternate would be visible from KOP 8-88 at a close viewing distance
8 of 0.6 mile. The terrain would provide a partial backdrop, but portions of some structures would
9 be seen above the skyline. Based on the viewing distance and largely unaltered landscape, the
10 contrast associated with the Project transmission facilities is rated as moderate to strong. A
11 potential fly yard location has also been identified along the north side of Hoo Doo Road and
12 essentially adjacent to the KOP. While equipment and activity at this facility (if used by the
13 contractor) would be clearly visible from KOP 8-88, this short-term effect is not considered
14 sufficient to add measurably to the contrast associated with the transmission facilities. With a
15 Class B landscape and moderate to strong contrast, the overall resource change is rated as
16 moderate to high. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate to high, the viewing
17 duration would be short, and viewer numbers are low. Consequently, the overall viewer
18 response is rated as low to moderate. Based on the moderate to high visual resource change
19 and low to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 8-88 for the
20 Malheur S Alternate are rated as moderate.

21 *4.2.8.25 KOP 8-90 Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Rock Canyon Road*

22 KOP 8-90 is located near Rock Canyon Road (also known as Negro Rock Creek Road) in an
23 isolated part of northern Malheur County. The site is approximately 10 miles southwest of Vale
24 and 4 miles southeast of U.S. Highway 20, and is surrounded by BLM-managed lands. The
25 BLM has identified an area of approximately 26,000 acres lying generally east of Rock Canyon
26 Road as the Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit. The view orientation is north and the
27 Proposed Corridor is approximately 1 mile north of the KOP.

28 **Existing View**

29 KOP 8-90 is located within the Unwooded Alkaline Hills portion of the Snake River Plain
30 Ecoregion. The view to the southeast, east, and north consists of the flat surface of the valley
31 floor in the foreground, with a subtle transition to rolling terrain in the middleground and
32 background. Dominant lines in the landscape are undulating horizontal ridge lines that create
33 subtle, digitate edges between the rolling landforms. Hard vertical edges of the road create a
34 butt edge against the adjacent grasses, creating a high level of linear contrast. Vegetation is
35 mostly a dense to medium carpet of low- to medium-lying sagebrush and grasses with no
36 apparent line. A linear patch of bluish sagebrush is apparent in the foreground, which contrasts
37 with the surrounding green-colored sage, but is consistent with the lines in the viewshed. Few
38 vertical trees are apparent in the viewshed with circular canopies that stay below the horizon
39 line and are mostly absorbed by the rolling terrain in the background. The dominant texture from
40 the vegetation is medium to coarse in the foreground, but smoother with increased density in
41 the middleground and background. Landform textures are smooth and rolling. Modifications to
42 the natural landscape are limited to the flat, gravel surface road in the foreground and
43 middleground. The overall scenic quality is considered medium (Class B), due to the subtle
44 transition from the flat valley floor to rolling terrain, relatively high color contrast and complexity,
45 and dense vegetation cover.

46 **View with Project**

47 KOP 8-90 represents travelers on Rock Canyon Road and recreational users of the adjacent
48 BLM-managed lands, who are presumed to have moderate and high levels of sensitivity to

1 visual change. These viewers would have a high level of visibility of structures on the Proposed
2 Corridor located approximately 1 mile to the north. The overall contrast is rated as moderate,
3 because the Project would be seen in the middleground and some towers would be absorbed to
4 a degree by the terrain backdrop. A potential fly yard location has been identified along the west
5 side of Rock Canyon Road just north of the Proposed Corridor. While equipment and activity at
6 this facility (if used by the contractor) might be visible from KOP 8-90, this short-term effect
7 would not add measurably to the contrast associated with the transmission facilities. With a
8 Class B landscape and moderate contrast, the overall resource change would also be
9 moderate. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate and high, the viewing duration
10 would be short and moderate, and viewer numbers are low. Consequently, the overall viewer
11 response is rated as low to moderate. Based on the moderate visual resource change and low
12 to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 8-90 is rated as no more
13 than moderate.

14 **View with Double Mountain Alternate**

15 Viewers at KOP 8-90 would have a direct view of the Double Mountain Alternate nearly adjacent
16 to the KOP. Due to the close viewing distance and undeveloped character of the area, the
17 contrast created by the Project would be strong. With a Class B landscape and strong contrast,
18 the overall resource change is considered moderate to high. The overall viewer response for
19 this KOP is rated as low to moderate, as discussed previously. Based on the moderate to high
20 visual resource change and low to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact
21 from the Double Mountain Alternate at KOP 8-90 is rated as moderate.

22 *4.2.8.26 KOP 8-91 Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Twin Springs Road* 23 *South*

24 KOP 8-91 is located on Twin Springs Road in a largely undeveloped area of northeastern
25 Malheur County, approximately 19 miles southwest of Vale. The Malheur S Alternate is
26 approximately 1.7 miles south of the KOP. The site is in a large area of contiguous federal lands
27 managed by the BLM, and is adjacent to an area identified as the Double Mountain Wilderness
28 Inventory Unit.

29 **Existing View**

30 KOP 8-91 is within the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Northern Basin and Range
31 Ecoregion. The landscape around KOP 8-91 consists of the flat to gradual and increasingly
32 rolling terrain in the foreground, middleground, and background. Dominant lines in the
33 landscape are horizontal from the terrain against the horizon line. Vegetation is mostly low-lying
34 shrubs and grasses that have no discernible line or shape. There are no trees in this view. Color
35 complexity is limited to golden grasses and greens, blues and grays of the sagebrush. The
36 dominant textures from the vegetation are fine from grasses and coarse from the sagebrush in
37 the foreground. Vegetation texture becomes smooth and fine in the middleground and
38 foreground. Cultural modifications are limited to the gravel-surfaced road and a line of fencing.
39 The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class C), based on the lack of a complex and
40 variety in landform, color, and vegetation composition.

41 **View with Malheur S Alternate**

42 Viewers at KOP 8-91 are primarily recreational users of BLM-managed lands in the local area
43 traveling on Twin Springs Road, and are presumed to have a moderate to high level of
44 sensitivity to visual change. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Malheur S Alternate
45 would be visible from this location at a distance of 1.7 miles. Review of site-specific conditions
46 indicates that the rolling terrain would block some of the alignment from view, but a section of
47 the route would be visible through a gap toward the south. The transmission line and towers
48 would be seen against a terrain backdrop and would be partially absorbed. At this distance and

1 with a largely undeveloped landscape, the contrast created by the Project is rated as moderate.
2 With a Class C landscape and moderate contrast, the overall resource change is considered
3 low to moderate. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate to high, the viewing
4 duration would be short, and viewer numbers are low. Consequently, the overall viewer
5 response is rated as low to moderate. Based on the low to moderate ratings for visual resource
6 change and viewer response, the incremental visual impact from the Malheur S Alternate at
7 KOP 8-91 is also rated as low to moderate.

8 **4.2.8.27 KOP 8-93 Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Negro Rock Creek**
9 **Middle**

10 KOP 8-93 is located on Rock Canyon Road in an isolated part of northern Malheur County,
11 approximately 16 miles southwest of Vale. The Malheur S Alternate is approximately 1.3 miles
12 west of the KOP. The site is in a large area of contiguous federal lands managed by the BLM,
13 and is adjacent to an area identified as the Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit.

14 **Existing View**

15 KOP 8-93 is within the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Northern Basin and Range
16 Ecoregion. The view to the west from KOP 8-93 consists of flat to gradual and increasingly
17 rolling terrain in the foreground and middleground, with more distant views generally blocked by
18 the canyon terrain. Dominant lines in the landscape are primarily horizontal and angular, with a
19 strong horizon line. Vegetation is mostly low-lying shrubs and grasses that have no discernible
20 line or shape and appear stippled. Vegetation becomes thicker and more evenly distributed in
21 the middleground where the terrain rises. There are no trees in this view. Color complexity is
22 limited to golden grasses and greens, blues, and grays of the sagebrush. The dominant textures
23 from the vegetation are fine from grasses and coarse from the sagebrush in the foreground.
24 Vegetation texture becomes smooth and fine in the middleground and background. Landform
25 textures are smooth and rolling with jagged edges in the background. Cultural modifications are
26 limited to the native-surfaced, two-track road. The overall scenic quality is considered low (Class
27 C), based on the lack of a complex and variety in color and vegetation composition.

28 **View with Malheur S Alternate**

29 Viewers at KOP 8-93 are primarily recreational users of BLM-managed lands in the local area
30 traveling on Rock Canyon Road, and are presumed to have a moderate to high level of
31 sensitivity to visual change. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates that the Project would not
32 be visible from most locations within Negro Rock Canyon, but would be visible from locations on
33 the higher terrain adjacent to the canyon. Review of site-specific conditions likewise indicates
34 the Malheur S Alternate would be blocked from view at the KOP, and there would be no contrast
35 created by the Project. At more elevated locations nearby the Project facilities would be visible,
36 and would likely be seen against a terrain backdrop. Based on that condition and the
37 middleground distance, in those cases the contrast level would be weak or moderate. With a
38 Class C landscape and moderate contrast, the overall resource change would be low to
39 moderate. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is moderate to high, the viewing duration
40 would be short and viewer numbers are considered low. Consequently, the overall viewer
41 response is rated as low to moderate. Based on the low to moderate ratings for visual resource
42 change (in elevated locations where the Project would actually be visible) and viewer response,
43 the incremental visual impact from the Malheur S Alternate at KOP 8-93 are rated as no more
44 than low to moderate.

1 **4.2.8.28 KOP 8-94 Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit, Negro Rock Creek**
2 **South**

3 KOP 8-94 is also located on Rock Canyon Road in an isolated part of northern Malheur County,
4 approximately 19 miles southwest of Vale. The Malheur S Alternate is approximately 0.2 mile
5 west of the KOP. The site is within a 320-acre private inholding surrounded by a large area of
6 contiguous federal lands managed by the BLM, and is adjacent to an area identified as the
7 Double Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit.

8 **Existing View**

9 KOP 8-94 is within the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Northern Basin and Range
10 Ecoregion. The view to the west consists of flat to gradual and increasingly rolling terrain in the
11 foreground, middleground, and background. Dominant lines in the landscape are horizontal and
12 angular in the middleground and background, with a strong horizon line. Vegetation is mostly
13 low-lying shrubs and grasses that have no discernible line or shape and appear stippled.
14 Vegetation is thick and evenly distributed in the middleground and background. Color
15 complexity is limited to golden grasses and greens, blues, and grays of the sagebrush, and
16 yellow hues. The dominant textures from the vegetation are coarse from the sagebrush in the
17 foreground and middleground. Vegetation texture becomes smooth in the middleground and
18 background. Land form textures are smooth and rolling with a few scattered rock outcrops which
19 exhibit jagged edges in the middleground. Cultural modifications primarily include the native-
20 surfaced road and fencing, although several steel lattice structures on a high-voltage
21 transmission line are faintly visible on the skyline to the south. The overall scenic quality is
22 considered low (Class C), largely based on the lack of a complexity in color and vegetation
23 composition.

24 **View with Malheur S Alternate**

25 Viewers at KOP 8-94 are primarily recreational users of BLM-managed lands in the local area
26 traveling on Rock Canyon Road, and are presumed to have a moderate to high level of
27 sensitivity to visual change. These viewers would have a high level of Project visibility in the
28 immediate foreground at a distance of approximately 0.2 mile. Despite the close distance, the
29 Project facilities would generally be seen against a terrain backdrop. Although the existing
30 transmission line provides a current source of visual contrast in this area, the contrast created
31 by the Project would be moderate to strong. With a Class C landscape and strong contrast, the
32 overall resource change is considered moderate. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is
33 moderate to high, the viewing duration would be short, and viewer numbers are considered low.
34 Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as low to moderate. Based on the moderate
35 visual resource change and low to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact
36 from the Malheur S Alternate at KOP 8-94 is rated as no more than moderate.

37 **4.2.8.29 KOP 8-96 Lower Owyhee Site H1**

38 KOP 8-96 is located near the entrance to a short spur road from the Owyhee Lake Road in the
39 Lower Owyhee Canyon. The site is approximately 10 miles southwest of Adrian and 2 miles
40 north of Owyhee Dam. The Malheur S Alternate is approximately 1.4 miles east of the KOP. The
41 KOP is surrounded by federal lands managed by the BLM, and is within an area designated as
42 the Owyhee River Below the Dam SRMA/ACEC. The site is in an area along the river frequently
43 used for dispersed recreation, identified by the BOR (1994) as "Site H." (Because KOP 8-95 is
44 also within the area identified as Site H, KOP 8-96 is named Lower Owyhee River Site H1 and
45 KOP 8-95 is named Lower Owyhee River Site H2. Site H2 is isolated from the Malheur S
46 Alternate by the steep, winding canyon terrain and is not addressed in Attachment R-1.)

Existing View

KOP 8-96 is within the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion. The view to the southeast from consists of the flat surface of the narrow valley floor in the foreground and middleground, which is framed by valley walls that are gently rolling near the base but transition to steep slopes in the middleground. A distant horizontal ridgeline is visible between the valley walls. The Owyhee River is a short distance to the north but is obscured from view. Dominant lines in the landscape are diagonal and vertical, with the hard lines of the road creating a butt edge against the adjacent valley walls. Several rock bands on the valley walls are apparent. Colors in the viewshed vary between light and dark beige, tans, browns, reds, blue/gray hues, and dark rock formations scattered in the viewshed. Textures from the dominant valley walls are medium to coarse in the foreground but become smoother as the viewshed transitions to the middleground. Cultural modifications to the landscape are limited to the paved road, a cleared, gravel-surfaced area adjacent to the river, and the line of another road evident on the opposite side of the river. The overall scenic quality is considered medium (Class B), based on the complexity in landform, limited apparent cultural modifications, lack of a complex vegetation composition, adjacent views and simple colors where there is little contrast between land and vegetation.

View with Malheur S Alternate

Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Malheur S Alternate would potentially be visible from KOP 8-96. Review of site-specific conditions indicates that the visible portion of the route would be the crossing of the canyon; as shown in the simulation included as Figure R-4-44, this would likely include one structure on the north canyon rim and the conductors in the span across the river. The remainder of this alignment west and east of the canyon crossing would be blocked from view by the high canyon walls. Based on the middleground viewing distance and the skyline position of the structure on the canyon rim (which would attract the attention of the casual viewer), the contrast created by the Project is rated as strong. With a Class B landscape and strong contrast, the overall resource change is considered moderate to high. Viewers at KOP 8-96 are primarily recreational visitors within the Lower Owyhee Canyon, including people traveling to or from Lake Owyhee and people engaged in dispersed recreation (e.g., fishing) along the river. These viewers are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. The viewing duration would be moderate for recreational users and short for travelers on the road. Viewer numbers are considered moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high. Based on the moderate to high ratings for visual resource change and viewer response, the incremental visual impact from the Malheur S Alternate at KOP 8-96 is rated as moderate to high.

4.2.8.30 KOP 8-97 Owyhee River Canyon Entrance

KOP 8-97 is located on Owyhee Lake Road at the entrance to the lower Owyhee River canyon, approximately 5 miles west of Adrian in eastern Malheur County. The view orientation is west, toward the canyon, and the Proposed Corridor is 0.2 mile from the KOP. Lands adjacent to the KOP are generally under private ownership and are used primarily as rangeland, although transportation and utility uses (irrigation facilities) are also present.

Existing View

KOP 8-97 is located within the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion. The view to the west from KOP 8-97 consists of the flat surface of the valley floor in the immediate foreground, framed by steeply-rolling terrain topped with soft flat-top mesas on both sides of the valley in the foreground and middleground. Lines in the landscape are generally horizontal/diagonal and undulating, although the vertical lines of the asphalt-surfaced road in the foreground and middleground provide contrast that creates a convergence point in

1 the middleground. The trees with irregular shaped canopies in the foreground create a strong
2 vertical element to the generally horizontal/diagonal landscape. Color complexity and contrast in
3 the viewshed consist of medium and dark reds, blues, browns, and orange of the rock
4 formations, light and dark browns and tans, gray and blue hues of the vegetation in the
5 foreground. Textures from the dominant rock are coarse and rough, which contrasts with the
6 generally flat, smooth texture of the valley floor. The Owyhee River in the left foreground
7 appears flat, smooth, and placid. Cultural modifications to the physical landscape are consist of
8 the Owyhee Lake Road, a gravel-surfaced road on the opposite side of the river, a barbed-wire
9 fence and a prominent, light-colored, linear pipeline (the Owyhee Siphon) that contrasts highly
10 within the natural landscape; all of these features are present in the foreground. The overall
11 scenic quality is considered medium (Class B), largely as a result of the complexity and
12 variability of land form, colors and textures.

13 **View with Project**

14 Viewers at KOP 8-97 are primarily recreational visitors to the Owyhee Canyon traveling on
15 Owyhee Lake Road, and are presumed to have a moderate to high level of sensitivity to visual
16 change. These viewers would have a high level of Project visibility at a distance of 0.2 mile.
17 Transmission structures would be seen in the foreground positioned on top of the bluff on the
18 north side of the canyon, which would contrast highly to the existing horizontal landscape, and
19 crossing the slopes on the south side of the river. The contrast at this location is rated as strong,
20 as the Project facilities would span the cone of vision and would dominate the view. A
21 construction multi-use area and potential fly yard location are along the west side of Owyhee
22 Lake Road approximately 0.3 mile northeast of KOP 8-97. Equipment and activity at these
23 facilities would likely be partially visible from the KOP, although in the opposite viewing direction
24 from the transmission facilities. Given the viewing conditions and the timing characteristics of
25 this activity, it would not represent a meaningful addition to the overall visual contrast created by
26 the Project facilities at KOP 8-97. Because this view is within a Class B landscape, the overall
27 resource change is considered moderate to high. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is
28 moderate to high, the viewing duration would be relatively short, and viewer numbers are
29 considered low to moderate. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as low to
30 moderate. Based on the moderate to high visual resource change and low to moderate viewer
31 response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 8-97 is rated as moderate.

32 *4.2.8.31 KOP 8-102 Succor Creek Rural Area*

33 KOP 8-102 is located on Succor Creek Road in an undeveloped, rural area of eastern Malheur
34 County approximately 8 miles south of Adrian. The view orientation is west and southwest, and
35 the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.8 mile from the KOP. Lands immediately adjacent to
36 the KOP are under private ownership and are primarily in agricultural use, including a feedlot
37 and nearby ranch residence. BLM-administered lands are located a short distance to the west of
38 the KOP.

39 **Existing View**

40 KOP 8-102 is located in the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Snake River Plan
41 Ecoregion, although areas in the Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion are also visible. The
42 view to the southwest consists of flat to slightly rolling terrain in the foreground and
43 middleground, with distant mountainous terrain beyond. Several undulating mounds are visible
44 in the landscape and are co-dominant features. Dominant lines in the landscape are horizontal
45 and undulating from the terrain against the distant horizon line. The hard vegetation lines
46 against the adjacent gravel-surfaced road contrast highly in a landscape with few lines.
47 Vegetation is mostly low-lying shrubs and grasses that have no discernible line or shape. There
48 are no trees in this viewshed. Color complexity is limited to bright green grasses, blues and
49 grays of the sagebrush, and light brown of the exposed soil from the road and adjacent livestock

1 development. The dominant textures from the vegetation are fine from grasses and coarse from
2 the sagebrush in the foreground. Visual disruptions from cultural modifications are primarily the
3 gravel road in the foreground and middleground, and the feedlot structures visible in the
4 foreground north of this view. Several steel lattice transmission structures are faintly visible near
5 a low rise in the middleground, and others can be seen on the crest of a more distant ridge. The
6 overall scenic quality is considered medium (Class B).

7 **View with Project**

8 KOP 8-102 primarily represents travelers on Succor Creek Road and residents of the low-
9 density rural area between the BLM-managed lands and the Snake River to the east. Travelers
10 on this road are presumed to have a moderate level of sensitivity to visual change, and
11 residents are presumed to have high sensitivity. Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates
12 structures on the Proposed Corridor would potentially be visible from this location at a distance
13 of 0.8 mile. Project structures and conductors would be visible to the west crossing the slopes to
14 the north of the road, and to the south adjacent to the existing 500-kV line. A communications
15 station located where the line crossed the Succor Creek Road might be visible, but would not
16 add appreciably to the prominence of the facilities. Because the facilities would be seen against
17 a terrain backdrop and in the context of existing modifications to the landscape, they would have
18 weak contrast. While equipment and activity at this facility (if used by the contractor) would be
19 visible in the foreground from KOP 8-102, this short-term and intermittent effect would not be
20 sufficient to add measurably to the contrast associated with the transmission facilities. A
21 potential fly yard location has been identified approximately 0.4 mile to the southwest of the
22 KOP. With a Class B scenic quality, the overall resource change would be low to moderate.
23 With two viewer groups present, viewer sensitivity would be high or moderate, view duration
24 would be short or long, and viewer numbers are low for both groups. As a result, the overall
25 viewer response is rated as low to moderate. Based on a low to moderate resource change and
26 low to moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 8-102 is rated as low to
27 moderate.

28 **4.2.9 Owyhee County**

29 **4.2.9.1 KOP 12-8 Jump Creek Canyon ACEC**

30 KOP 12-8 is located within the Jump Creek Canyon ACEC designated by BLM. The area is
31 located in western Owyhee County, approximately 2 miles west of U.S. Highway 95 and 7 miles
32 southwest of Marsing. The Jump Creek Falls Overlook within the ACEC is the specific site for
33 the KOP. Relative to the Project, the view orientation is to the northeast and the Proposed
34 Corridor is approximately 0.9 mile from the KOP. The ACEC is a relatively long, narrow area of
35 612 acres that incorporates a portion of the Jump Creek Canyon. Adjacent lands to the east and
36 west are also federal lands that BLM administers as a SRMA. Views from the KOP include
37 private lands within the Snake River Valley that are used primarily for agriculture.

38 **Existing View**

39 KOP 12-8 is located along the northeastern edge of the Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion,
40 and in the transition zone with the Snake River Plain Ecoregion. The view to the northeast
41 consists of the ravine formed by Jump Creek in the foreground, with the flat surface of the of the
42 Snake River Valley floor beyond. The ravine acts as a convergence point on the landscape,
43 drawing the eye to a prominent rocky point and steep, rocky cliffs at the mouth of the canyon.
44 Rock outcrops, riparian vegetation, and a small gravel-surfaced parking area are apparent
45 within the ravine and contrast with the flat and relatively even valley floor in the northerly part of
46 the scene. Dominant lines in the landscape are primarily horizontal, with undulating and
47 irregular lines on the horizon from various rock formations protruding on the skyline. There is
48 relatively high color complexity and contrast in the viewshed, consisting of vibrant greens, light

1 browns and tans, umber, blue-gray hues, and reds, yellows and orange from the riparian
2 vegetation in the ravine. Textures from the rock formations are coarse, steep, and rough, which
3 contrasts with the generally flat, fine texture of the grasses on the valley floor. Cultural
4 modifications to the landscape in the foreground are associated with the access facility for Jump
5 Creek Canyon, including a gravel-surfaced road to the parking lot, a small vault toilet structure,
6 a sign board, wooden barriers and a trash receptacle. Two additional gravel roads are visible in
7 the middleground, and structures and patterns associated with agricultural uses can be seen on
8 the valley floor beyond. An existing transmission line on steel lattice structures is visible beyond
9 the canyon mouth, but the structures are seen against a dark backdrop and are not distinct. The
10 overall scenic quality is moderate (Class B), based on the variety in landforms, the prominent
11 features of the ravine, and the color variation from vegetation and terrain.

12 **View with Project**

13 KOP 12-8 represents recreational visitors to the Jump Creek ACEC, who are presumed to have
14 a high level of sensitivity to visual change. The project would be visible from this location, at a
15 distance of 0.9 mile. Similar to the existing transmission line, a section of the proposed
16 transmission alignment to the north of the canyon would be seen against a mix of colors and
17 textures present on the valley floor, which would tend to absorb the contrast created by the
18 Project. Higher elevation terrain south of the canyon would block views toward the alignment in
19 this area. Based on the viewing distance, the backdrop for the part of the Project that would be
20 visible, and the presence of the existing line, contrast levels are rated as weak. With a Class B
21 landscape and weak contrast, the overall resource change is considered low to moderate. The
22 level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high, the viewing duration would range from short to
23 moderate, and viewer numbers are low. Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as
24 moderate. Based on the low to moderate visual resource change and moderate viewer
25 response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 12-8 is rated as no more than moderate.

26 **4.2.9.2 KOP 12-26 Spanish Charlie Basin Wilderness Inventory Unit**

27 KOP 12-26 is located along the Sands Basin Road within western Owyhee County,
28 approximately 9 miles southwest of Marsing and 2 miles east of the Oregon/Idaho state line.
29 The view orientation is to the north and northeast and the Proposed Corridor is approximately
30 1.9 miles from the KOP. The lands surrounding the KOP are in federal ownership and are
31 managed by the BLM as rangeland, and are within an area identified by the BLM as the Spanish
32 Charlie Basin Wilderness Inventory Unit.

33 **Existing View**

34 KOP 12-26 is located in the Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion, and near the transition zone
35 with the Snake River Plain Ecoregion. The view to the north and northeast consists of rolling
36 plateau terrain, with a prominent rocky knoll to the north and a number of contrasting small rock
37 outcrops. Dominant lines in the landscape are horizontal with undulating and irregular lines on
38 the horizon from various rock formations. There is relatively little color complexity, though the
39 dark gray and red rock outcrops provide a degree of contrast. Other colors include vibrant
40 greens, light browns and tans, and burnt and raw sienna. Textures from the rock formations are
41 coarse, steep, and rough which contrasts with the generally flat, fine texture of the grasses on
42 the undulating terrain. No cultural modifications other than the native-surfaced road are evident
43 in the view. The overall scenic quality is moderate (Class B), based on the relatively limited
44 variety in landform, prominent rock outcrops in the viewshed, moderate color variation from
45 vegetation and terrain, and limited cultural modifications.

46 **View with Project**

47 KOP 12-26 primarily represents recreational visitors to the Spanish Charlie Basin Wilderness
48 Inventory Unit, who are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change. Bare-earth

1 viewshed analysis indicates the KOP is at the edge of an area in which the Project would
2 potentially be visible. Review of site-specific conditions indicates a segment of the Project in the
3 left-central part of the view (beyond the curving path of the road) would likely be visible from the
4 KOP, at a distance of 1.9 miles. The rocky knoll to the north of the KOP would block the view in
5 that direction, as would the rolling terrain in the more easterly part of the view. It is likely that the
6 full height of the structures would not be evident, but the structures would extend above the
7 horizon line. Based on the viewing distance and exposure above the skyline, the contrast level
8 with the Project is rated as moderate. With a Class B landscape and moderate contrast, the
9 overall resource change is considered moderate. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is
10 high, the viewing duration would be moderate, and viewer numbers are low. Consequently, the
11 overall viewer response is rated as moderate. Based on the moderate visual resource change
12 and moderate viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 12-26 is rated as
13 moderate.

14 *4.2.9.3 KOP 12-27 Poison Creek Road Rural Area*

15 KOP 12-27 is located along Poison Creek Road in western Owyhee County, approximately 5
16 miles southwest of Marsing and 5 miles east of the Oregon/Idaho state line. Relative to the
17 Project, the view orientation is to the southwest and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.8
18 mile from the KOP. The lands surrounding the KOP are in private ownership and are
19 predominantly developed for agricultural use; there are several farm residences near the KOP.

20 **Existing View**

21 KOP 12-27 is located along the southeastern edge of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion, adjacent
22 to the transition zone with the Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion. The view to the southwest
23 consists of the flat surface of the valley floor with low mountainous terrain rising up in the middle
24 to background. The mountainous terrain contrasts with the nearly flat valley floor and acts as a
25 focal point on the landscape. Dominant lines in the landscape are primarily horizontal, with
26 undulating and irregular lines on the horizon from individual ridges protruding on the skyline.
27 There is relatively little color complexity in the viewshed, consisting of earth tones and dull
28 greens, dark browns and tans, umber, blue-gray hues, and sienna hues. Textures are relatively
29 smooth. Cultural modifications to the landscape include the paved surface and gravel shoulders
30 of Poison Creek Road, the thin profile of Jump Creek Road, utility lines parallel to both roads,
31 clusters of structures on multiple farms, fencing, and irrigation piping. A transmission line on
32 steel lattice structures is located approximately 0.5 mile to the southwest, near the edge of the
33 valley floor; because it is seen against the dark backdrop of the mountain terrain, the line
34 creates limited contrast. The overall scenic quality is low (Class C) due to the limited variety of
35 landform, vegetation, color and texture.

36 **View with Project**

37 KOP 12-27 primarily represents the residents of the local area, who are presumed to have a
38 high level of sensitivity to visual change. The Project would be visible in the near middleground,
39 a short distance beyond the existing transmission line. While the viewing distance is relatively
40 close (0.8 mile), the Project contrast level is rated as weak as a result of the terrain backdrop
41 and existing cultural modifications. With a Class C landscape and weak contrast, the overall
42 resource change is considered low. The level of visual sensitivity at this KOP is high, the
43 viewing duration would be long, and viewer numbers are low. Consequently, the overall viewer
44 response is rated as moderate to high. Based on the low visual resource change and moderate
45 to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact at KOP 12-27 is rated as moderate.

1 4.2.9.4 KOP 12-28 Jump Creek Rural Area

2 KOP 12-28 is located along Jump Creek Road in western Owyhee County, approximately 6
3 miles southwest of Marsing and 5 miles east of the Oregon/Idaho state line. The view
4 orientation is to the north and east, and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 0.2 mile from
5 the KOP. The lands surrounding the KOP and to the north are in private ownership and are
6 used for agricultural purposes. The KOP is adjacent to a farm residence and there are other
7 farm residences in the vicinity. A sizable tract of state-owned land is located to the east, and
8 federal lands managed by BLM are located to the west and south; the Jump Creek Canyon
9 ACEC is 0.8 mile to the southwest.

10 Existing View

11 KOP 12-28 is located along the southeastern edge of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion, adjacent
12 to the transition zone with the Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion. The view to the north and
13 east is dominated by the flat surface of the valley floor, although low mountainous terrain rising
14 up in the background on the left (north) and right (east) edges of the view. The ridges and buttes
15 act as focal points on the landscape and draw the eye away from the flatter terrain. Dominant
16 lines in the landscape are primarily horizontal, with undulating and irregular lines on the horizon
17 from various landforms protruding on the skyline. There is relatively little color contrast in the
18 viewshed, consisting of earth tones and vibrant greens, dark browns and tans, umber, blue-gray
19 hues, and sienna hues. Textures are relatively smooth. Intermittent riparian trees and shrubs
20 are evident along Jump Creek. Cultural modifications to the landscape include the gravel -
21 surfaced road, a linear mound of excavated soil next to the road, fencing, a utility line, and
22 structures, vehicles and other features on the adjacent farm, and additional farm structures in
23 the distance. A roughly 2-mile section of an transmission line on steel lattice structures is visible
24 approximately 0.5 mile to the northeast; while the tower bases are seen against the valley floor,
25 most of the structures and conductor spans extend above the horizon line and create noticeable
26 contrast that detracts somewhat from the scenic quality. The overall scenic quality is low (Class
27 C), based on the relatively limited variety of landform, vegetation, color, and texture, as well as
28 the influence of the cultural modifications.

29 View with Project

30 KOP 12-28 primarily represents residents of the local area, who are presumed to have a high
31 level of sensitivity to visual change. These viewers would have a high level of Project visibility,
32 as the proposed transmission line would be seen in the near foreground at a distance of 0.2
33 mile. While the Project facilities would be similar in character and visibility to the existing
34 transmission line, the Project contrast level is rated as strong because towers and conductors
35 would be seen above the skyline at such a close distance. With a Class C landscape and strong
36 contrast, the overall resource change is considered moderate. The level of visual sensitivity at
37 this KOP is high, the viewing duration would be long, and viewer numbers are low.
38 Consequently, the overall viewer response is rated as moderate to high. Based on the moderate
39 visual resource change and moderate to high viewer response, the incremental visual impact at
40 KOP 12-28 is rated as moderate to high.

41 4.2.9.5 KOP 12-29 Royal Vista Estates

42 KOP 12-29 is located along State Highway 19 in the Owyhee Heights area of western Owyhee
43 County, approximately 1 mile west of Homedale and 3 miles east of the Oregon/Idaho state line.
44 The KOP is adjacent to the Royal Vista Estates, a rural residential development. The view
45 orientation is to the southwest and the Proposed Corridor is approximately 6.1 miles from the
46 KOP. Lands in the local area are under private ownership and the primary land use is
47 agricultural, although there is low-density rural residential development in some locations.

Existing View

1 KOP 12-29 is located in the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons portion of the Snake River Plain
2 Ecoregion, although it provides distant westerly views to areas in the Northern Basin and Range
3 Ecoregion. The view to the southwest consists of flat to slightly rolling terrain in the foreground
4 and middleground, with distant mountainous terrain in the background. Smooth and continuous
5 mountain ranges are visible in the landscape and are prominent background features. Dominant
6 lines in the landscape are horizontal and undulating from the terrain against the distant horizon
7 line. The vegetation lines are sporadic and contrasting, with individual and clustered trees
8 adjacent to crop fields with low, uniform cover, and residential structures that dominate
9 foreground views. Color complexity is relatively limited, with dark green trees and shrubs, gray
10 pavement, and light brown of exposed soil along the road and in adjacent residential and farm
11 development. Cultural modifications to the landscape include the highway, utility lines,
12 agricultural field patterns, and several residential and farm structures that are prominent in the
13 foreground. Additional structures are visible to the north of the KOP, but are not included in the
14 view toward the Project location. A transmission line on steel lattice structures is located
15 approximately 6 miles to the southwest, near the edge of the valley floor; as a result of the
16 viewing distance, view blockage by structures and terrain, vegetation screening, and/or the dark
17 backdrop of the mountain terrain, the transmission line is not evident in the view. The overall
18 scenic quality is considered low (Class C), based on the relatively limited variety in landform,
19 vegetation, and color and cultural modifications in the landscape that block views and detract
20 somewhat from the scenic quality.
21

View with Project

22 KOP 12-29 primarily represents residential viewers associated with the community of Homedale
23 who have the closest location to the Project at a distance of approximately 6.1 miles from the
24 Proposed Corridor. Residents are presumed to have a high level of sensitivity to visual change.
25 Bare-earth viewshed analysis indicates the Project would potentially be visible from the KOP.
26 The Project would be located parallel and slightly to the south of the existing transmission line;
27 as discussed above, the existing line is not evident and it is very unlikely that viewers would be
28 able to detect the proposed Project facilities. Therefore, the contrast and visual resource change
29 with the Project are rated as none. If the Project were visible in selected locations or under
30 certain visibility conditions, the contrast would be quite weak. With a Class C scenic quality and
31 weak contrast, the maximum visual resource change would be low. The viewer sensitivity at this
32 location is high, the view duration is long, and viewer numbers are low. Consequently, the
33 overall viewer response would be moderate to high. Based on a low resource change (at most,
34 if any Project facilities were actually visible) and a moderate to high viewer response, the
35 incremental visual impact at KOP 12-29 is rated as no more than moderate.
36

5.0 MITIGATION

37 IPC has proposed environmental protection measures (EPMs) that would decrease impacts to
38 visual resources. All characteristics of the Project as proposed are described Exhibit B and in
39 Appendix E of the Plan of Development (POD; IPC 2011).
40

41 IPC has adopted or will consider siting, design, and vegetation management measures to avoid,
42 reduce, or otherwise mitigate any significant adverse visual impacts from the Project. Mitigation
43 measures may include refinements to Project siting during final design, design measures such
44 as use of alternative structure types, and ROW vegetation management measures such as
45 vegetation screening. Such measures would be considered on a case-by-case and site-specific
46 basis. Consideration of means to avoid or reduce visual impacts to date in the planning process
47 is summarized below.

5.1 PROJECT SITING

IPC conducted an extensive siting study and a supplemental siting study to balance multiple constraints and opportunities in determining the location of the Proposed Corridor and the alternate corridors. Avoidance and minimization of potential visual impacts were prominent objectives in the Project siting work. In the siting process for the Project, IPC identified more than 35 location-specific constraints related to sensitive viewers and scenic resources (see Table A-1 in Exhibit B, Attachment B-1 [2010 Siting Study]). Sensitive viewers and viewing locations addressed in the siting study included scenic byways, intact segments of the Oregon National Historic Trail, ACECs, community parks, and local communities. Sensitive resources included Wild and Scenic Rivers, Oregon State Scenic Waterways, Wilderness lands, and BLM VRM Class I and II inventoried lands. In addition, existing utility and transportation corridors were identified as potential opportunities for Project location because use of areas already subject to landscape modifications minimizes overall visual impact of the Project. As shown in Appendix D of the Siting Study, these factors were included in the analysis of alternate routes, the comparative analysis of the West, Central, and Eastern Corridors, and the selection of a Preferred Corridor.

For example, one of the factors involved in identifying the Longhorn Alternate was that it avoided a crossing of the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway. Conversely, constraints involving other resources resulted in the Proposed Corridor and the Horn Butte Alternate crossing the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway in two locations. In particular, the locations of the Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman, the Boardman Grasslands Conservation Area and multiple existing wind farms were important factors that influenced Project siting in this area.

As a result of the extensive work done in the Siting Study, options for further changes to the locations for the Proposed Corridor or alternate corridor segments are limited. Nevertheless, it is possible that micrositing changes (minor shifts in alignment or relocation of individual structures) could be employed to reduce visual contrast and impact in selected locations.

5.2 PROJECT DESIGN

Exhibit B describes in detail the characteristics of the Project facilities, including a description for the proposed transmission structures, conductors, substations, access roads, and other supporting facilities.

Design measures are often considered to reduce the potential visibility and visual impacts of transmission lines. Those measures typically include the type of structures used to support the transmission line; the types of materials used for the structures, conductors and other hardware; and the color and texture of the surface finishes on these facilities. Similar measures are sometimes considered for substation equipment, access roads, and other support facilities.

For a variety of reasons, IPC has followed standard utility practice in proposing to use lattice towers constructed of galvanized steel to support the 500-kV line. In the planning process, IPC has incorporated some design features that are intended to reduce the visual contrast that would be created by the transmission facilities. Specifically, the lattice-steel transmission towers will be constructed from deglared galvanized steel, which is a finish treatment that provides a duller appearance than is typically associated with galvanized steel. The deglared steel is darker and less reflective, and is better able to recede into the landscape when seen against a terrain backdrop. In addition, the conductors will have a non-specular finish that will reduce reflectivity and the potential for glare.

IPC will consider the use of alternative structure types in selected locations, as discussed in Exhibit B. Such locations could include cases where such a change would demonstrably reduce

1 the level of visual contrast that would result with lattice-steel structures. Scoping and agency
2 consultation input for the Project has included suggestions to use steel monopoles (single,
3 tubular steel structures) to support the conductors in visually sensitive areas. IPC notes that
4 monopoles must be relatively tall and large in diameter to support a 500-kV line, and has
5 reservations that monopoles would actually result in less overall contrast. Another potential
6 design option is to use H-frame structures composed of double steel poles. Structures of this
7 type can be designed with a lower overall height than either lattice towers or monopoles and
8 have a thinner profile than monopoles, and they are similar in character to the wood H-frame
9 structures often used for transmission lines of 115-kV to 230-kV. Design measures to reduce
10 the visual contrast created by the Project facilities will be considered in developing the mitigation
11 plan for the Project.

12 IPC recognizes that scoping comments included suggestions to consider underground
13 installation of the proposed transmission line, either as a standard approach or in certain
14 locations. IPC's Revised Plan of Development (POD) for the Project (IPC 2011) provides a
15 thorough discussion of underground alternatives that addresses underground technologies,
16 construction requirements, operation and maintenance factors and other considerations.
17 Underground installation and the transitions between underground and overhead sections of a
18 line present substantial challenges in project design, construction, and maintenance. On a per-
19 mile basis underground installation is approximately 12 to 17 times more expensive than is
20 overhead installation. Underground systems also create reliability issues, primarily because
21 outage durations are typically longer, and create needs for reactive power compensation. Based
22 on these limitations, IPC does not consider underground installation to be a viable option for the
23 Project. For additional discussion regarding IPC's evaluation of the possibility of undergrounding
24 the transmission line, see the POD and Exhibit BB.

25 **5.3 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

26 Landscape treatment measures that are considered to reduce the visual impacts of
27 transmission lines typically involve construction or post-construction actions that can help to
28 screen facilities from view or soften their appearance. They can include vegetation clearing
29 practices used in construction, landscape plantings in specific locations following construction,
30 and practices used in long-term operation and maintenance of transmission line features.

31 Options for transmission line post-construction visual mitigation are limited due to the height of
32 the towers and safety requirements that necessitate removal of vegetation above a certain
33 height directly under the conductors. IPC has adopted landscaping or vegetation management
34 measures that would help to reduce visual impacts from the Project. Similar to design
35 measures, some landscape treatment measures may be specific to a visual concern for certain
36 portion of the alignment, while others will be applied on a Project-wide basis. Landscape
37 treatment measures that have been proposed for the Project are summarized as follows:

- 38 • IPC has developed a draft Vegetation Management Plan (Exhibit P, Attachment P-5)
39 that includes measures for rehabilitation of impacts related to vegetation clearing.
40 Among other provisions in the plan, vegetation clearing and ground disturbance will be
41 limited to the area necessary to safely and efficiently install the Project facilities.
- 42 • Where applicable and permissible in forested settings throughout the Project, vegetation
43 within the ROW could potentially be "feathered" (trimmed to produce a more gradual
44 tapering of vegetation heights with distance from the lines) to reduce visual contrast by
45 softening the transition from cleared ROW to standing forest. IPC is proposing to
46 manage vegetation within the ROW to maintain a maximum height of 20 feet in the wire
47 zone portion of the ROW (the area under the conductors and extending 10 feet outside
48 the outermost conductors, which is approximately 76 feet wide for the Project; see

1 Figure P-5-1) and a maximum height of 34 feet in the adjacent border zone area
2 (approximately 87 feet on either side of the wire zone). This will result in a somewhat U-
3 shaped vegetation profile within the ROW, rather than a distinct wall of vegetation at the
4 edge of the ROW. Vegetation management will need to maintain compliance with
5 applicable regulatory requirements (e.g., the North American Electrical Reliability
6 Corporation [NERC], the Western Electricity Coordinating Council [WECC], and the U.S.
7 Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA]
8 requirements).

- 9 • Tree removal in hilly, forested areas would be limited to areas in which the mature trees
10 would come within 50 feet of the conductors, to maintain the minimum required safety
11 clearances. This would result in leaving forested stands within the ROW under high
12 spans across canyons or ravines, rather than clearing the entire ROW width and length
13 as is often done. This would reduce the contrast from ROW clearing and thereby lessen
14 the overall visibility of the Project on the landscape.
- 15 • Survey crews will remove all stakes and flagging from the construction area following
16 construction.
- 17 • Access roads and other areas of ground disturbance will be watered during construction,
18 as needed, to remain compact and to avoid the creation of dust plumes.
- 19 • Planting of vegetation screening along roads or around tower bases could be considered
20 on a case-by-case basis where it would be practical and effective in reducing the
21 visibility of Project facilities.

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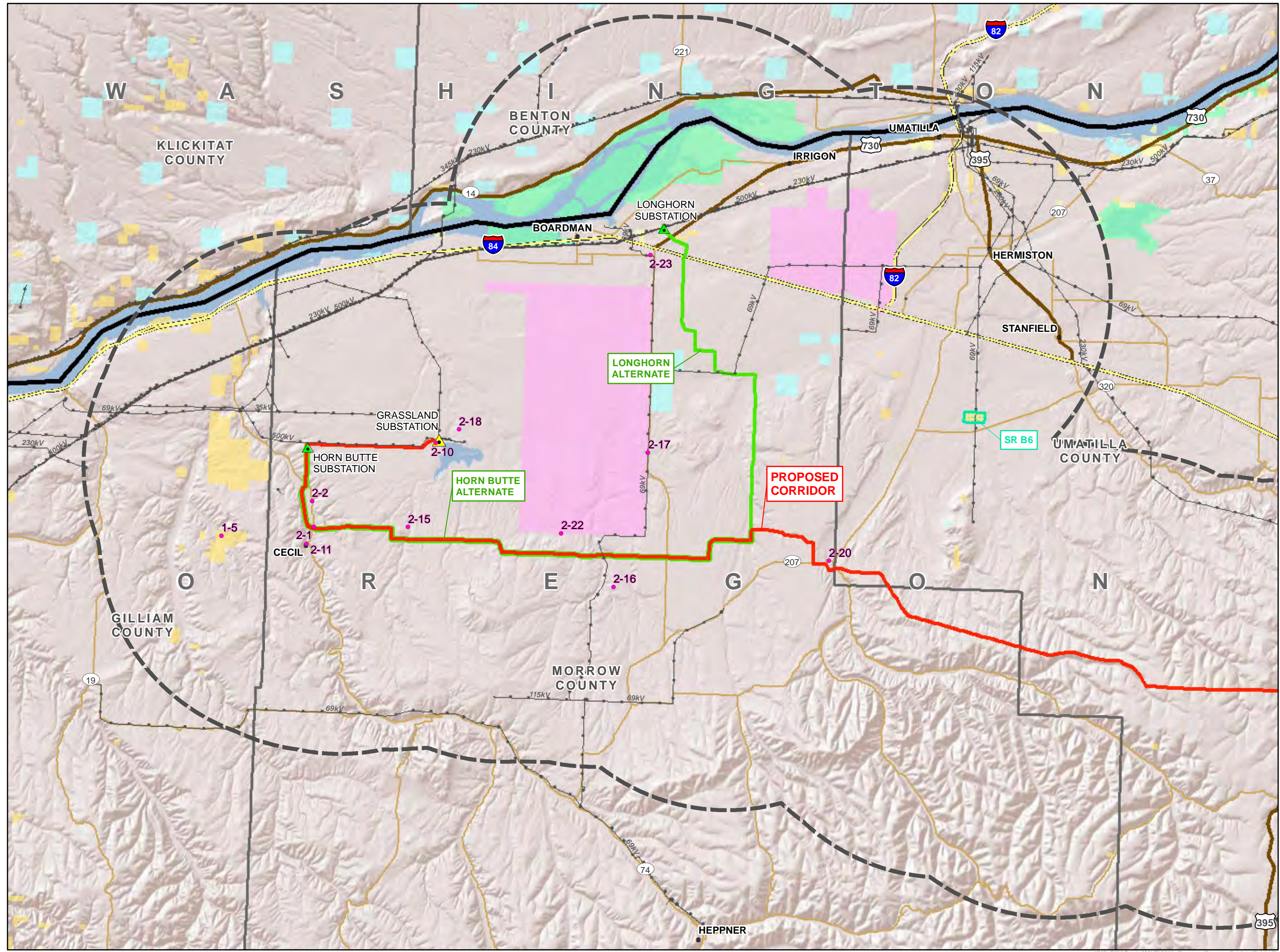
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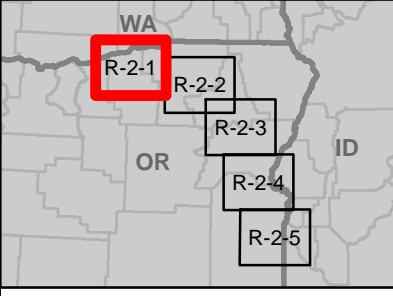
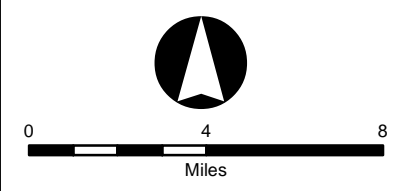
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**ATTACHMENT R-2
MAP FIGURES**

Figure R-2-1

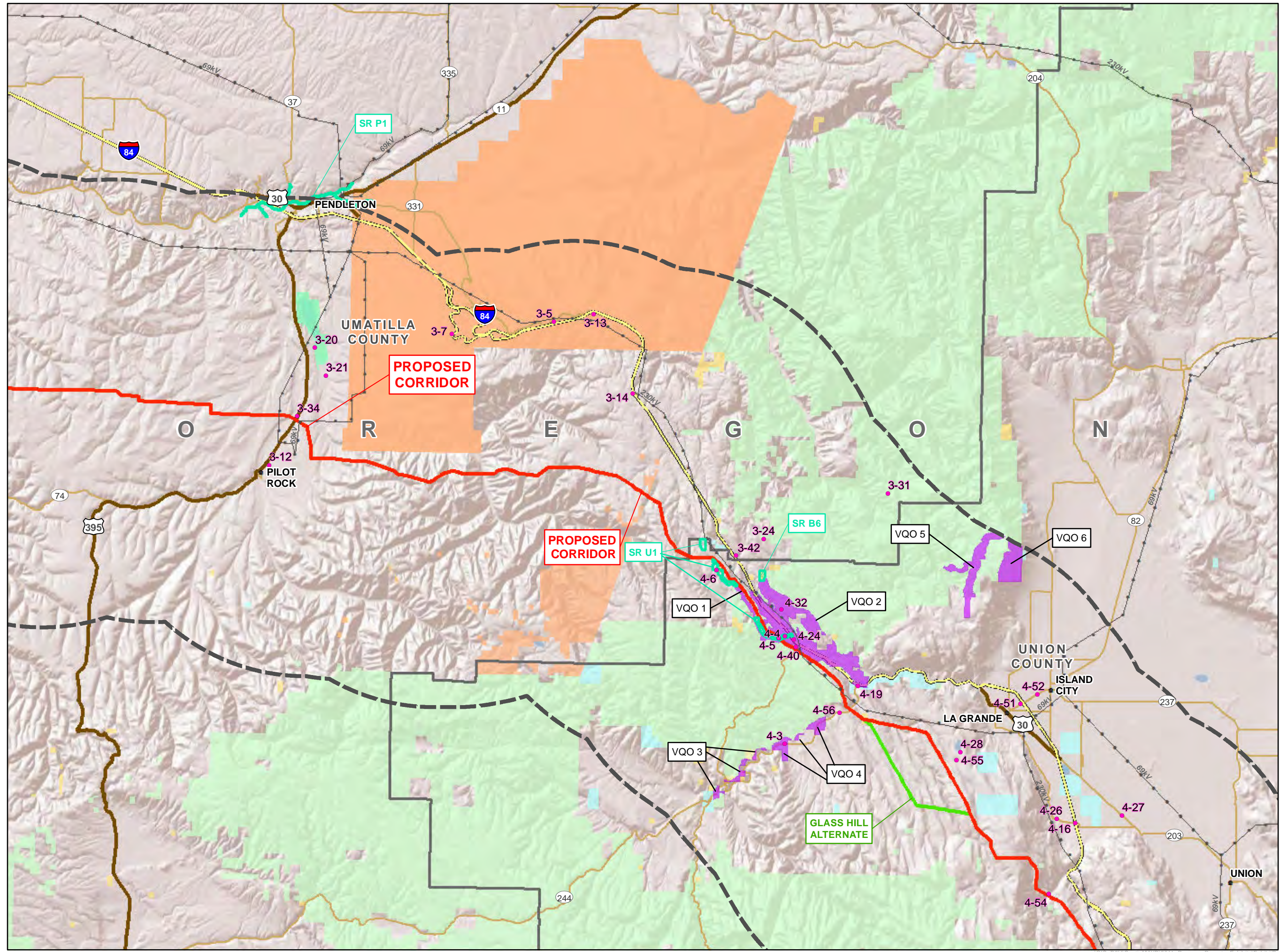


- Legend**
- 10 mi Radius of Site Boundary
 - Key Observation Point
 - Alternative Substation
 - Proposed Substation
 - Scenic Area (Line)
 - Scenic Area (Polygon)
 - USFS VQO Retention
 - BLM VRM Class I
 - BLM VRM Class II
 - Existing Transmission Line
 - Proposed Rebuild
 - Proposed Corridor
 - Alternate Corridor
 - City/Town
 - State Boundary
 - County Boundary
 - Interstate Highway
 - U.S. Highway
 - State Highway/Major Road
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - Department of Defense
 - Indian Reservation
 - Private
 - State
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - U.S. Forest Service

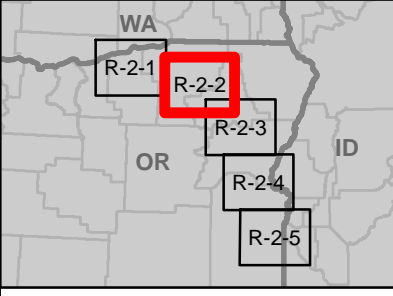
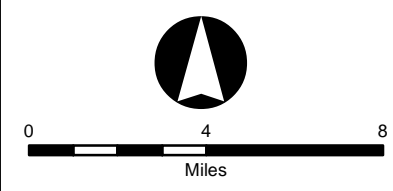


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Figure R-2-2






























- Legend**
- 10 mi Radius of Site Boundary
 - Key Observation Point
 - Alternative Substation
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 - Scenic Area (Line)
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 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - Department of Defense
 - Indian Reservation
 - Private
 - State
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - U.S. Forest Service

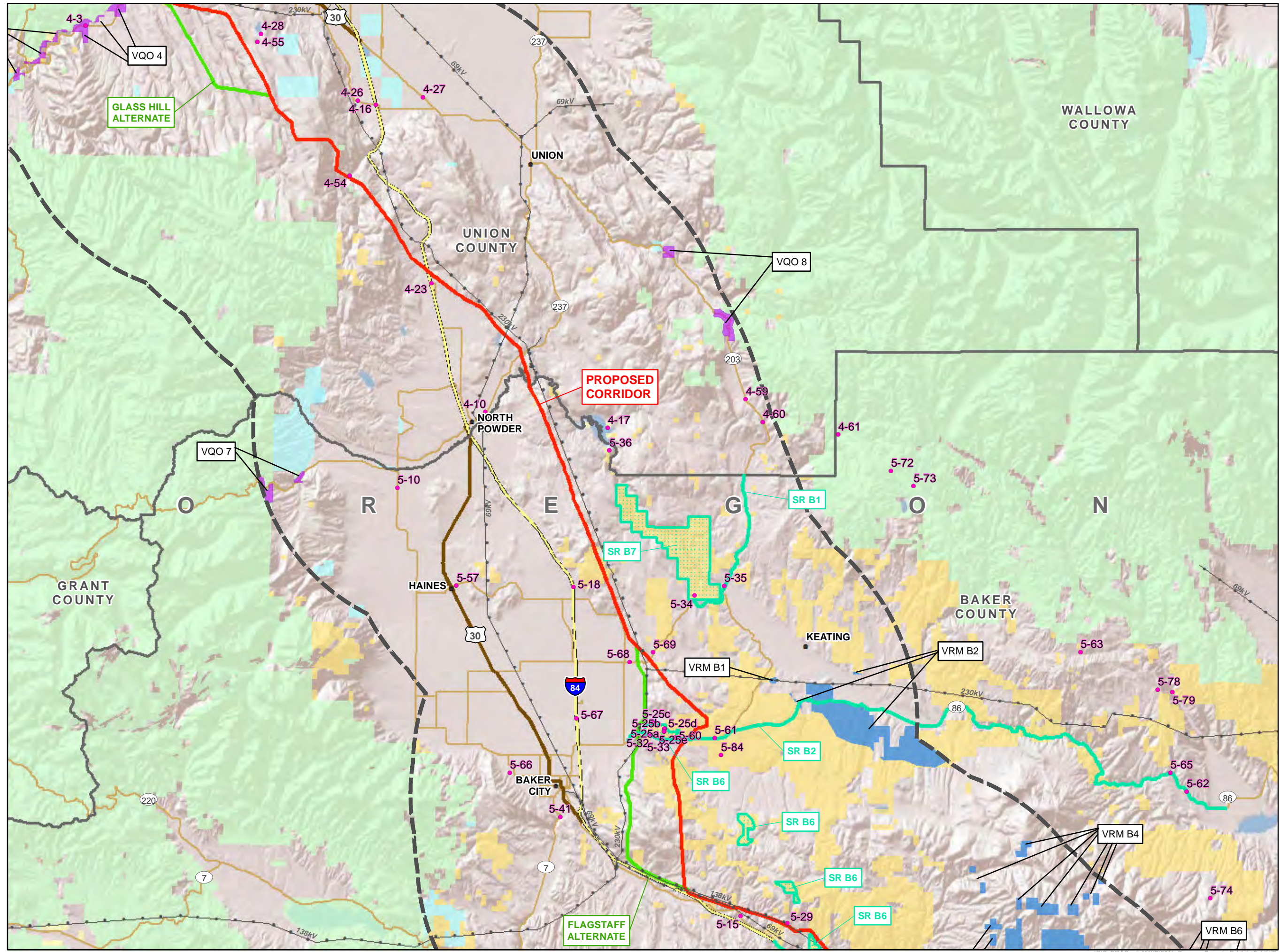
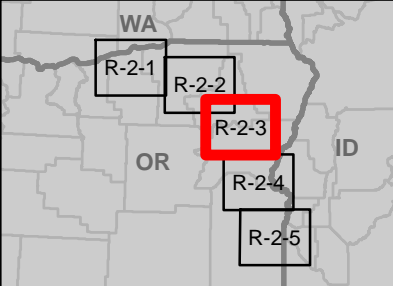
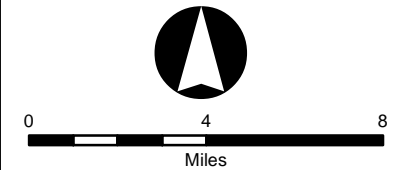


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Figure R-2-3

Legend

-  10 mi Radius of Site Boundary
-  Key Observation Point
-  Alternative Substation
-  Proposed Substation
-  Scenic Area (Line)
-  Scenic Area (Polygon)
-  USFS VQO Retention
-  BLM VRM Class I
-  BLM VRM Class II
-  Existing Transmission Line
-  Proposed Rebuild
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-  State Boundary
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-  U.S. Highway
-  State Highway/Major Road
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-  Bureau of Reclamation
-  Department of Defense
-  Indian Reservation
-  Private
-  State
-  U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
-  U.S. Forest Service






























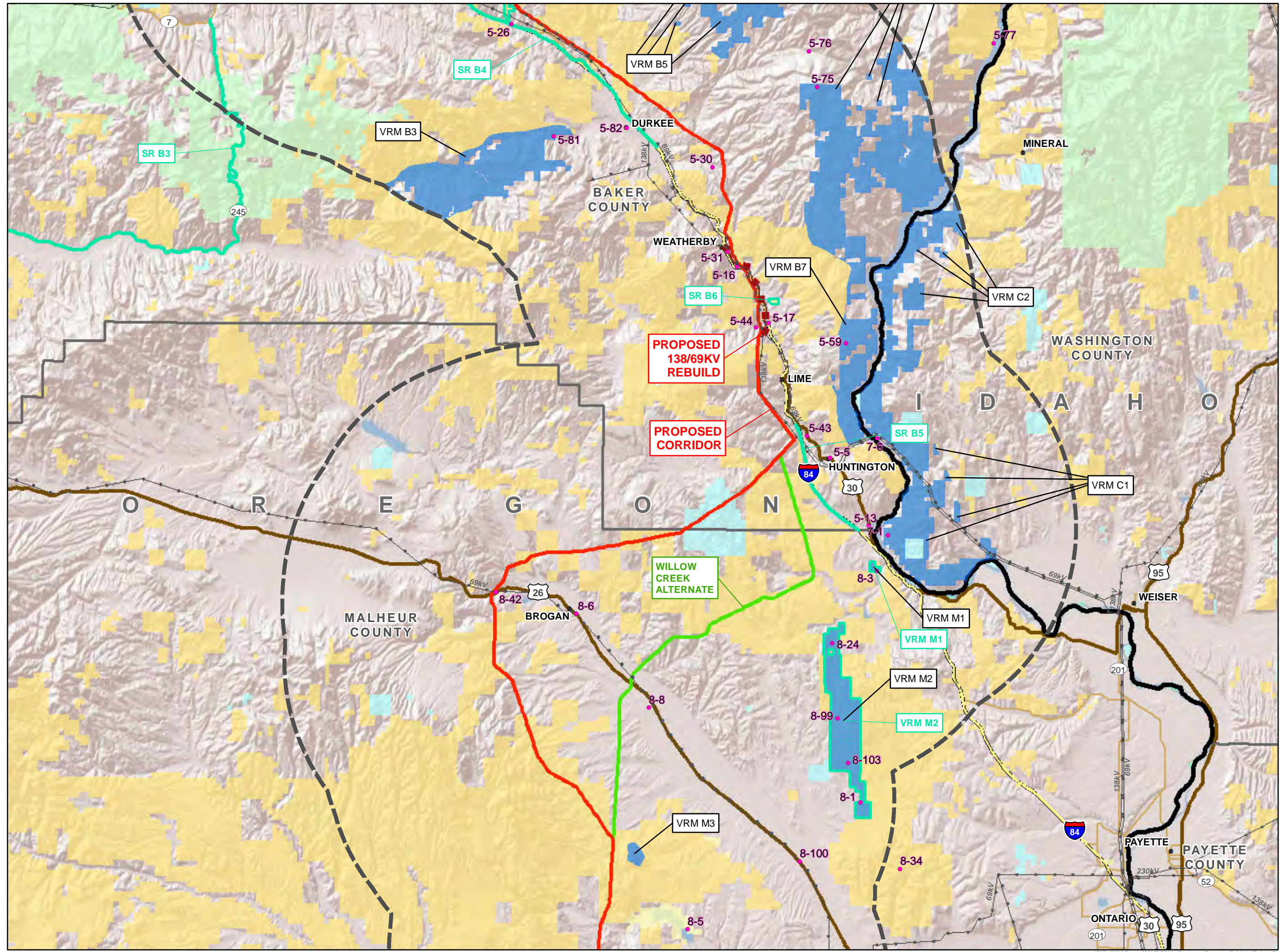
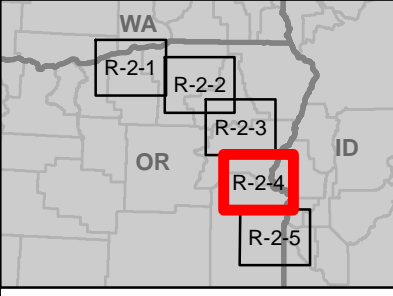
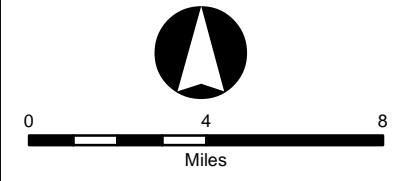
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Figure R-2-4

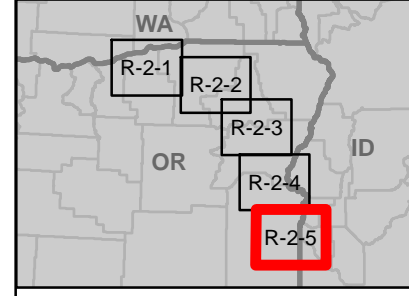
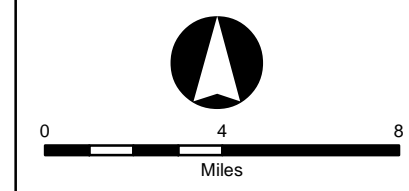
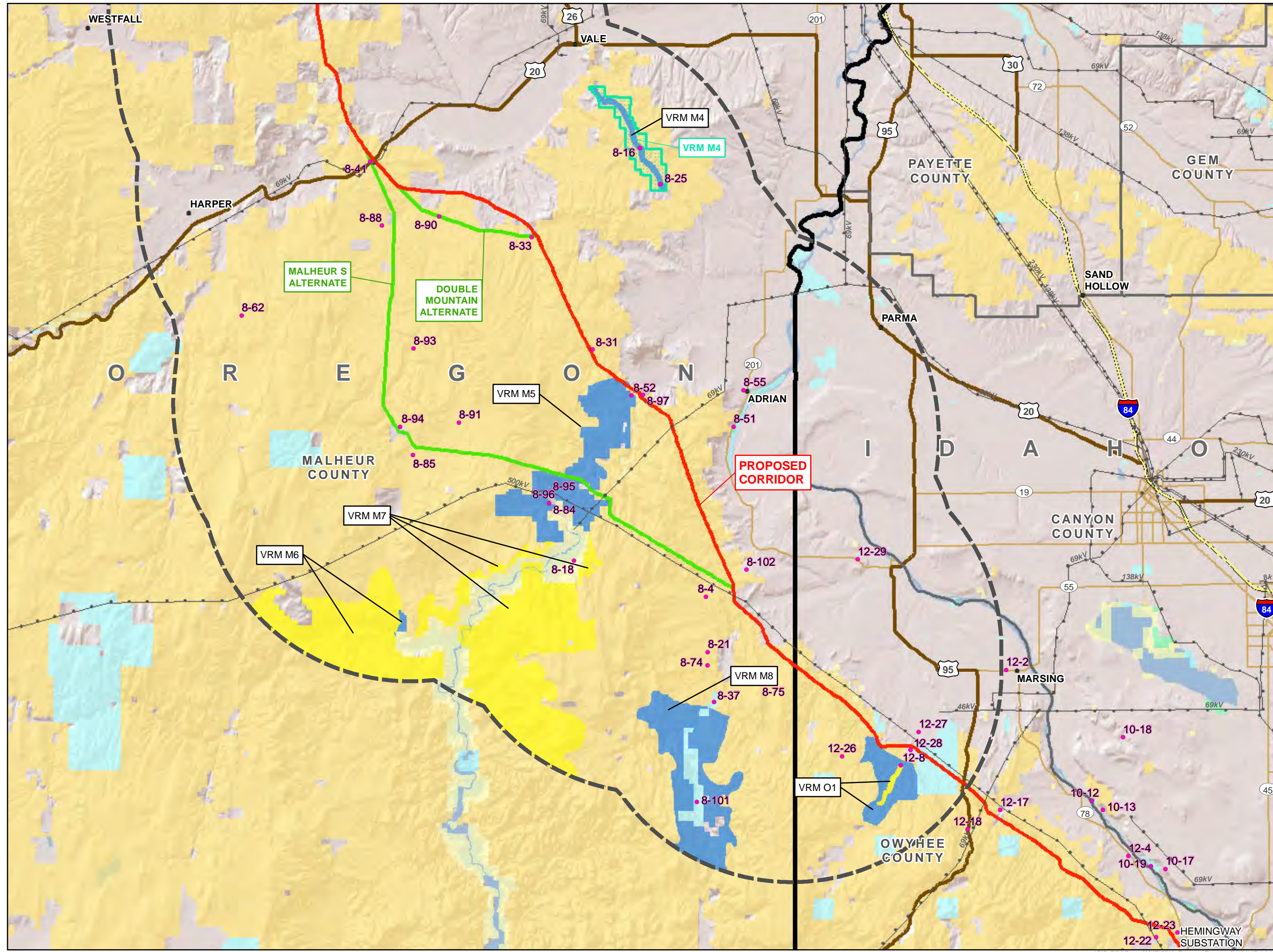
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-  Key Observation Point
-  Alternative Substation
-  Proposed Substation
-  Scenic Area (Line)
-  Scenic Area (Polygon)
-  USFS VQO Retention
-  BLM VRM Class I
-  BLM VRM Class II
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-  Department of Defense
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-  Private
-  State
-  U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
-  U.S. Forest Service



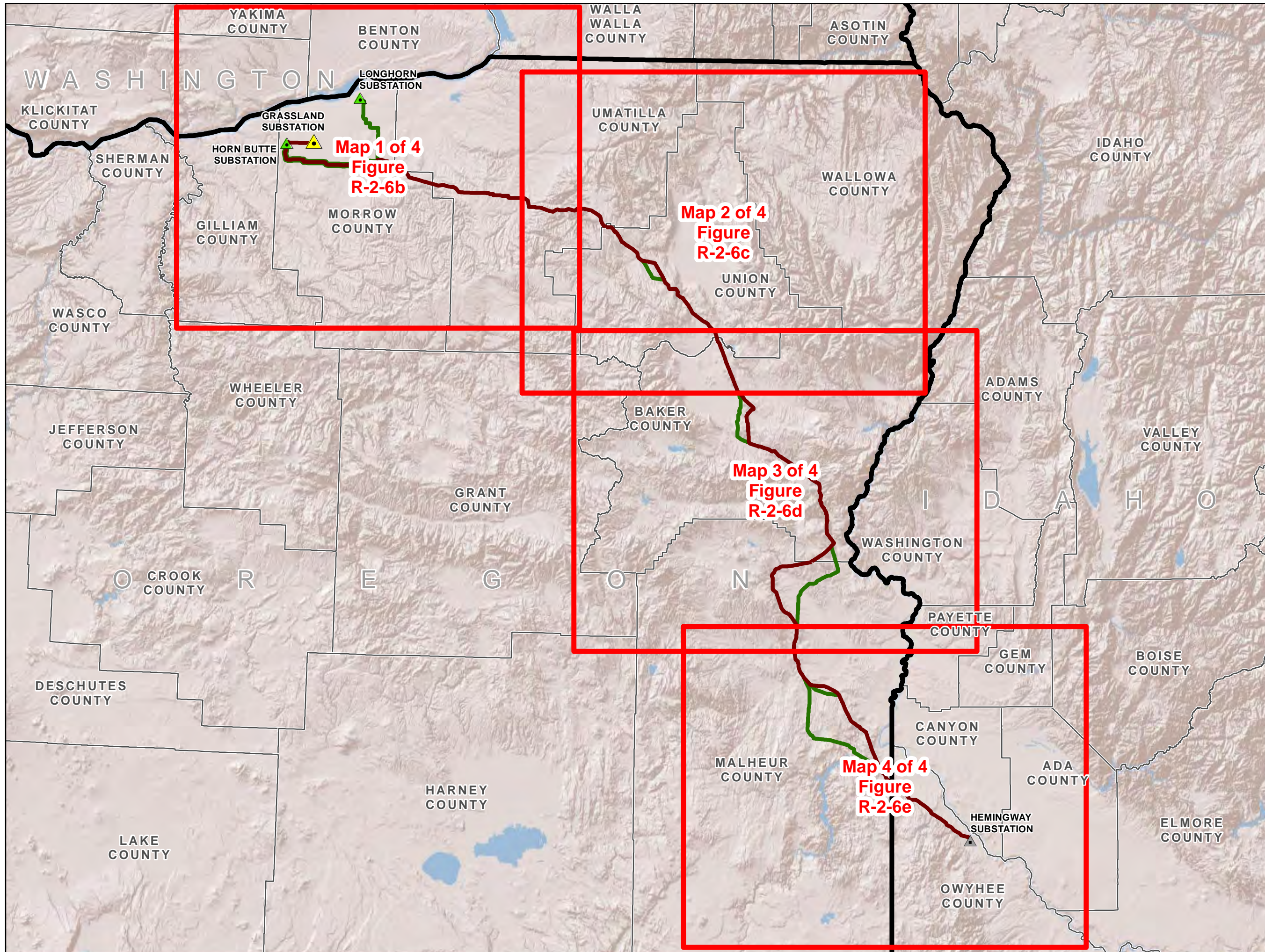
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Figure R-2-5











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Figure R-2-6a
Overview of Map Sheets
for Proposed Corridor KOPs



Legend

-  Map Sheet
-  Proposed Substation
-  Alternative Substation
-  Existing Substation
-  Proposed Corridor
-  Alternate Corridor
-  State Boundary
-  County Boundary

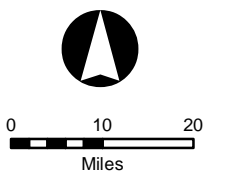
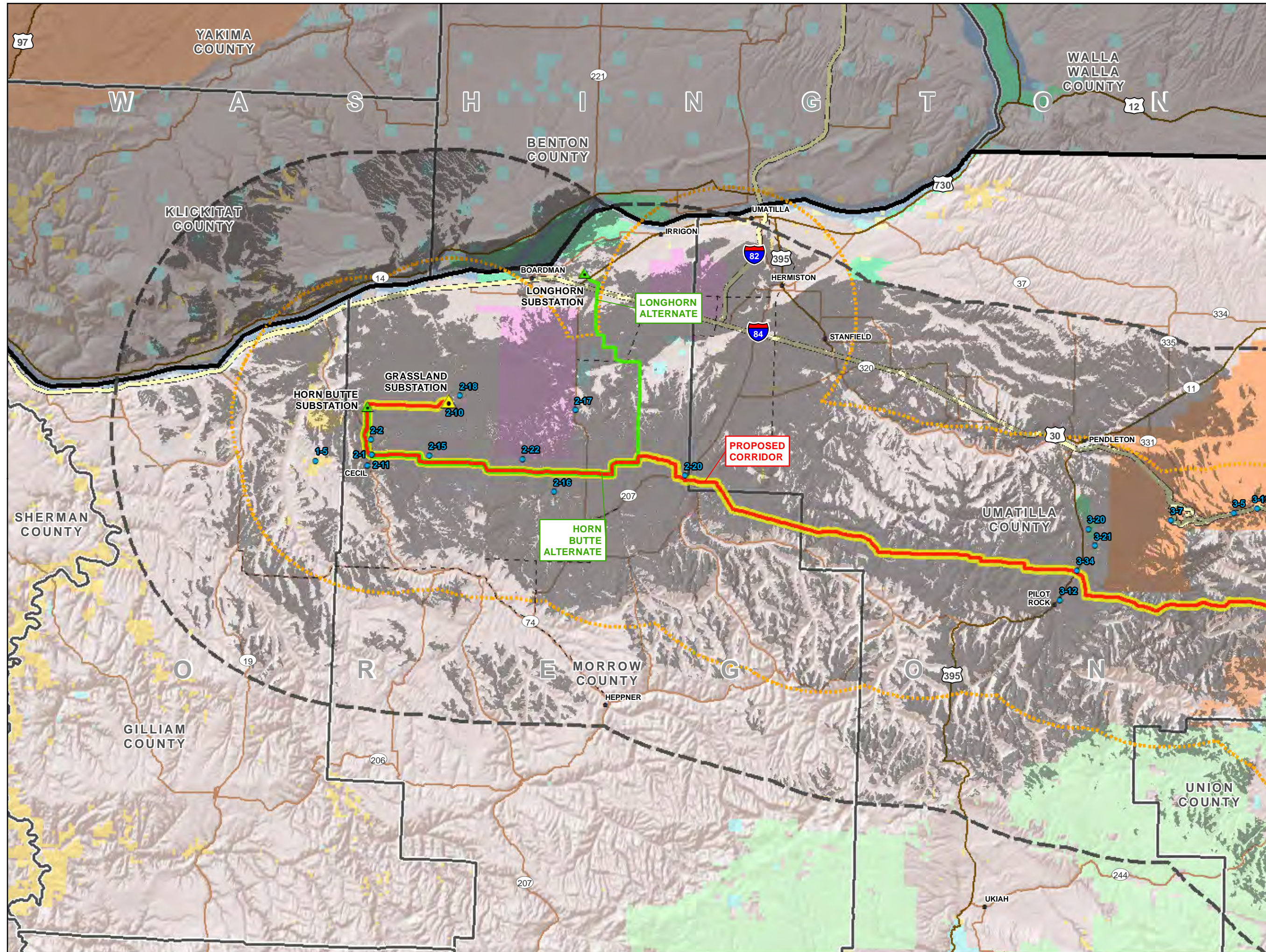
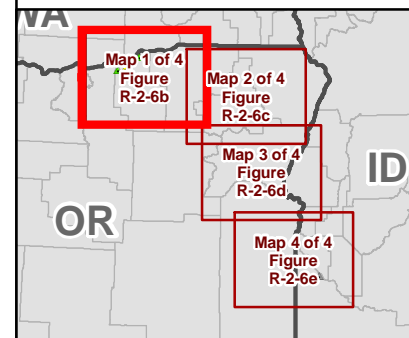
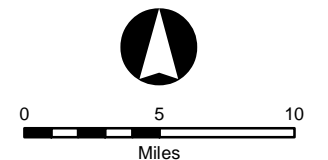


Figure R-2-6b

KOPs for Proposed Route

Legend

- Key Observation Point
- ▲ Proposed Substation
- ▲ Alternative Substation
- ▲ Existing Substation
- Proposed Rebuild
- Proposed Corridor
- Alternate Corridor
- Viewshed Analysis Segment
- 20-Mile Viewshed Radius
- Area Where One or More Towers Would be Potentially Visible
- 10-Mile Radius of Proposed Corridor Site Boundary
- Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- National Park Service
- Other Federal
- Private
- State
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Existing Transmission Line
- City/Town
- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Road
- State Boundary
- County Boundary



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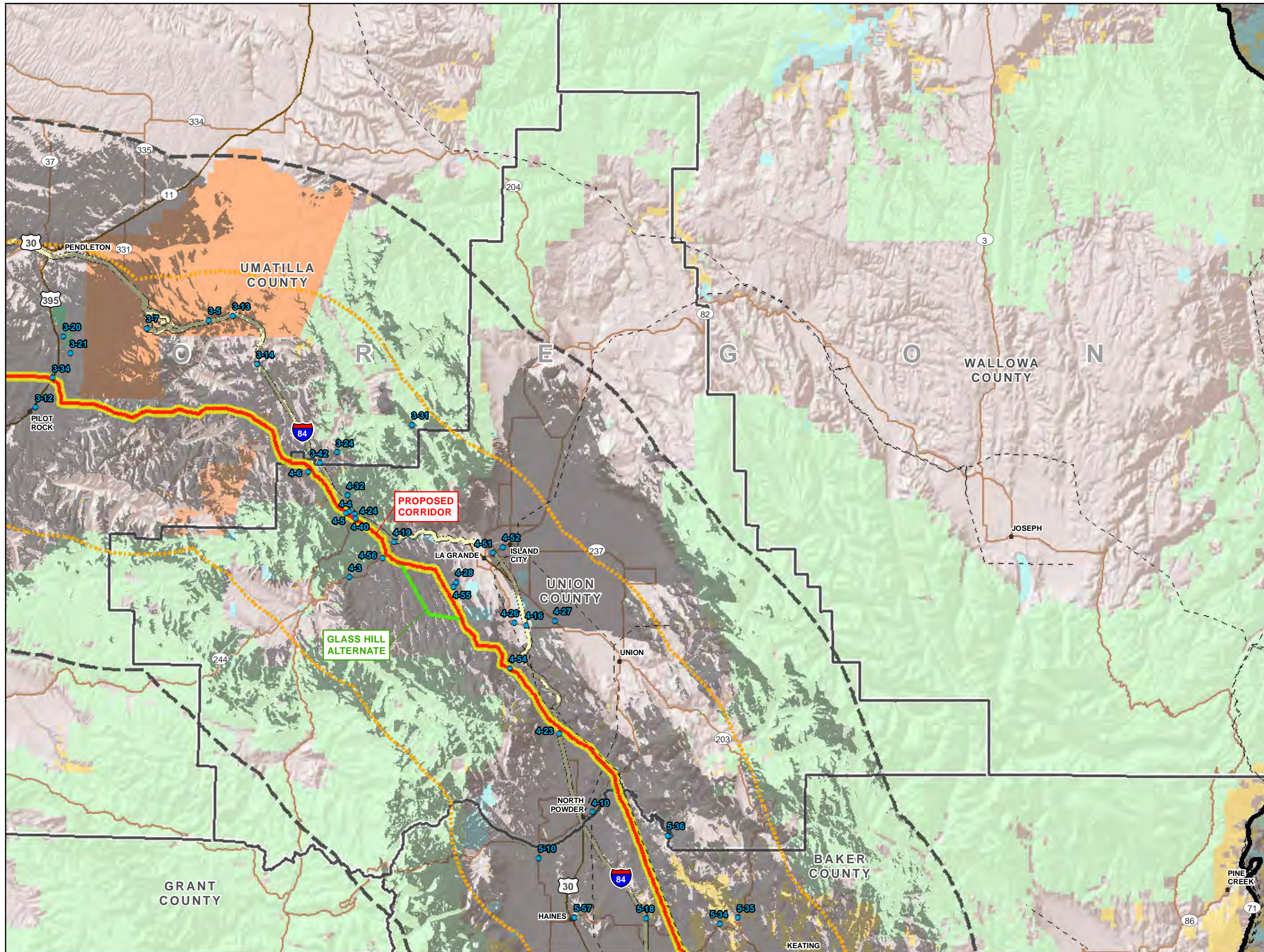
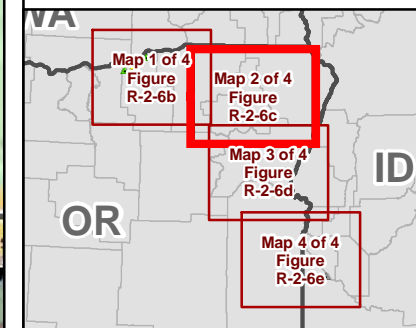
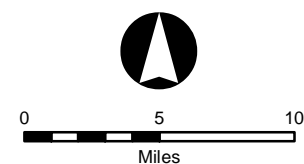
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Figure R-2-6c

KOPs for Proposed Route

Legend

- Key Observation Point
- ▲ Proposed Substation
- ▲ Alternative Substation
- ▲ Existing Substation
- Proposed Rebuild
- Proposed Corridor
- Alternate Corridor
- Viewshed Analysis Segment
- 20-Mile Viewshed Radius
- Area Where One or More Towers Would be Potentially Visible
- 10-Mile Radius of Proposed Corridor Site Boundary
- Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- National Park Service
- Other Federal
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- U.S. Forest Service
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- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Road
- State Boundary
- County Boundary



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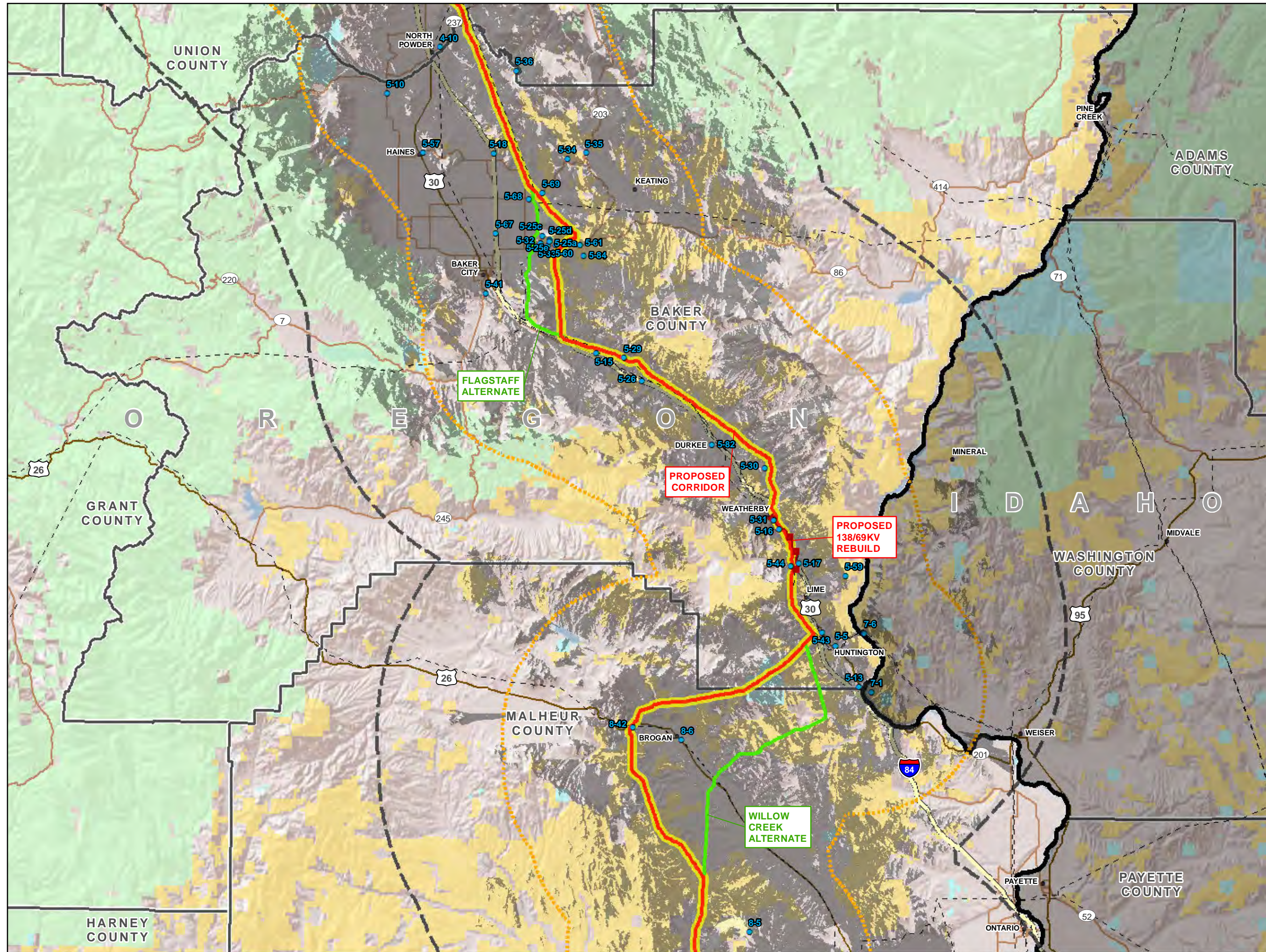
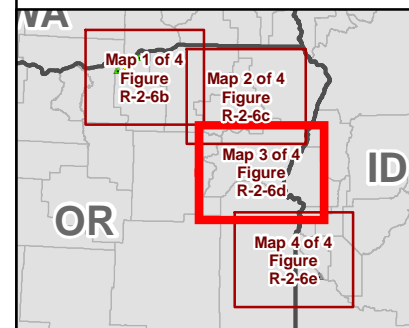
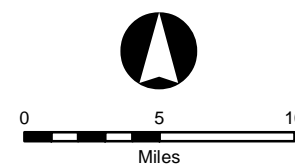
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Figure R-2-6d

KOPs for Proposed Route

Legend

- Key Observation Point
- ▲ Proposed Substation
- ▲ Alternative Substation
- ▲ Existing Substation
- Proposed Rebuild
- Proposed Corridor
- Alternate Corridor
- Viewshed Analysis Segment
- 20-Mile Viewshed Radius
- Area Where One or More Towers Would be Potentially Visible
- 10-Mile Radius of Proposed Corridor Site Boundary
- Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- National Park Service
- Other Federal
- Private
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- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Existing Transmission Line
- City/Town
- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Road
- State Boundary
- County Boundary



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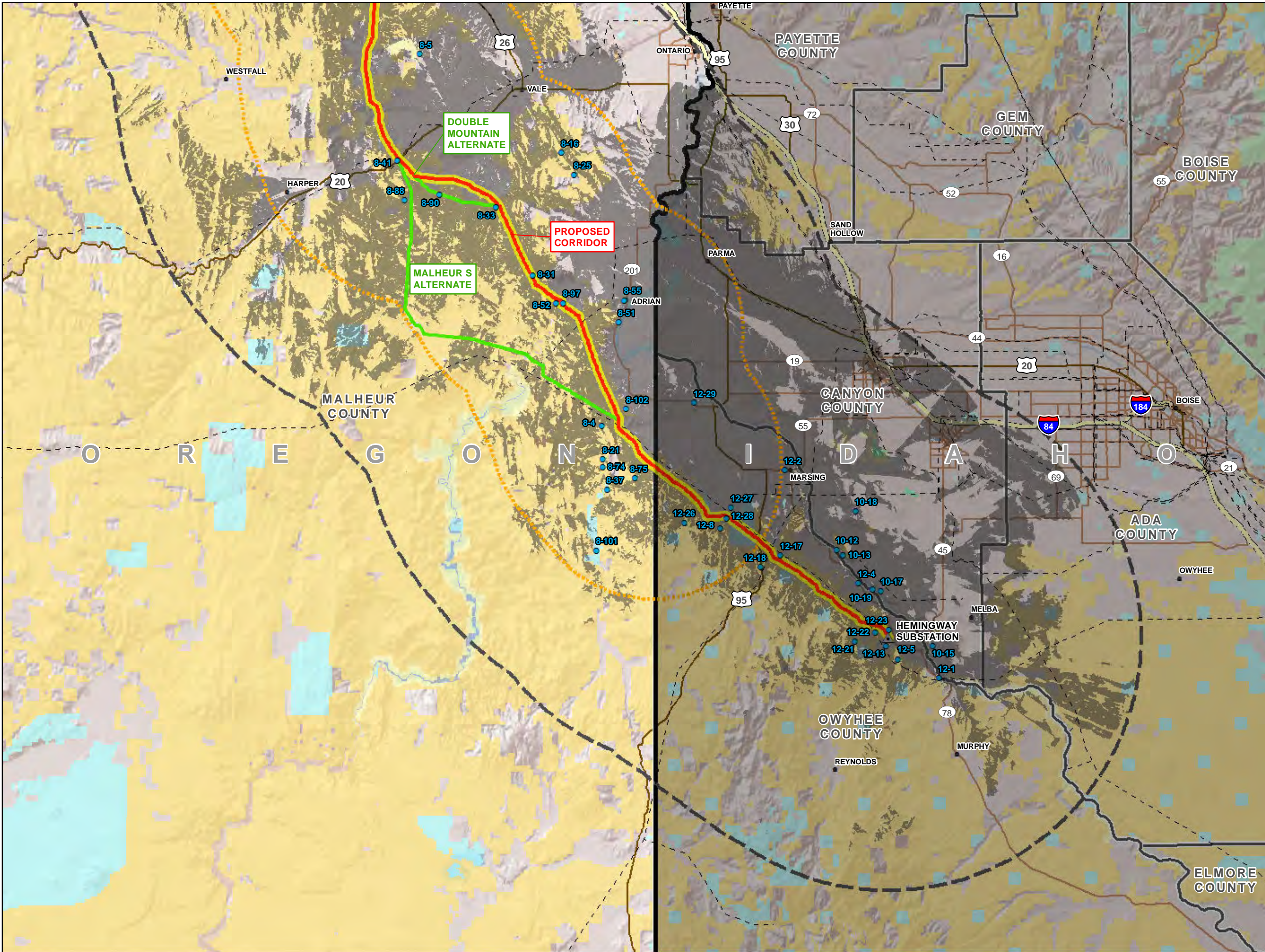
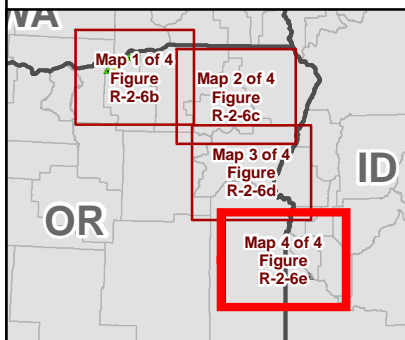
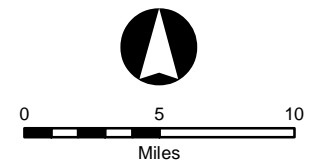
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Figure R-2-6e

KOPs for Proposed Route

Legend

- Key Observation Point
- ▲ Proposed Substation
- ▲ Alternative Substation
- ▲ Existing Substation
- ➡ Proposed Rebuild
- ➡ Proposed Corridor
- ➡ Alternate Corridor
- Viewshed Analysis Segment
- 20-Mile Viewshed Radius
- Area Where One or More Towers Would be Potentially Visible
- 10-Mile Radius of Proposed Corridor Site Boundary
- Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- National Park Service
- Other Federal
- Private
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- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- - - Existing Transmission Line
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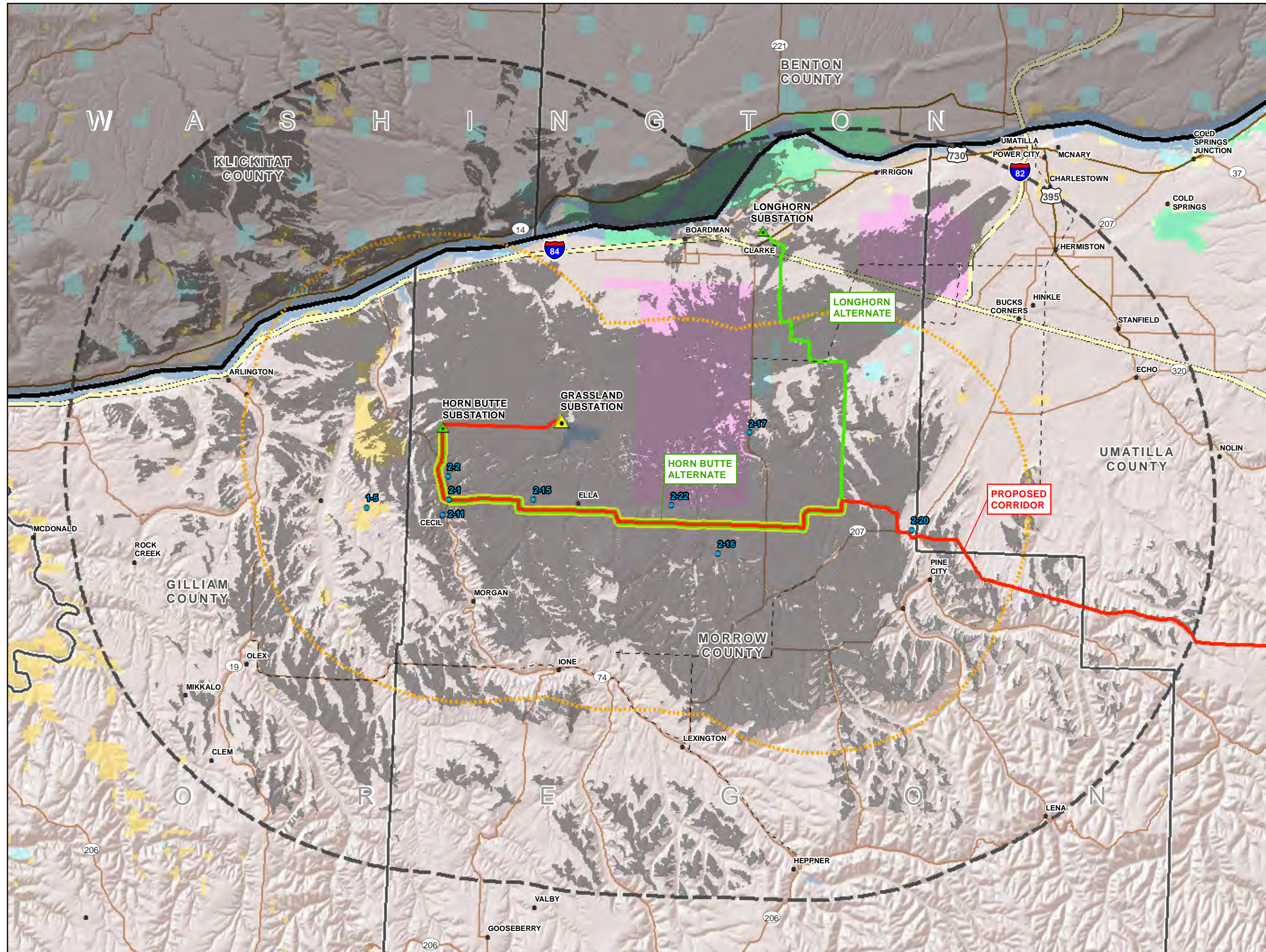
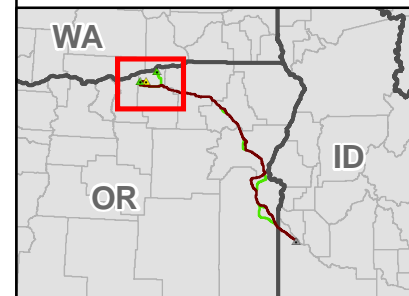
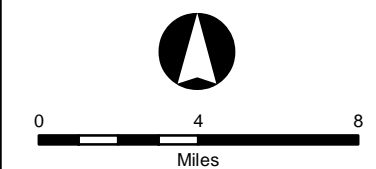
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Figure R-2-7

KOPs for Horn Butte Alternate

Legend

- Key Observation Point
- ▲ Proposed Substation
- ▲ Alternative Substation
- ▲ Existing Substation
- Proposed Corridor
- Alternate Corridor
- Viewshed Analysis Segment
- 20-Mile Viewshed Radius
- Area Where One or More Towers Would be Potentially Visible
- 10-Mile Radius of Horn Butte
- Alternate Site Boundary
- Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
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- National Park Service
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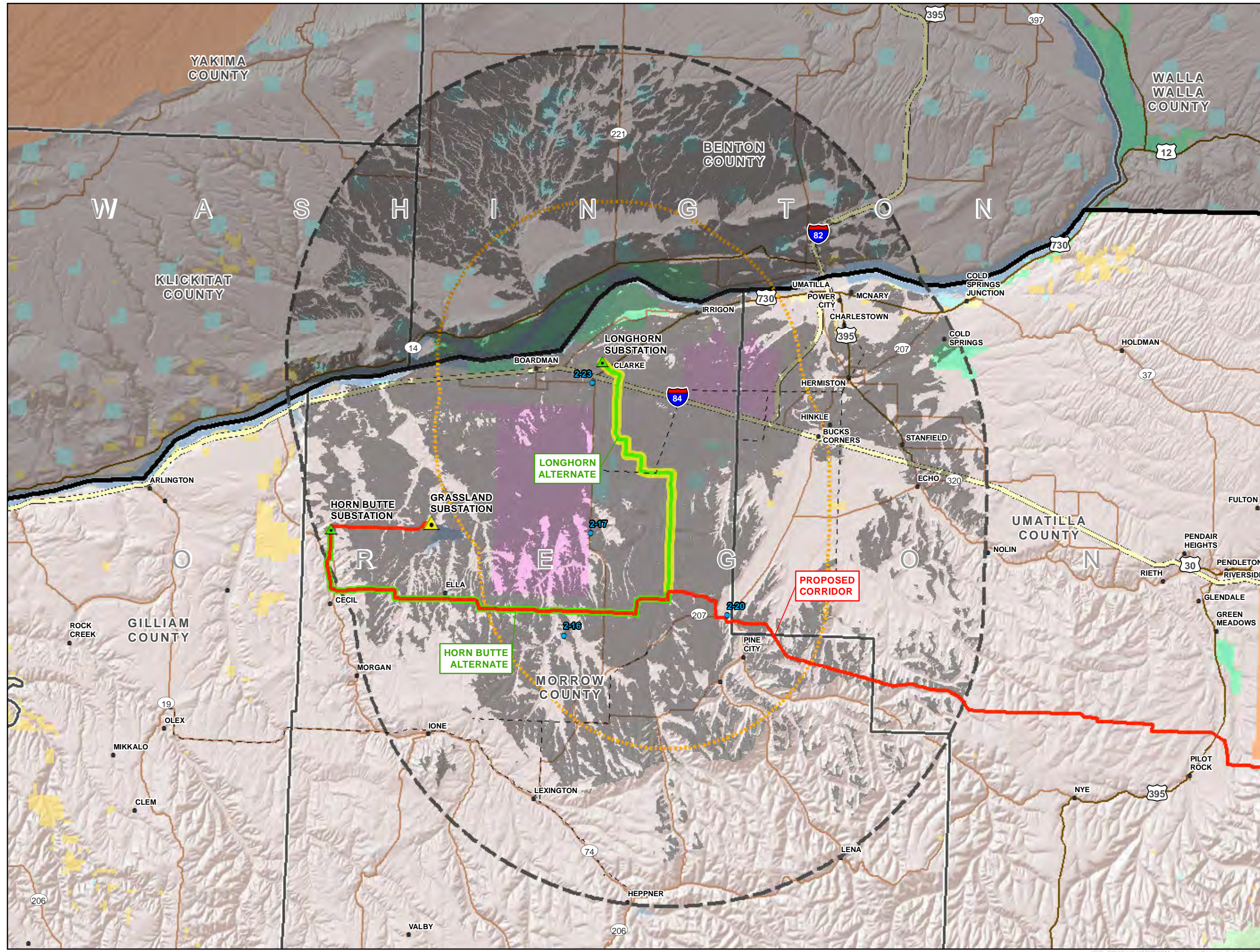
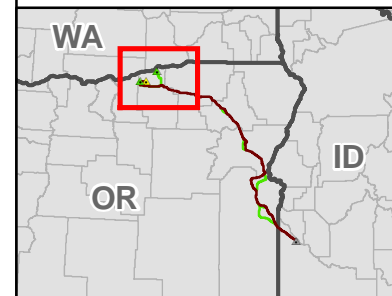
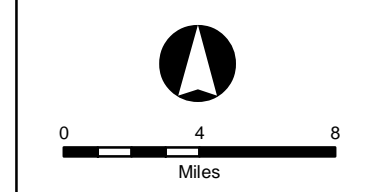
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Figure R-2-8

KOPs for Longhorn Alternate

Legend

- Key Observation Point
- ▲ Proposed Substation
- ▲ Alternative Substation
- ▲ Existing Substation
- Proposed Corridor
- Alternate Corridor
- Viewshed Analysis Segment
- 20-Mile Viewshed Radius
- Area Where One or More Towers Would be Potentially Visible
- 10-Mile Radius of Longhorn Alternate Site Boundary
- Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- National Park Service
- Other Federal
- Private
- State
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Existing Transmission Line
- City/Town
- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Road
- State Boundary
- County Boundary



Boardman to Hemingway
Transmission Line Project
Oregon - Idaho

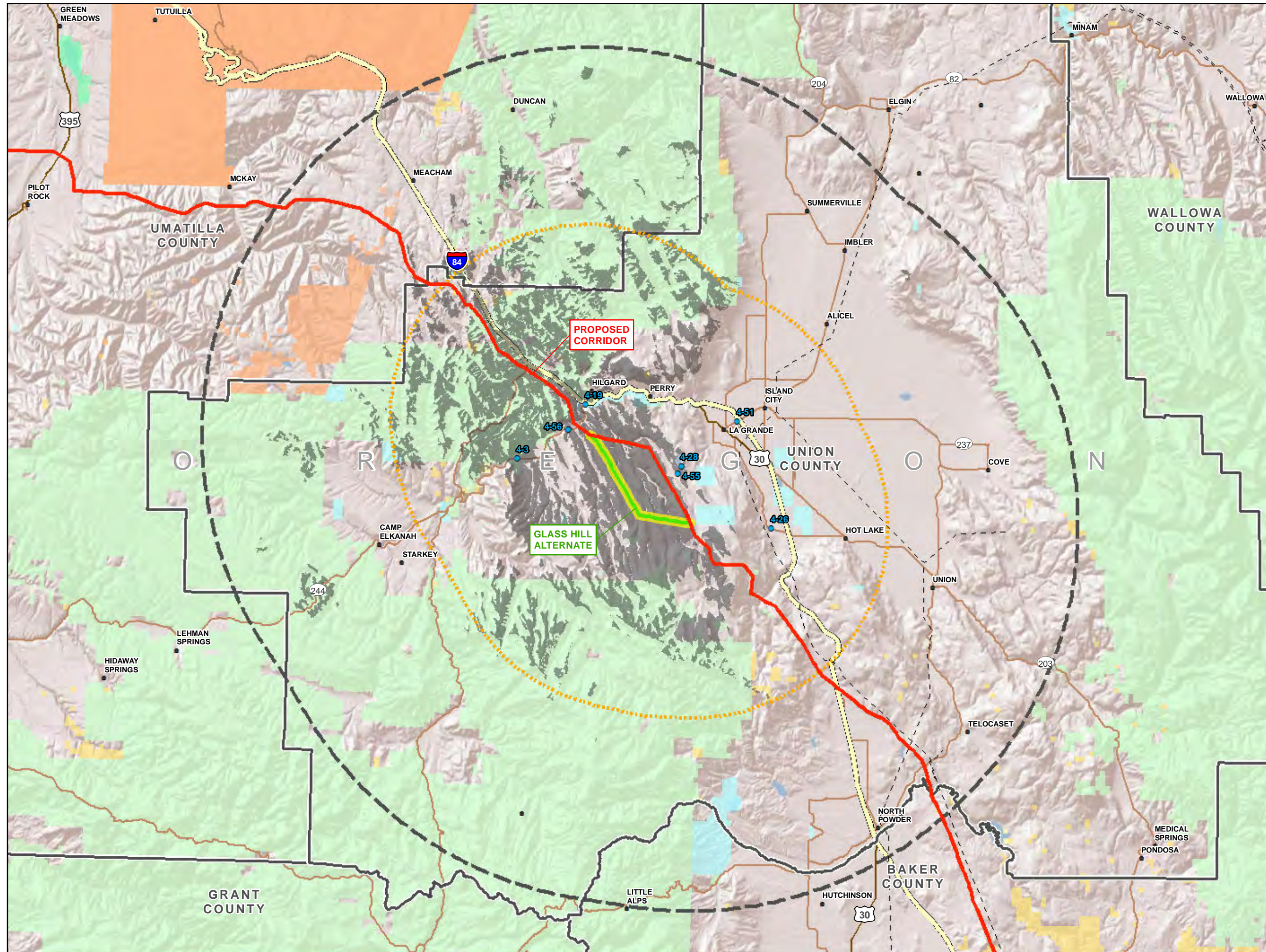
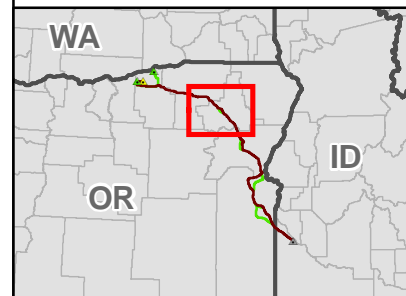
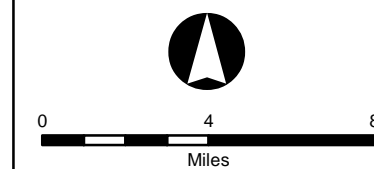
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Figure R-2-9

KOPs for Glass Hill Alternate

Legend

- Key Observation Point
- ▲ Proposed Substation
- ▲ Alternative Substation
- ▲ Existing Substation
- Proposed Corridor
- Alternate Corridor
- Viewshed Analysis Segment
- 20-Mile Viewshed Radius
- Area Where One or More Towers Would be Potentially Visible
- 10-Mile Radius of Glass Hill Alternate Site Boundary
- Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- National Park Service
- Other Federal
- Private
- State
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Existing Transmission Line
- City/Town
- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Road
- State Boundary
- County Boundary



Boardman to Hemingway
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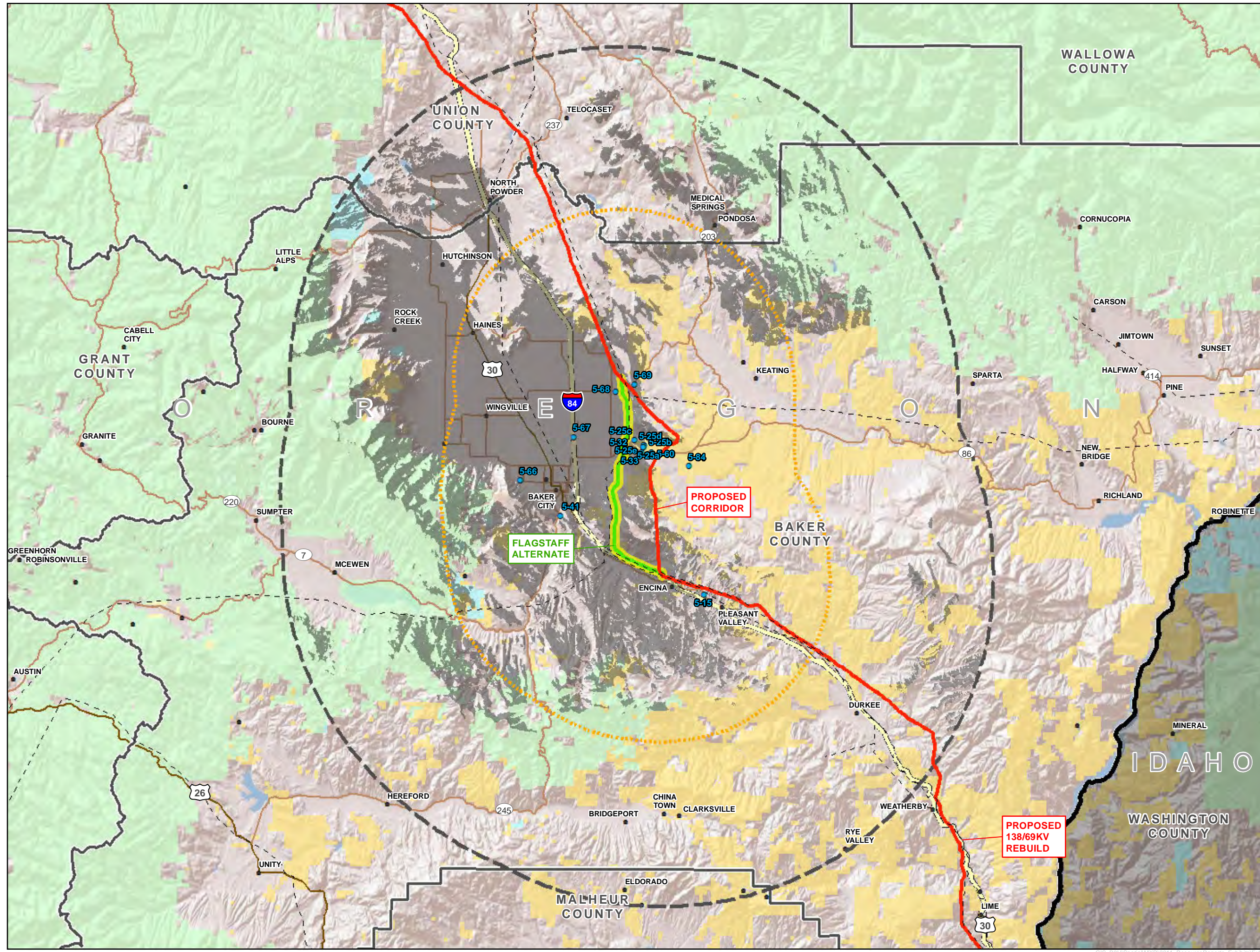
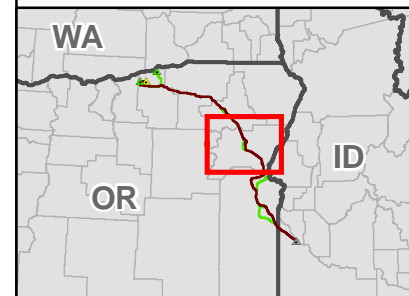
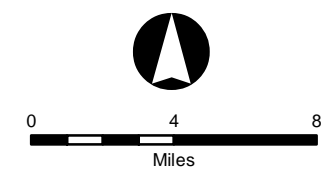
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Figure R-2-10

KOPs for Flagstaff Alternate

Legend

- Key Observation Point
- ▲ Proposed Substation
- ▲ Alternative Substation
- ▲ Existing Substation
- Proposed Corridor
- Alternate Corridor
- Viewshed Analysis Segment
- 20-Mile Viewshed Radius
- Area Where One or More Towers Would be Potentially Visible
- 10-Mile Radius of Flagstaff Alternate Site Boundary
- Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- National Park Service
- Other Federal
- Private
- State
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Existing Transmission Line
- City/Town
- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Road
- State Boundary
- County Boundary



PROPOSED 138/69KV REBUILD

PROPOSED CORRIDOR

FLAGSTAFF ALTERNATE

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project Oregon - Idaho

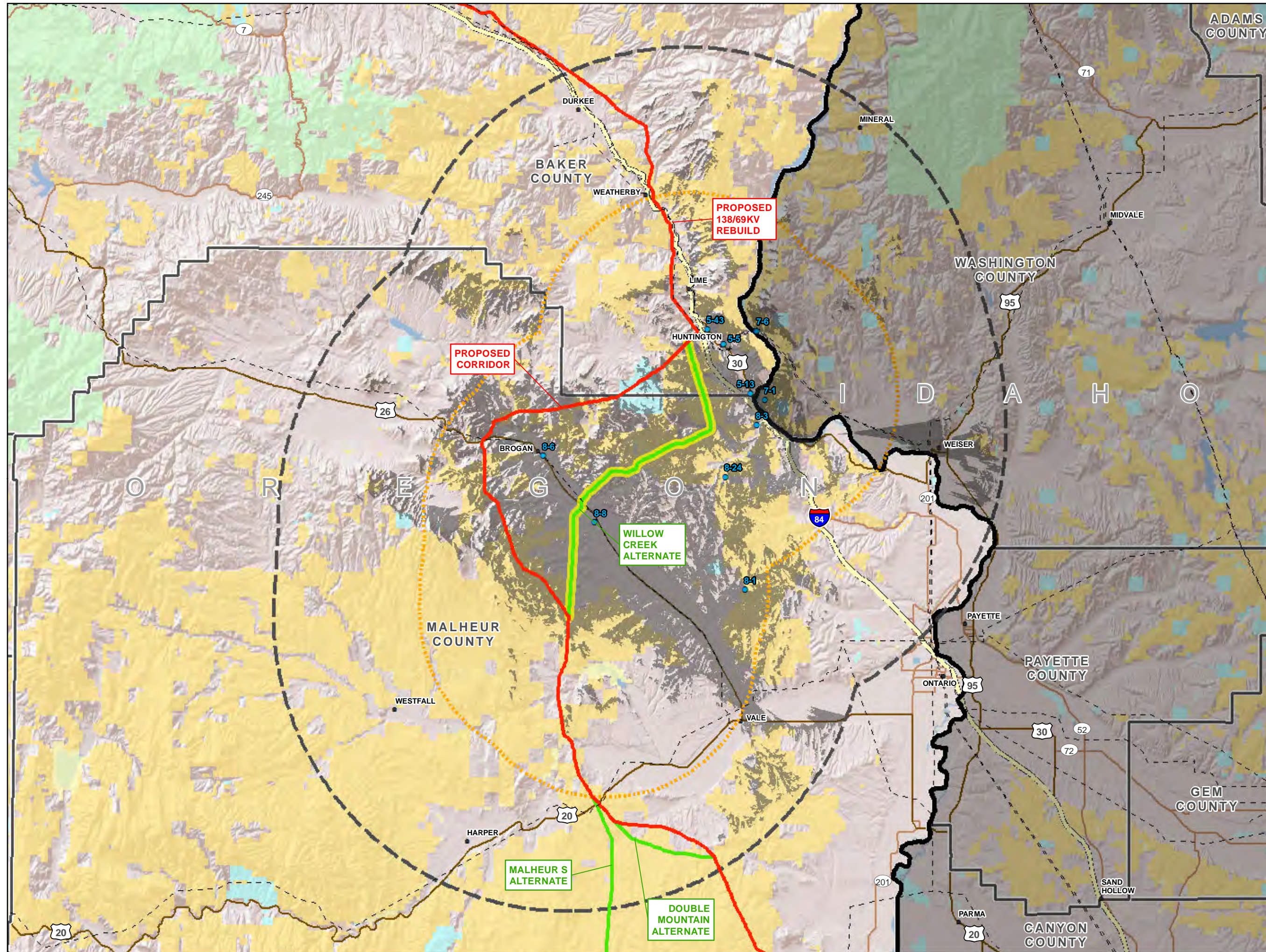
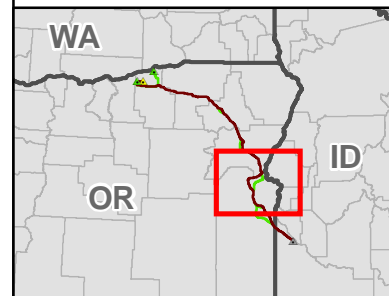
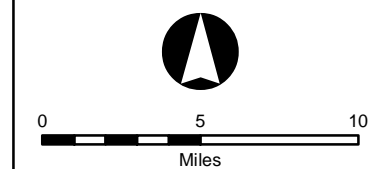
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Figure R-2-11

KOPs for Willow Creek Alternate

Legend

- Key Observation Point
- ▲ Proposed Substation
- ▲ Alternative Substation
- ▲ Existing Substation
- Proposed Corridor
- Alternate Corridor
- Viewshed Analysis Segment
- 20-Mile Viewshed Radius
- Area Where One or More Towers Would be Potentially Visible
- 10-Mile Radius of Willow Creek Alternate Site Boundary
- Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- National Park Service
- Other Federal
- Private
- State
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Existing Transmission Line
- City/Town
- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Road
- State Boundary
- County Boundary



Boardman to Hemingway
Transmission Line Project
Oregon - Idaho

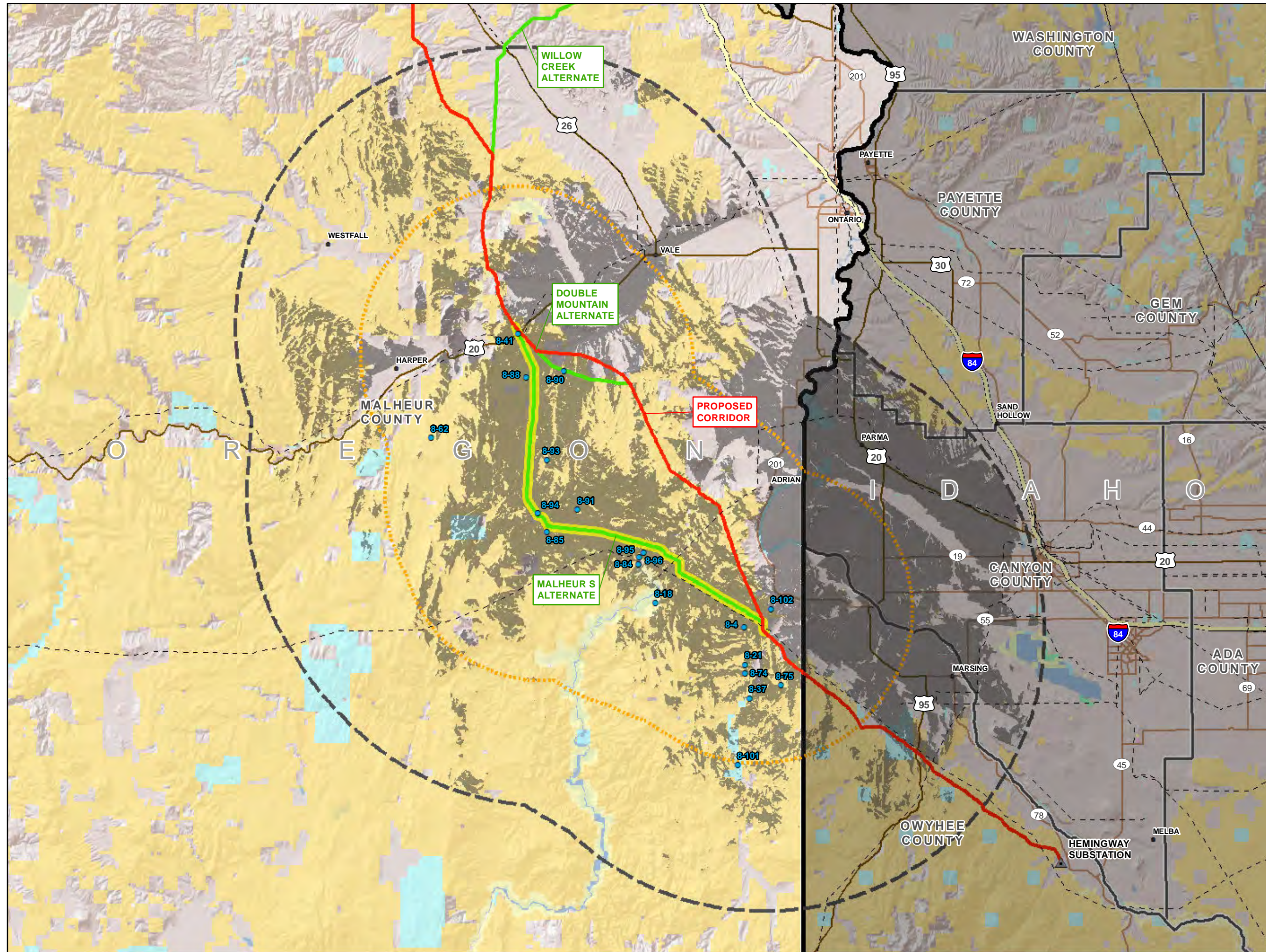
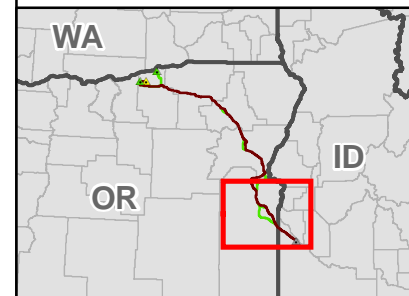
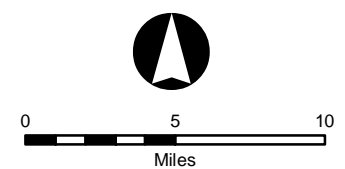
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Figure R-2-12

KOPs for Malheur S Alternate

Legend

- Key Observation Point
- ▲ Proposed Substation
- ▲ Alternate Substation
- ▲ Existing Substation
- Proposed Corridor
- Alternate Corridor
- Viewshed Analysis Segment
- 20-Mile Viewshed Radius
- Area Where One or More Towers Would be Potentially Visible
- 10-Mile Radius of Malheur S Alternate Site Boundary
- Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- National Park Service
- Other Federal
- Private
- State
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Existing Transmission Line
- City/Town
- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Road
- State Boundary
- County Boundary



Boardman to Hemingway
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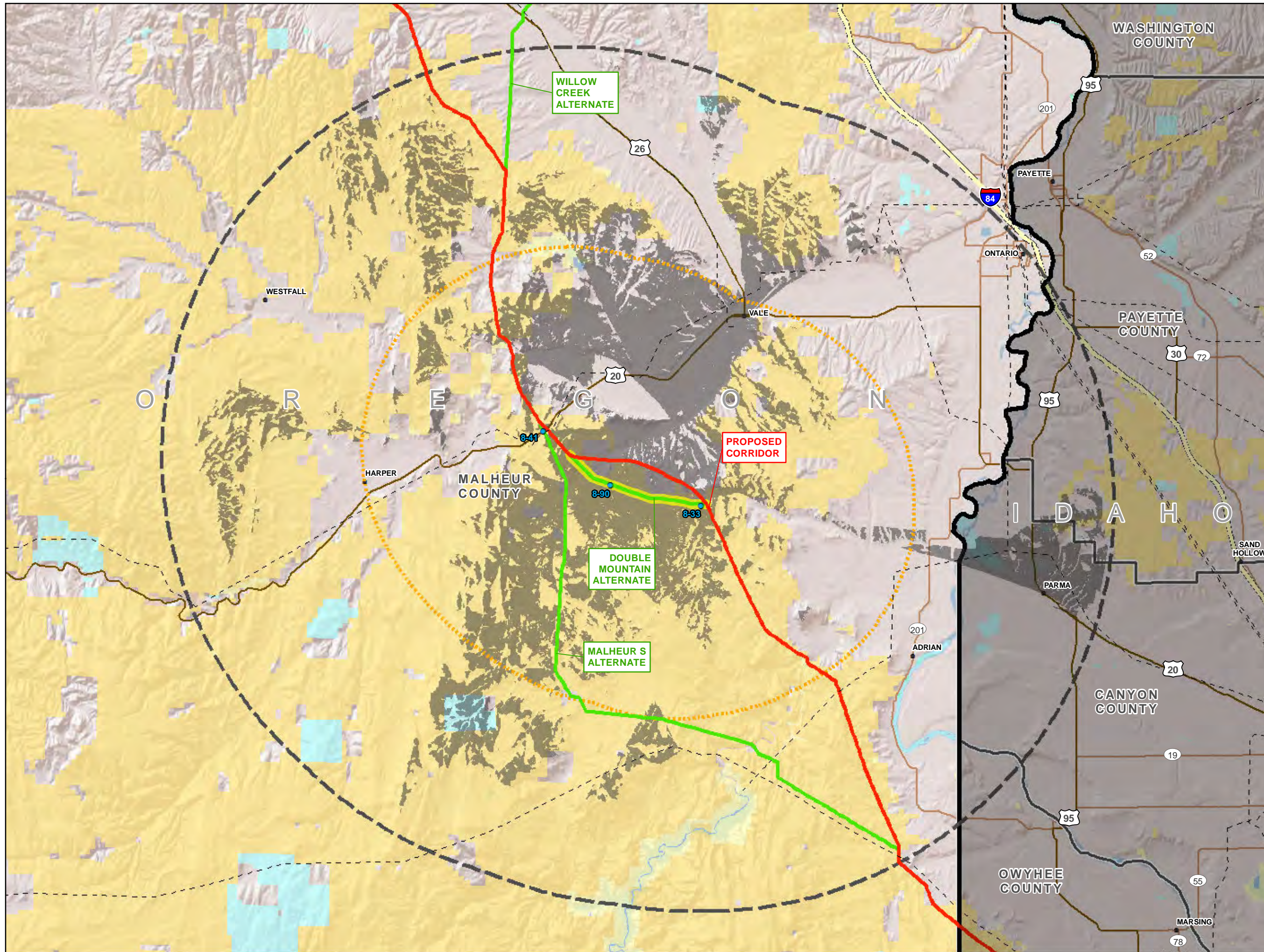
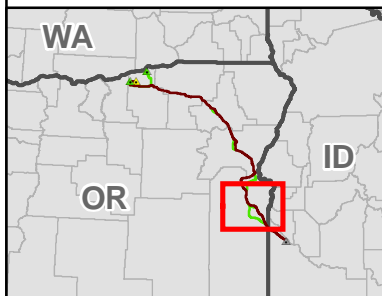
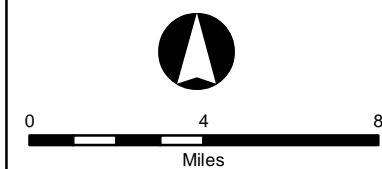
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Figure R-2-13

KOPs for Double Mountain Alternate

Legend

- Key Observation Point
- ▲ Proposed Substation
- ▲ Alternative Substation
- ▲ Existing Substation
- Proposed Corridor
- Alternate Corridor
- Viewshed Analysis Segment
- 20-Mile Viewshed Radius
- Area Where One or More Towers Would be Potentially Visible
- 10-Mile Radius of Double Mountain Alternate Site Boundary
- Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- National Park Service
- Other Federal
- Private
- State
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Existing Transmission Line
- City/Town
- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Road
- State Boundary
- County Boundary



Boardman to Hemingway
Transmission Line Project
Oregon - Idaho

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**ATTACHMENT R-3
VISUAL RESOURCES STUDY PLAN**

Visual Resources Study Plan

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

Prepared for:

Idaho Power Company

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Tetra Tech Project No. 8540146

June 2012

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

3D	3-dimensional
ASC	Application for Site Certificate
B2H	Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project
BLM	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DEM	digital elevation model (raster set)
dSLR	digital single lens reflex
EFSC	Energy Facility Siting Council
EIS	environmental impact statement
EUD	ecological unit description
Forest Plan	Land and Resource Management Plan (USFS)
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
IPC	Idaho Power Company
KOP	Key Observation Point
kV	kilovolt
mm	millimeter
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NF	National Forest
NFS	National Forest System
OAR	Oregon Administrative Rules
ODOE	Oregon Department of Energy
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROW	right-of-way
SIO	Scenic Integrity Objective
SMS	Scenery Management System
USFS	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
VMS	Visual Management System
VQO	Visual Quality Objective
VRM	Visual Resource Management

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Idaho Power Company (IPC) is proposing to construct and operate an approximately 305-mile-long electric transmission line comprising 299.6 miles of single-circuit 500-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line and a 5.0-mile rebuild of existing 138-kV and 69-kV transmission lines onto double-circuit structures (with relocation of 0.3 mile of a 138-kV transmission line) between Boardman, Oregon, and the Hemingway Substation located in southwestern Idaho, known as the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (B2H or Project). The purpose of IPC's proposed Project is to provide additional capacity connecting the Pacific Northwest Region and the Intermountain Region of Southwestern Idaho to alleviate existing transmission constraints and to ensure sufficient capacity to allow IPC to meet present and forecasted load requirements. The route of the proposed Project crosses federal, state, and private lands and may require the amendment of U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) and/or U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land use plans.

IPC has applied to the BLM for a right-of-way (ROW) grant and to the USFS for a Special Use Permit for the use of public lands along portions of the Project. These entities are or will be conducting an independent environmental review of the proposed Project as part of their respective evaluations of the IPC applications for Project permits. The BLM and the USFS will be preparing a joint environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to document the environmental review of the Project.

IPC has also applied for a Site Certificate for the Project from the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) through the state's Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC or Council). The federal government, the State of Oregon, and other affected governmental agencies all require that the proposed Project be adequately analyzed to determine and evaluate environmental effects associated with the Project's implementation, including effects to the visual landscape environment.

This Study Plan is a summary of the approach that IPC and its consultant Tetra Tech will follow in conducting and documenting visual resource assessments for the proposed Project. The results of this assessment will be documented as applicable in Resource Report 1 to be submitted to BLM and the USFS to assist in preparation of a NEPA EIS and Exhibit R to be filed as part of an Application for Site Certificate (ASC) to satisfy the regulatory requirements of ODOE.

This study will evaluate the visual resources and assess the visual impact of proposed facilities located along the IPC Proposed Route, alternative routes identified by the BLM and USFS, and alternatives identified by IPC and presented in the ASC. Visual impacts

on historic trails and other cultural resources will be discussed in Resource Report 2 prepared for BLM and ASC Exhibit S. Findings from the visual analysis will be used to develop an Aesthetic Resource Protection Plan. The Aesthetic Resource Protection Plan will describe the various mitigation efforts that will be taken by IPC to lower potential visual impacts especially where impacts are considered significant in order to lower impacts below the significance threshold.

2.0 ANALYSIS APPROACH SUMMARY

The Proposed Route crosses federal, state, local, and private lands supporting a wide variety of land uses and natural landscape settings. The majority (68 percent) of the Proposed Route crosses privately owned land. The portions of the route on public lands include 30 percent over lands managed by the BLM, USFS, and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and 2 percent on state or municipal land.

For the portion of the Proposed Route that crosses lands managed by the BLM and USFS, the Tetra Tech visual team will assess the potential visual impacts of the Project using the visual assessment methodologies developed by these two federal agencies. The BLM and USFS have developed robust and accepted visual analysis systems to evaluate visual change in the landscape.

On BLM-administered lands, the BLM Visual Resource Management (VRM) system as defined in the *Bureau of Land Management Manual* (BLM Manual) Sections 8400 and 8431, “Visual Resource Management” (BLM 1984) and “Visual Resource Contrast Rating” (BLM 1986a), respectively, as well as the BLM handbook *Visual Resource Inventory* (BLM 1986b), will be employed and will provide primary direction. Visual impacts on BLM-administered lands will be identified based on the amount of visual contrast from the existing landscape that would result from the proposed Project. The magnitude of the visual contrast will be compared with established VRM classes. VRM classes are established on BLM-administered lands to prescribe the amount of visual change allowed in a given landscape (BLM 1984).

For portions of the analysis area located on National Forest System (NFS) lands, the USFS Scenery Management System (SMS) (USFS 1995) will provide the primary guidance for evaluating landscape character, visual quality (scenic integrity), and impact assessment. The USFS updated its Visual Management System (VMS; USFS 1974) and renamed it the SMS in 1995. However, the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Wallowa-Whitman NF has not been updated to the SMS and as a result the Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) must be addressed. This study will refer to VMS/SMS as the USFS visual resources methodology. “The frame of reference for measuring achievement of scenic integrity levels is the *valued* attributes of the ‘EXISTING’ landscape character ‘BEING VIEWED’. In Natural or Natural appearing

character this is limited to natural or natural appearing vegetative patterns and features, water, rock and landforms” (USFS 1995, pg. 2-4; italics added). Per USFS practice, the primary focus will be to evaluate potential changes to scenic quality and landscape character against the USFS VQOs/Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIOs) for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (NF). The VQOs/SIOs are similar to BLM VRM classes in that they define the desired condition and the degree of deviation in visual resources that may occur in a given landscape (USFS 1995). The VQOs/SIOs for the lands within the analysis area are defined in the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Wallowa-Whitman NF.

In general, there are no formal guidelines for managing visual resources on other federal (i.e., BOR), state, county or municipal lands found within the visual study corridor. Because formal management direction equivalent to VQOs/SIOs or VRM classes does not exist for these lands, the visual assessment will focus on identification of expected visual impacts. Tetra Tech proposes to apply concepts and tools from the BLM VRM system to evaluate visual impacts on these lands. The use of the VRM system provides a methodology for evaluating the potential changes to scenic quality and visual resources that may result from the Project. The VRM system is designed to separately assess the visual resources of the existing landscape and the proposed project components. Tetra Tech also proposes to use the VRM system to assess the potential visual impacts to 1) scenic resources identified as significant or important in local land use plans, tribal land management plans, and federal land management plans within the analysis area, 2) protected areas of the state (as identified in Oregon Administrative Rules [OAR] 345-022-0040), and 3) important recreational opportunities in the analysis area (as described in the EFSC project order).

The EFSC standards relative to scenic resources (OAR 345-022-0080) require the Council to find that a facility is “not likely to result in significant adverse impact to scenic resources and values identified as significant or important in local land use plans, tribal land management plans and federal land management plans for any lands located within the analysis area described in the project order.” NEPA regulations require environmental impact statements to identify the environmental effects of a proposed action and alternatives and possible conflicts between the proposed action and the objectives of federal, regional, state, local and tribal land use plans, policies and controls for the area concerned (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500.16). Based on the EFSC and NEPA requirements, the visual assessment for the Project will have multiple purposes of 1) identifying and evaluating the visual impacts of the Project, 2) evaluating the consistency of the Project with the visual resource aspects of applicable land use plans, and 3) identifying potential mitigation to bring the Project into conformance with land use plan objectives.

3.0 STUDY APPROACH

This Study Plan incorporates the concepts and principles of the USFS VQO/SMS and the BLM VRM system methodologies as shown in Figure 1 (at the end of this document). A broad outline of the major concepts of the methodology involves 1) establishing an understanding of the visual character and qualities of the existing landscape environment in the Project area, 2) determining areas from which the proposed Project would be visible and estimating the visual expectations and response of the viewers experiencing changes to the Project area, and 3) identifying visual contrast resulting from changes as they affect the existing landscape character and qualities in the Project area.

3.1 BLM Visual Resource Management System for Analysis on BLM-Administered Lands

Public lands crossed by the Project and administered by the BLM have a variety of scenic values. These lands are subject to visual resource management objectives as developed using the BLM VRM System (BLM 1984) and are presented in the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for a given unit. Visual resource management requires the BLM to complete a visual resource inventory of the lands under their management control. The visual resource inventory is a systematic process for determining the visual values on the public lands. The inventory process has three parts: scenic quality evaluation, sensitivity level analysis, and delineation of distance zones. Based on the combinations of the three, BLM-managed lands can then be categorized as Class I (most valued and highest quality of scenery) to Class IV (areas of low scenic quality and sensitivity at most or all distance zones). These inventory classes represent the existing visual resources.

During the resource management planning process, BLM determines how the visual landscape will be managed in the future. The VRM decisions that are made in the planning process result in areas being assigned a VRM management class. These management classes determine how much change may occur in the landscape. The objectives for each of the four Classes are described below (BLM 1986a):

- VRM Class I Objective – The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.
- VRM Class II Objective – The objective to this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic

landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

- VRM Class III Objective – The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- VRM Class IV Objective – The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

When the VRM class objectives and the visual resources inventory are complete, the VRM system uses a contrast rating process to assess impacts and identify potential mitigation measures. The VRM system will provide the primary guidance in determining whether VRM classes will be met.

3.2 USFS Visual Quality Objective/Scenery Management System for Analysis on USFS-Administered Lands

For analysis on NFS lands, the VMS/SMS will provide the primary guidance in determining whether VQOs/SIOs and landscape character goals are met.

The VMS is used by NFs (including the Wallowa-Whitman NF) that have not yet converted to the SMS. The VMS provides a framework for establishing the visual landscape as a basic resource and to treat it as an essential part of the basic quality of the land. The VMS identifies a desired level of scenic quality and diversity of natural features based on physical and sociological characteristics of an area, referred to as VQOs. A given VQO quantifies the degree of acceptable alterations of the characteristic landscape. VQOs are determined by comparing the variety class with the sensitivity level (Bacon 1979).

The objectives of each VQO classification are listed below (USFS 1974):

- Preservation – “This visual quality objective allows ecological changes only. Management activities, except for very low visual-impact recreation facilities, are prohibited. This objective applies to Wilderness areas, primitive areas, other special classified areas, areas awaiting classification and some unique management units which do not justify special classification.”
- Retention – “This visual quality objective provides for management activities which are *not visually evident*. Under Retention, activities may only repeat form, line, color, and texture which are frequently in the characteristic landscape. Changes in their qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc., should not be evident.

Duration of Visual Impact: Immediate reduction in form, line, color, and texture contrast in order to meet Retention should be accomplished either during operation or immediately after. It may be done by such means as seeding vegetative clearings and cut-or-fill slopes, hand planting of large stock, painting structures, etc.”

- Partial Retention – “Management activities remain *visually subordinate* to the characteristic landscape when managed according to the partial retention visual quality objective. Activities may repeat form, line, color, or texture common to the characteristic landscape but changes in their qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc., remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Activities may also introduce form, line, color, or texture which are found infrequently or not at all in the characteristic landscape, but they should remain subordinate to the visual strength of the characteristic landscape.

Duration of Visual Impact: Reduction in form, line, color, and texture to meet partial retention should be accomplished as soon after project completion is possible or at a minimum within the first year.”

- Modification – “Under the modification visual quality objective management activities may visually dominate the original characteristic landscape. However, activities of vegetative and land form alteration must borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture so completely and at such a scale that its visual characteristics are those of natural occurrences within the surrounding area of character type. Additional parts of these activities such as structures, roads, slash, root wads, etc., must remain visually subordinate to

the proposed composition. Activities which are predominately introduction of facilities such as buildings, signs, roads, etc., should borrow naturally established form, line, color and texture so completely and at such scale that its visual characteristics are compatible with the natural surroundings.

Duration of Visual Impact: Reduction in form, line, color, and texture should be accomplished in the first year or at a minimum should meet existing regional guidelines.”

- **Maximum Modification** – “Management activities of vegetative and landform alterations may dominate the characteristic landscape. However, when viewed as background, the visual characteristics must be those of natural occurrences within the surrounding area or character type. When viewed as foreground or middleground, they may not appear to borrow completely from naturally established form, line, color, or texture. Alterations may also be out of scale or contain detail which is incongruent with natural occurrences as seen in foreground or middleground. Introduction of additional parts to these activities such as structures, roads, slash, and root wads must remain visually subordinate to the proposed composition as viewed in background.

Duration of Visual Impact: Reduction of contrast should be accomplished within five years.”

The SMS uses SIOs to describe the goals of a landscape relative to its assumed natural state in five levels: Very High (Unaltered), High (Appears Unaltered), Moderate (Slightly Altered), Low (Moderately Altered), and Very Low (Heavily Altered). When discussing SIOs, the degree of alteration is measured in terms of visual dominance with the surrounding natural landscape. The objectives of each SIO classification are described below (USFS 1995):

- **Very High SIO** – Management activities, except for very low visual-impact recreation facilities, are prohibited. Allows for ecological changes only. The existing landscape character and sense of place is expressed at the highest possible level.
- **High SIO** – Management activities are not visually evident to the casual observer. The landscape character “appears” intact. Deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character so completely and at such scale that they are not evident. Changes in the qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc., should not be evident.

- Moderate SIO – Management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape being viewed. Activities may repeat form, line, color, or texture common to the characteristic landscape but may not change in their qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc.
- Low SIO – Management activities begin to visually dominate the original characteristic landscape. However, activities of vegetative and landform alteration must borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture so completely and at such a scale that its visual characteristics are those of natural occurrences within the surrounding area or character type. Structures must remain visually subordinate to the proposed composition.
- Very Low SIO – Management activities of vegetative and landform alterations may dominate the characteristic landscape. While alterations may not borrow from attributes such as size, shape, edge effect, and pattern of natural openings, vegetative type changes, or architectural styles within or outside the landscape being viewed, they must be shaped and blended with the natural terrain so that elements such as unnatural edges, roads, landings, and structures do not dominate the composition.

The USFS is currently updating forest plans to use SIOs; however, the Wallowa-Whitman NF is currently using the older VMS. The VQO and SIO definitions are comparable and thus the VQO and SIO definitions have been included here.

Agriculture Handbook 701 (USFS 1995, p. 2-4) lists the Frame of Reference for the SIOs. This discussion has been included here to clarify the similarities between the VMS and SMS systems.

The frame of reference for measuring achievement of scenic integrity levels is the valued attributes of the "EXISTING" landscape character "BEING VIEWED". In Natural or Natural appearing character this is limited to natural or natural appearing vegetative patterns and features, water, rock and landforms. Direct human alterations may be included if they have become accepted over time as positive landscape character attributes.

The scenic integrity levels and descriptions as given in USFS (1995) are reproduced below:

- *VERY HIGH (Unaltered) preservation*
VERY HIGH scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character "is" intact with only minute if any deviations. The existing landscape character and sense of place is expressed at the highest possible level.

- *HIGH (Appears Unaltered) retention*
HIGH scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character "appears" intact. Deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character so completely and at such scale that they are not evident.
- *MODERATE (Slightly Altered)..... partial retention*
MODERATE scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character "appears slightly altered." Noticeable deviations must remain visually subordinate to the landscape character being viewed. See section below on meeting integrity levels.
- *LOW (Moderately Altered)..... modification*
LOW scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character "appears moderately altered." Deviations begin to dominate the valued landscape character being viewed but they borrow valued attributes such as size, shape, edge effect and pattern of natural openings, vegetative type changes or architectural styles outside the landscape being viewed. They should not only appear as valued character outside the landscape being viewed but compatible or complimentary to the character within.
- *VERY LOW (Heavily Altered) maximum modification*
VERY LOW scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character "appears heavily altered." Deviations may strongly dominate the valued landscape character. They may not borrow from valued attributes such as size, shape, edge effect and pattern of natural openings, vegetative type changes or architectural styles within or outside the landscape being viewed. However deviations must be shaped and blended with the natural terrain (landforms) so that elements such as unnatural edges, roads, landings, and structures do not dominate the composition.

3.3 BLM Visual Resource Management System for Analysis on Other Federal, State, Local, and Private Lands

There are no formal guidelines for managing visual resources on other federal, state, local, and private lands; therefore, visual resource management concepts and guidelines established by the BLM were used to develop an objective methodology to assess the aesthetic conditions of the landscape, establish a characterization of the current viewing environment, and assess the level of contrast to the landscape resulting from the introduction of Project elements. These methods and guidelines will be used in

assessing landscapes outside of areas where formal management guidelines apply. Landscape character, visibility, and viewer sensitivity will be inventoried using the BLM VRM System (BLM 1986a), aerial photography, ground reconnaissance, topographic maps, agency contacts, field reviews, and other reference documents.

3.4 Methodology

3.4.1 Define Analysis Area

The visual resources Analysis Area will be generally defined as up to 15 miles from the project site boundary for the proposed and alternative routes. This distance corresponds with the BLM's background distance zone. Because of the requirements of OAR 345-022-0040, Protected Areas up to 20 miles from the Project boundary have been added and will be evaluated for potential visual impact.

3.4.2 Identify Key Observation Points

KOPs are viewing locations on federal, state, or private lands including those that must be evaluated for potential visual impact per OAR 345-001-0010 and others representative of visually sensitive areas from which viewers may be affected by Project-related changes in the landscape setting. More specifically, potential KOPs identified in OAR 345-022-0040 and OAR 345-022-0080 require visual evaluation of Protected Areas within 20 miles and scenic areas within 10 miles, respectively. Additional KOPs will include, but are not limited to, sensitive viewing locations such as:

- Residences and developed areas closest to the proposed and alternative routes;
- Sensitive travel routes, including proposed or designated scenic byways, historic highways, trails and rivers or other water travel routes;
- Designated wild and scenic rivers, or rivers eligible for such designation; and
- Recreational use areas.

Within the entire 20-mile area (as defined by OAR 345-022-0040 protected areas study corridor), 238 potential KOPs were identified through the evaluation of several types of information. Many candidate locations for KOPs were identified through review of federal, state, and local land use and resource plans, land use data available in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) format, protected areas identified by the State of Oregon, the federal and state public scoping process performed for the Project, and consultation with federal, state, and county agencies and organizations. Potential viewpoints were chosen based on visibility, sensitivity or protection of resource, and

number of viewers (i.e., where there is a high concentration of potential sensitive viewers).

3.4.3 Viewshed Analysis

A viewshed analysis was completed to identify those locations with and without potential views of the Project. Viewshed analyses identify the cells in an input raster that can be seen from one or more observation points or lines. Viewshed analyses for the B2H Project were run using a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) digital elevation model raster dataset (DEM). Where appropriate, a vegetation offset was applied to the base DEM to represent existing trees or other vegetation coverage. Offset heights vary depending on the vegetation type.

Viewshed analyses to help determine KOP points with views of the Project were run for the entire Proposed Route and each alternative route using 30-meter DEMs due to the size of the project area. KOP-specific viewsheds used 10-meter DEMs for more accuracy of topographic detail. DEMs consist of a raster grid of regularly spaced elevation values that have been primarily derived from the USGS topographic map series. The referenced 10-meter resolution data are based on 10 meter x 10 meter raster cells, while 30-meter data are based on 30 meter x 30 meter raster cells. The 10-meter data are much more detailed in that nine such raster cells could be fit into a single 30-meter resolution cell. For a large area such as B2H, the required detail does not necessitate the use of 10-meter DEM; however, for KOP-specific viewsheds the 10-meter DEM is appropriate.

An observer height of 6 feet was used. A total of six viewsheds were run using structure heights listed below for the proposed and alternative routes identified to date:

1. All towers along the Proposed Route: 195 feet high for 500 kV towers, 100 feet high for 138/69 kV rebuild towers, 100 feet high for 138 kV relocation towers;
2. All towers along the Naval Weapons System Training Facility – Boardman NWSTF-Boardman) North Section (195 feet high);
3. All towers along the State Park Alternative (195 feet high);
4. All towers along the Glass Hill Alternative (195 feet high);
5. All towers along the Flagstaff Alternative (195 feet high); and
6. All towers along the Owyhee River Alternative (195 high feet).

For the purpose of the initial analysis, galvanized steel lattice structures were identified for the proposed 500 kV line and galvanized steel pole structures for the 138/69 kV lines.

3.4.4 Visibility Analysis

The viewshed analysis left 165 potential KOPs for evaluation. Of the remaining KOPs with Project views, it was decided, based on the visibility of similar lattice structures as shown on Figure 2 and field experience observing transmission lines, that those potential KOPs (not including Protected Areas) in the viewshed but beyond 10 miles (10 KOPs) should be dropped from further consideration. The list of potential KOPs will be submitted to BLM and ODOE for their review to ensure all visually sensitive areas are addressed.

The remaining 155 potential KOPs in the viewshed of the proposed and alternatives routes identified to date will be assessed in the field. The field assessment of each KOP will include three components: 1) photographic documentation of the potential viewing areas, 2) classification of the visual sensitivity (quality) of, and 3) assessment of the potential visibility of the Project.

The visibility of the proposed transmission line will be evaluated in the office and in the field for each potential KOP. An office or desktop evaluation entails the use of ArcGIS and Google Earth Pro software to evaluate topographic and vegetative screening conditions, distance, and viewing angles from the individual KOPs. The overall degree of visibility resulting from the introduction of the proposed facilities will be evaluated in terms of: 1) viewing distance; 2) screening and backdropping (i.e., existing vegetation, terrain, and development); and 3) degree of Project contrast.

3.4.5 Assess Existing Visual Resources

The existing visual resources of a project are defined by landscape character and visual quality. Landscape character is a descriptive means by which humans assess a landscape. People do not experience the visual environment one object at a time but rather as an integrated whole. The description of landscape character is never meant to evaluate or rate landscapes but to chronicle the elements and relationships between visually experienced components. Descriptions of landscape character coincide with VMS/SMS and VRM system analysis where landscapes can be distinguished by two levels of attributes: pattern elements and pattern character. Pattern elements are the primary visual attributes of objects, which are form, line, color, and texture. Pattern character is the description of the relationship between the pattern elements of objects or larger collections of landscape components, which can be described with the attributes of dominance, scale, diversity, and continuity.

Analogous concepts to visual quality are found in the USFS SMS as scenic attractiveness and in the BLM VRM system as scenic quality. Within this scheme, the definition of high-quality visual environments is as much about the experience of the viewer as the valuation of the landscape. For example, high visual quality can be found

in the urban landscapes of the San Francisco skyline as well as in the natural formations of the Grand Canyon. Thus, because visual quality can be found in landscapes of widely varying landscape character, a proposed project may or may not be found to result in high contrasts or have adverse effects on visual quality without articulate analysis. Existing visual quality has already been inventoried by the BLM and USFS for BLM-administered and NFS lands, respectively. The existing BLM and USFS mapping of visual quality will be reviewed and used as applicable for documenting existing conditions on these federal lands. Depending on the age of the inventory information, in some areas it may be necessary to update the existing information to reflect current conditions.

For KOPs located on other federal land and state, local and private lands, visual quality of pattern elements and pattern character will be evaluated using concepts from the BLM VRM system. When evaluating visual quality, both natural and man-made components within the study area will be considered as they either add to or detract from the overall landscape character within a specific setting. Scenic attractiveness levels have been established by evaluating the distinctiveness and diversity of a particular landscape setting in relation to the following scenic quality inventory factors (USFS 1995):

- Landform
- Vegetation
- Water
- Color
- Effects of adjacent scenery
- Scarcity of the landscape
- Cultural modifications

To consistently document the existing conditions of the landscape viewed from the selected KOPs, inventory forms will be used (see Figures 3 through 8). Separate inventory forms will be used for KOPs on NFS lands, BLM-administered lands, and other federal, state, and private lands. Based on field investigation and photography interpretation, the visual resources team will collaborate to complete the existing conditions forms. Forms will be completed for each KOP as a data gathering and analysis tool and will be included in the Visual Resources Assessment Report.

The landscape character-landscape unit section of the inventory forms will be a descriptive narrative of the pattern elements of the landform, surface-water, vegetation,

and human-made components of the landscape unit. The descriptions are based on perceptions of the current line, form, color, and texture of the KOP's landscape unit.

The scenic or visual quality-landscape unit section of the inventory forms is a quantitative rating of landscape elements based on the VRM system for evaluating scenic quality (see Table 1). For example, vegetation cover, soil color, and any atypical features, such as an abundance of rock outcroppings, will be observed and noted.

These features will be evaluated as contributing to or reducing the visual quality of the landscape. The sum of the numeric values for these elements determines the visual quality class. Ratings of Class A (Distinctive or Unique), Class B (Common), or Class C (Minimal or Indistinctive) will be assigned. For rating landscape units, scores of 19 or more receive a Class A rating, scores of 12 to 18 receive a Class B rating, and scores of 11 or less receive a Class C rating. Table 2, also based on the BLM VRM system, summarizes the landscape class rating definitions.

Table 1. Landscape Unit Visual Quality Inventory and Evaluation Rating Based on BLM VRM System

Scenic Quality Inventory Factor	Rating Criteria and Score		
Landforms	High vertical relief as expressed in prominent cliffs, spires, or massive rock outcrops; or severe surface variation or highly eroded formations including major badlands or dune systems; or detail features dominant and exceptionally striking and intriguing such as glaciers Score 5	Steep canyons, mesas, buttes, cinder cones, and drumlins; or interesting erosional patterns or variety in size and shape of landforms; or detail features which are interesting though not dominant or exceptional. Score 3	Low rolling hills, foothills, or flat valley bottoms; or few or no interesting landscape features. Score 1
Vegetation	A variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, texture, and patterns. Score 5	Some variety of vegetation, but only one or two major types. Score 3	Little or no variety or contrast in vegetation. Score 1
Water	Clear and clean appearing, still or cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape. Score 5	Flowing, or still, but not dominant in the landscape. Score 3	Absent, or present, but not noticeable. Score 0
Color	Rich color combinations, variety or vivid color, or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water or snow fields. Score 5	Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of the soil, rock, and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element. Score 3	Subtle color variations, contrast, or interest; generally mute tones. Score 1

Table 1. Landscape Unit Visual Quality Inventory and Evaluation Rating Based on BLM VRM System (continued)

Scenic Quality Inventory Factor	Rating Criteria and Score		
	Adjacent Scenery	Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality. Score 5	Adjacent scenery moderately enhances overall visual quality. Score 3
Scarcity	One of a kind; or unusually memorable, or very rare within region. Consistent chance for exceptional wildlife or wildflower viewing, etc. Score * 5+	Distinctive, though somewhat similar to others within the region. Score 3	Interesting within its setting, but fairly common within the region. Score 1
Cultural Modifications	Modifications add favorably to visual variety while promoting visual harmony. Score 2	Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area, and introduce no discordant elements. Score 0	Modifications add variety but are very discordant and promote strong disharmony. Score -4

* A rating of greater than 5 can be given but must be supported by written justification.

Source: BLM 1986a

Table 2. Landscape Unit Visual Quality Classes Based on BLM VRM System

Class A (Distinctive):
Outstanding areas where characteristic features of landform, rock, water, and vegetation are distinctive or unique in the context of the surrounding areas. These features exhibit considerable variety in form, line, color, and texture and have strong positive attributes of unity and intactness. A score of 19 points or more, as tallied on an individual field inventory sheet, results in a distinctive rating.
Class B (Average or Common):
Average or common areas in which features provide variety in form, line, color, and texture. And although the landscape elements may not be rare in the region, they provide sufficient visual diversity to be considered moderately interesting. These features exhibit more common variety in form, line, color, texture, and have positive, yet more common attributes of unity and intactness. The score of 12 to 18 points, as tallied from an individual field inventory sheet, results in an Average or Common rating.
Class C (Minimal or Indistinctive):
Minimal or Indistinctive areas are those where characteristic features have little variety in form, line, color, or texture in relation to the surrounding region. The score of 11 points or less, as tallied from an individual field inventory sheet, results in a Minimal or Indistinctive rating.

Source: BLM 1986a

The visual inventory forms also contain a section for rating the visual or scenic quality of each KOP. The ratings on Figure 3 (NFS lands) will follow the VMS/SMS approach to rating visual quality of a landscape using the criteria of sense of place, intactness, and wholeness. Each of the three criteria is independent and is intended to evaluate one aspect of visual quality. No one criterion in itself captures visual quality.

3.4.6 Predicting Viewer Response

Viewer response is primarily based on the concept of visual sensitivity. Both USFS VMS/SMS and BLM VRM systems define visual sensitivity as a measure of viewer concern for the scenic resource and potential changes to the resource. Visual sensitivity is referred to as concern levels in the VMS/SMS and as sensitivity levels in the VRM system; however, each system considers similar criteria in its evaluations. For KOPs located on non-NFS or BLM-administered lands, the visual team will inventory, evaluate, and produce an overall sensitivity level based on the combination of viewer sensitivity factors. These factors include the following:

- *User Type/User Expectations* considers the local, regional, or national significance of a viewpoint or viewed area. It considers an individual's or viewer group's expectations related to their viewing experience. For example, viewpoints from a national park are typically considered more sensitive than viewpoints from an interstate highway.
- *Duration of View* is defined as the length of time that a sensitive viewer would typically encounter a particular view. For example, a view from a residence is considered to be a high duration view because the landscape could be viewed at any time of day and for any length of time. Conversely, the amount of time a commuter would see an area of landscape from a highway as they drive through the area would be very short, and thus would be considered a short duration view. The expected duration of view specific to each KOP will be considered in the assessment.
- *Use Volume* considers the number of users. Maintenance of visual quality becomes more important as the level of use increases (BLM 1986b).

The USFS and BLM have already prepared evaluations of concern levels and sensitivity levels in the preparation of their respective VMS/SMS and VRM system inventories for Forest Plans and RMPs. These inventories will be used to determine viewer sensitivity for those KOPs located on BLM-administered and NFS lands. The viewer response criteria and intensity are further detailed in Table 3 below:

Table 3. Viewer Response Intensity Matrix

Criteria	Criteria Intensity		
	High	Moderate	Low
Use Volume	High level of Use, relatively many occupants, visitors, or travelers	Moderate level of use	Low level of use, relatively few occupants, visitors or travelers
User Attitude	High expectations for maintaining existing landscape conditions. Often occurs in relatively natural or architecturally styled areas the visual condition is highly regarded or sought after	Users are concerned with landscape conditions, but are not the primary focus of their experiences.	Areas where the public has low expectations for maintaining the visual landscape. Generally commercial or industrial areas where human-caused modifications already exist in the landscape
Duration of View	Long, fixed, or continuous views	Intermediate views (i.e., open highway views)	Short, brief or intermittent views (i.e., highway views in rolling landscapes)

3.4.7 Depict the Visual Appearance of the Proposed Project

From the list of KOPs a smaller number of sites will be selected for photographic simulations that will demonstrate how the constructed Project will look in the landscape to future viewers. The photographic simulations may be supported through other graphic techniques such as sections, elevations, and construction details to provide a complete understanding of the proposed Project in contrast to the existing landscape conditions. Typically KOPs representing locations with high viewer sensitivity and high potential impacts to existing visual resources will be selected for photographic simulation. Viewpoints that exhibit the elements that capture a typical landscape or eco-region may also be selected as a representative viewpoint within a particular area.

The photographic simulations will be created using GIS software, 3-dimensional (3D) modeling software, and digital photographic editing software. The software used to create the visual simulations includes:

- ArcMap – Used for Project data mapping;
- Promote Systems Global Positioning System (GPS) – Used for photo and modeling location accuracy;
- 3D Studio Max 2010 – Used for 3D modeling, texturing, lighting, and rendering;
- PTGui – Used for digital photo panorama creation; and
- Adobe Photoshop CS4 – Used for photo editing and compositing.

When taking photographs of the existing landscapes, the visual team will use a Nikon D90 digital camera (digital single lens reflex [dSLR]) equipped with a 52 millimeter (mm)-equivalent lens. This lens is considered a “normal lens,” which means it most closely approximates the field of vision of the human eye. In photos taken with this lens, the size and scale of objects in the background and foreground are depicted in ratio and are not distorted. The term “52mm equivalent” lens is used because of the difference in image sensor size between a traditional 35mm film camera and a modern dSLR. To achieve the desired “normal lens” focal length of 52mm with a dSLR, a 35mm lens will be used. The Nikon D90 will be equipped with a GPS device manufactured by Promote Systems. This GPS device records the latitude, longitude, elevation, date, and time of each photograph as it is taken.

To create the photo simulations, the location data captured by the GPS device will be transferred to ArcMap, where it will be combined with GIS data of the preliminary layouts of Project components and facilities. A map showing this data will then be exported at true scale and imported into 3D Studio Max. Using this scaled map as a base, a 3D model of the Project area will be created to scale. These 3D models of the proposed Project features, previously modeled to scale in 3D Studio Max, will be added in their appropriate locations and elevations. The views from the existing photographs will then be matched in the 3D model using virtual cameras with the same focal length and field of view as the Nikon D90. After date- and time-specific lighting is added to the 3D model, renderings from the virtual cameras will be created. These renderings will then be blended into the existing conditions photographs in Adobe Photoshop software. Any necessary modifications to the existing landscape, such as tree removal or access road construction, will be completed in Photoshop as well. This process of creating a 3D model at true scale and rendering images using the same specifications used by the camera ensures that the spatial relationships of the landscape, Project features, and viewer perspective are accurate and match the existing site photographs.

3.4.8 Visual Impact Assessment

Visual impact can be defined as the change in visual quality that would result from a proposed action, or the difference between existing visual quality and visual quality with the proposed action. Applicable concepts from the VRM system are that the impact is the amount of contrast with the existing landscape caused by a project, and that the degree to which a development adversely affects the visual quality of the landscape is directly related to the amount of visual contrast between it and the existing landscape character.

Visual impacts of the Project will be determined from each protected area, recreation site, and scenic area and other selected KOPs by assessing the amount of visual

contrast introduced into the existing landscape and the level of viewer sensitivity. Contrast is an important assessment criterion used by both the VMS/SMS and VRM systems to measure the degree of physical change in the landscape without regard to how the change is seen by viewers, sensitivity of viewpoints, or viewing conditions. Visual contrast incorporates the elements of the BLM VRM system's visual assessment/contrast rating approach. Contrast in the landscape is determined by the differences in form, line, color, texture, scale, and landscape juxtaposition between the existing conditions and the proposed action. Contrast levels will be determined using the form in Figure 7 and will be assigned an overall rating of strong, moderate, weak, or none. Descriptions of each value are listed below (BLM 1986b):

- *None* – The contrast is not visible or perceived.
- *Weak* – The contrast can be seen but does not attract attention.
- *Moderate* – The contrast begins to attract attention and begins to dominate the characteristic of the landscape.
- *Strong* – The contrast demands attention and is dominant in the landscape.

Other environmental factors that can influence the degree that visual contrast introduced by Project components is seen or noticed (may reduce or enhance the noticeability of the visual contrast created) are listed below (BLM 1986a):

- *Distance* – The contrast created by a project usually is less as viewing distance increases.
- *Available Panorama* – The more of the available view the proposed facilities are visible in, the greater the amount of visual contrast.
- *Angle of Observation* - Viewing the project from different vertical or horizontal angles can greatly affect the visibility of a project and the resulting level of visual contrast.
- *Length of Time in View/Motion* – The longer the project is in view, the greater the level of visual contrast.
- *Relative Size or Scale/Spatial Relationships* – The level of visual contrast created by a project is directly related to its size and scale compared to the surrounding landscape it is located in.
- *Lighting Conditions* – The direction and angle of the sun, and other atmospheric conditions, affects the color, intensity, shadow, reflection, form, and texture of visual aspects of proposed project components.

The following describes some examples of conditions associated with each visual contrast level:

- Strong Visual Contrast
 - Contrast that is caused by construction of new access roads in steep terrain;
 - Where dense riparian or forest vegetation is removed for ROW clearing, tower sites, or access roads; and/or
 - Where the landscape has no existing transmission lines or other overhead utilities.
- Moderate Visual Contrast
 - Contrasts that are caused by blading of existing access roads or construction of new access roads in rolling terrain with occasional short, steep slopes;
 - Where agricultural vegetation or grassland is removed for site or access road construction; and/or
 - Where the proposed project is smaller in scale compared to the existing nearby or parallel utility facilities in the landscape.
- Weak Visual Contrast
 - Where existing access or construction roads are used;
 - Where there is minimal existing vegetation removal;
 - Where similar transmission facilities of similar scale exist nearby or parallel in the landscape.
- No Visual Contrast
 - Where visual contrast of activities is not visually evident;
 - Where the proposed project is smaller in scale or design compared to the existing nearby or parallel utility facilities in the landscape
 - Where manipulation of existing vegetation creates no visual contrast; and/or
 - Where replacing existing conductors on an existing transmission line creates no additional visual contrast.

Visual resource change is the sum of the change in landscape character and visual quality. The viewer response to the project is the result of a combination of viewer

expectations, duration of view, and use volume. The resulting visual impact will be determined by combining the level of visual resource change with the degree to which people are likely to be impacted and react adversely to the change. Table 4 provides a method to rate the combination of visual resources change and viewer response and provides the guidance for the initial impact determination.

Table 4. Impact Assessment Rating Matrix

Viewer Response	Visual Resource Change				
	Low (L)	Low to Moderate (LM)	Moderate (M)	Moderate to High (MH)	High (H)
Low	L	L	L	LM	M
L-M	L	LM	M	M	M
Moderate	M	LM	M	MH	MH
M-H	M	M	MH	MH	MH
High	M	M	MH	H	H

The definitions of the visual impact levels are:

- *Low* – Minor adverse change to the existing visual resource, with low viewer response to change in the visual environment;
- *Low to Moderate* – Minor to moderate adverse change to the existing visual resource, with low to moderate or moderate viewer response to change in the visual environment;
- *Moderate* – Moderate adverse change to the visual resource with moderate viewer response (Adverse);
- *Moderate to High* – Moderate adverse visual resource change with high viewer response or high adverse visual resource change with moderate viewer response (Adverse);
- *High* – A high level of adverse change to the resource or a high level of viewer response to visual change such that without effective mitigation or project redesign significant thresholds would be exceeded (Adverse).

For those KOPs located on NFS lands, the visual impacts of the Project will be determined by comparing the visual resources of the landscapes with the proposed Project with the desired landscape character and VQO/SIO identified for the area in the appropriate Forest Plan using the form in Figure 3. Factors such as visual dominance, degree of deviation from existing landscape character, and intactness of the landscape will be considered in this comparison. If the landscape with the proposed Project does not meet the VQO/SIO for a KOP in the Wallowa-Whitman NF a plan amendment may

be required; however, this would depend on the number of acres that would be affected and whether or not the changes would result in the Forest surpassing the threshold of allowable change.

For those KOPs located on BLM-administered lands, contrasts will be determined using the form in Figure 6, and will be compared to the VRM classes identified in the RMPs. If the amount of visual contrast does not meet the VRM objective identified for a given KOP and mitigation measures will not bring the contrast to a level to coincide with the VRM objective, the BLM may determine that it is noncompliant with the RMP and a plan amendment would be required. For those KOPs located on other federal, state, and private lands, the visual impacts of the Project will be determined in a similar way to those KOPs located on BLM-administered land using the form in Figure 7.

The Visual Resources Assessment Report will provide an impact analysis from and description of each KOP. Each analysis will include a description of existing landscape character, visual quality, proposed Project features, potential changes to landscape character and visual quality (contrast), viewer response, and resulting visual impact. Table 5 exemplifies the KOP visual impact summary table.

Table 5. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP

KOP	Viewers ¹	Viewer Response ²	Scenic Quality ³	Distance (miles)	Visibility ⁴	Contrast ⁵	Impact ⁶
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							

¹ Viewers are grouped as commuters, residences, and recreationalists based on highest level of sensitivity to change as detailed in Figure 7.

² Viewer response is based on Table 3 – Viewer Response Matrix

³ Scenic Quality is existing condition or as defined by BLM or USFS and detailed in Table 2.

⁴ Visibility is rated as low, moderate, or high and based on factors such as distance and potential screening or backdropping.

⁵ Contrast is detailed above.

⁶ Impact is detailed above.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES

IPC will propose Environmental Protection Measures (EPMs) that will be implemented to minimize or avoid impacts on visual resources. For instance, IPC will propose EPMs

that would help mitigate the appearance of the transmission line in the landscape, such as the following:

- VR-1 The 500-kV transmission line lattice steel towers will have a dull galvanized finish to reduce surface reflectivity. Using the dull finish results in installed towers with more visual absorption allowing the towers to blend in better with the landscape.
- VR-2 Site-specific “micro-siting” may be required near certain sensitive areas, as identified by the agencies, where proposed transmission facilities would be present and could impact visual quality.
- VR-3 In specific areas (such as VRM Class II, erosive soils, steep slopes, areas near NHT Trails) the access roads used for construction will be restored and an alternative access route for operations will be designated.
- VR-4 Consider screening of structures from view through the use of natural landforms and vegetation where applicable.

Per OAR 345-021-0010, Exhibit R of the ASC will identify the measures IPC proposes to avoid, reduce, or otherwise mitigate any significant adverse impacts to visual resources. Development of potential mitigation measures will be based on the impact assessment results, and will include the types or forms of mitigation defined in the NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1508.20).

Mitigation measures may be applied individually or combined to reduce or eliminate impacts, and will be considered in cooperation with the appropriate jurisdictional guidance to ensure effective implementation and management.

5.0 KEY VISUAL STUDY PERSONNEL

The key personnel for the visual resources study are as follows:

Jim Nickerson

Project Manager

Mr. Nickerson has more than 30 years of experience managing transmission line and other energy facility permitting including expert testimony on visual impact assessment.

Dave Perry

Senior Review

Mr. Perry is a registered Landscape Architect with over 30 years of experience siting and permitting transmission lines and conducting visual assessments.

Robert Evans	Visual Resources Analyst/Task Lead Mr. Evans has a master's degree in landscape architecture and is an active member of American Society of Landscape Architects. He has over 6 years of experience conducting visual assessments in the western United States and completed the BLM's VRM training in 2008.
Matt Loscalzo	Recreation Planner/Visual Resource Analyst Mr. Loscalzo is a recreation planner and visual resource analyst with VRM training and experience assessing visual impact of transmission lines, oil and gas, and wind projects.
Jared Wiedmeyer	GIS/Visualization/Visual Resource Analyst Mr. Wiedmeyer is a GIS specialist with VRM training and experience assessing visual impact of transmission lines and wind projects.
Shawn Jackson	Simulation Specialist / Visual Resources Analyst Mr. Jackson has a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture and is a visualization specialist with more than 9 years of experience with visual simulations.

6.0 REFERENCES

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GLOSSARY

The glossary in the following table lists the terminology used in this study first, followed by the associated terms used in the USFS SMS and the BLM VRM system.

Term	USFS SMS	BLM VRM System	Other Federal/State/Local/Private Land
Distance Zone	Based on perception thresholds of landscape components and details (individual tree leaves, individual branches, individual trees, tree groves, etc); Immediate Foreground (0 to 300 feet), Foreground (300 feet to 0.5 mile), Middleground (0.5 to 4 miles), Background (4 miles to horizon), and Seldom-Seen Areas.	Subdivisions of the landscape as viewed relative visibility from an observer position. Three zones based on perception thresholds of texture, form, vegetation patterns, etc; Foreground-Middleground (0 to 3–5 miles), Background (3–5 to 15 miles), and Seldom-Seen.	With increasing distance, landscape elements tend to become less obvious and less detailed. Distance zones are based on perception thresholds and previous studies on transmission line development and visibility. Thresholds are relative to structure type, viewshed and landscape unit setting. The distance zones that will be used in the Visual Resources Assessment Report are: Immediate Foreground (0 to 300 feet), Foreground (300 feet to 0.5 mile), Middleground (0.5 to 4 miles), Background (4 miles to horizon), and Seldom-Seen Areas.
Key Observation Point	<i>Travelways and Use Areas:</i> These areas are identified and classified to determine which existing observer positions to use in the landscape visibility analysis.	<i>Key Observation Point:</i> One or a series of points on a travel route or at a use area or a potential use area, where the view of a management activity would be most revealing.	A viewpoint identified as most representative of a landscape unit, its viewshed, and its project and regional setting.
Landscape Unit	A small area of land that, at a micro-scale, has similar existing landscape attributes. A geographic area that is useful for inventorying and analyzing scenery. An SMS equivalent is called an “ecological unit description” (EUD) where the physical EUD combined with the landscape character defines a “sense of place.”	<i>Scenic Quality Rating Units:</i> A portion of the landscape which displays primarily homogenous visual characteristics of the basic landscape features (land and water form, vegetation, and structures).	A defined portion of a regional landscape that is usually enclosed by clear landform or landcover boundaries and may be thought of as an “Outdoor Room.” It is a critical designation of physiography and cultural criteria from which representative viewer observation points are selected.

Glossary (continued)

Term	USFS SMS	BLM VRM System	Other Federal/State/Local/Private Land
Viewer Sensitivity	<i>Sensitivity Levels (VMS) / Concern Levels (SMS):</i> Measure of the degree of public importance placed on landscape viewed from travelways and use areas. Concern levels are classified as high, moderate, or low.	<i>Sensitivity Levels:</i> The measure of viewer concern for the scenic resource and potential changes; classified as high, moderate, or low sensitivity. Factors considered include type of users, amount of use, public interest, adjacent land uses, and special areas.	Classified as high, moderate, or low sensitivity and considers user type and viewer attitude, duration of view, and use volume. The combination of the three factors produces an overall sensitivity level.
Landscape Character	Particular attributes, qualities, and traits of a landscape that give it an image and make it identifiable or unique. Utilize patterns and concepts of form, line, color, and texture to define landscape attributes. It is the combination of physical, biological, and cultural attributes that contribute to a “sense of place.”	The arrangement of a landscape formed by the variety and intensity of landscape features and identified with the four basic elements of form, line, color, and texture.	The descriptive means by which people assess a landscape. It is a non-evaluative description distinguished by the attributes of pattern elements (form, line, color, and texture) and pattern character (dominance, scale, diversity, and continuity).
Visual Contrast	<i>Visual Absorption Capability:</i> A classification system used to denote relative ability of a landscape to accept human alterations without loss of character or scenic quality. Appropriate physical characteristics such as slope, vegetative cover, vegetative pattern, site recovery potential, and soil color contrast are evaluated to estimate the capability of the landscape to absorb impacts. Contrast is classified as high, moderate, or low.	<i>Visual Resource Contrast Rating:</i> An opposition of introduced forms, lines, colors, or textures into an existing landscape. It is the basis of impact assessment for the VRM system and breaks down project descriptions into the basic features of landform/water, vegetation, and structural contrasts. Four classes of contrast are used: strong, moderate, weak, or none.	Contrast is determined by assessing the degree of change seen by a viewer, but also takes into account the physical elements of change without regard to evaluation of the KOP. For example, a project may contain a significant amount of severe landform grading that is obscured from particular viewing juxtapositions; separate from the KOP analysis, the contrast rating could take this design knowledge into account. Similarly, in analyzing structural contrast (the introduction of electrical structures that are much larger than existing structures), the analyst is given the vehicle to recognize this dominance and imbalance. The Visual Resources Assessment Report will classify contrast as strong, moderate, weak, or none.

Glossary (continued)

Term	USFS SMS	BLM VRM System	Other Federal/State/Local/Private Land
Visual Quality	<p><i>Variety Class (VMS) / Scenic Attractiveness (SMS):</i> VMS variety class describes landscape variety in terms of landform, vegetation, and waterform. SMS describes landscape elements of landform patterns and features, surface water characteristics, vegetation patterns, and land use patterns and cultural features in terms of their line, form, color, texture, and composition. They are rated with an evaluation of a Class A = Distinctive, Class B = Typical or Common, or Class C = Indistinctive.</p>	<p><i>Scenic Quality:</i> Uses a numerical rating system to determine scenic quality ratings of Class A = High, Class B = Moderate, or Class C = Low. Seven factors (landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications) are used to evaluate scenic quality.</p>	<p>Visual quality is concerned with excellence in the landscape. A rating class of A, B, or C is given by evaluating a landscape viewshed by its vividness, intactness, and unity. See Table 2 for a comparison and definitions of rating classes used.</p>

BLM VRM – U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Visual Resource Management; USFS SMS – U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Scenery Management System; VMS – Visual Management System (USFS)

FIGURES

Figure 1. Project Methodology Process Flow Chart

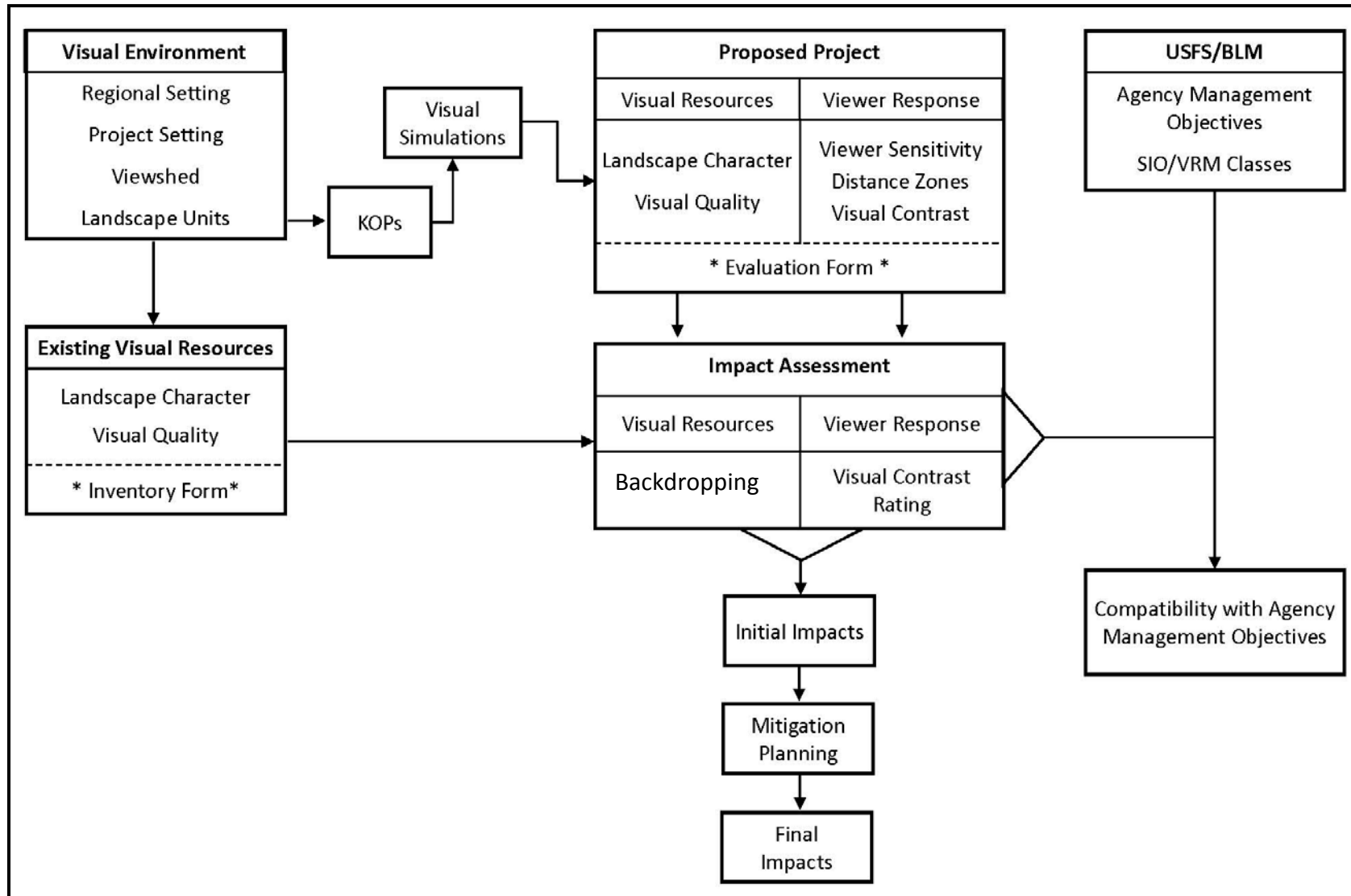


Figure 2. Lattice Transmission Structure Potential Visibility Comparison

LATTICE TRANSMISSION STRUCTURE POTENTIAL VISIBILITY COMPARISON

When transmission structures are viewed in front of a dark colored background like the tree-covered hills in this photograph, individual structures greater than 2 miles away are typically indiscernible.



When transmission structures are viewed in front of a light-colored background or are visible above the horizon as they are in this photograph, individual structures greater than 8 miles away may still be visible.



Figure 3. Visual Inventory Form—KOPs on NFS Lands


 TETRA TECH EC, INC.		VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET FOR KOPs ON USFS LANDS																																																																																																		
Section A: Project Information																																																																																																				
Project Name	Key Observation Point / Photo Point	SIO / VQO	Latitude / Longitude	Location																																																																																																
Section B: Characteristic Landscape Description																																																																																																				
	LAND / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES																																																																																																	
FORM																																																																																																				
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COLOR																																																																																																				
TEXTURE																																																																																																				
Section C: Proposed Activity Description																																																																																																				
HAS PHOTO SIMULATION BEEN CREATED FOR KOP? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No IF YES, FIGURE NUMBER: _____																																																																																																				
	LAND / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES																																																																																																	
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Section D: Contrast Rating																																																																																																				
<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="12" style="text-align: center;">FEATURES</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="4">LAND/WATER</th> <th colspan="4">VEGETATION</th> <th colspan="4">STRUCTURES</th> </tr> <tr> <th rowspan="5" style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">ELEMENTS</th> <th rowspan="2" style="text-align: center;">DEGREE OF CONTRAST</th> <th>STRONG</th> <th>MODERATE</th> <th>WEAK</th> <th>NONE</th> <th>STRONG</th> <th>MODERATE</th> <th>WEAK</th> <th>NONE</th> <th>STRONG</th> <th>MODERATE</th> <th>WEAK</th> <th>NONE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <th>FORM</th> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <th>LINE</th> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <th>COLOR</th> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <th>TEXTURE</th> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							FEATURES												LAND/WATER				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES				ELEMENTS	DEGREE OF CONTRAST	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	FORM														LINE														COLOR														TEXTURE													
		FEATURES																																																																																																		
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PAGE 1 / 2																																																																																																				

Figure 4. Visual Evaluation Form—KOPs on NFS Lands


	TETRA TECH EC, INC.	VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET FOR KOPs ON USFS LANDS
Section E: Desired SIO/VQO Level		
SIO/VQO <input type="checkbox"/> Very High/ Preservation <input type="checkbox"/> High/ Retention <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate/ Partial Retention <input type="checkbox"/> Low/ Modification <input type="checkbox"/> Very Low/Max. Modification		
WHICH IS MORE DOMINANT - LANDSCAPE CHARACTER OR DEVIATION?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Character <input type="checkbox"/> Deviation		
<i>Comments</i>		
HOW DOMINANT IS DEVIATION FROM LANDSCAPE CHARACTER?		
<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Evident But Not Dominant <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dominant <input type="checkbox"/> Not Evident <input type="checkbox"/> Dominant <input type="checkbox"/> Extremely Dominant		
<i>Comments</i>		
HOW IS LANDSCAPE CHARACTER EXPRESSED?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fully Expressed <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate Expression <input type="checkbox"/> Very Low Expression <input type="checkbox"/> Largely Expressed <input type="checkbox"/> Low Expression <input type="checkbox"/> Extremely Altered		
<i>Comments</i>		
Section F: SIO/VQO Level With Project		
WHICH IS MORE DOMINANT - LANDSCAPE CHARACTER OR DEVIATION?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Character <input type="checkbox"/> Deviation		
<i>Comments</i>		
HOW DOMINANT IS DEVIATION FROM LANDSCAPE CHARACTER?		
<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Evident But Not Dominant <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dominant <input type="checkbox"/> Not Evident <input type="checkbox"/> Dominant <input type="checkbox"/> Extremely Dominant		
<i>Comments</i>		
HOW IS LANDSCAPE CHARACTER EXPRESSED?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fully Expressed <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate Expression <input type="checkbox"/> Very Low Expression <input type="checkbox"/> Largely Expressed <input type="checkbox"/> Low Expression <input type="checkbox"/> Extremely Altered		
<i>Comments</i>		
Does Project Meet SIO/VQO Objective? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO If No, Provide Explanation 	Are Additional Mitigation Measures Necessary to Meet SIO/VQO Objective? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO If Yes, List Additional Mitigation Measures 	
Evaluator(s) _____	Date _____	
PAGE 2 / 2		

Figure 5. Visual Inventory Form—KOPs on BLM Lands



 TETRA TECH EC, INC.		VISUAL INVENTORY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS FOR KOPs ON BLM LANDS			
Section A: Project Information					
Project Name	Key Observation Point	Latitude / Longitude	Notes		
EVALUATORS NAMES			DATE		
Section B: Landscape Character Features					
	LAND / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES		
FORM					
LINE					
COLOR					
TEXTURE					
NARRATIVE 					
Section C: Scenic Quality Score					
	CIRCLE APPROPRIATE LEVEL			SCENIC QUALITY <input type="checkbox"/> A: 19 or more <input type="checkbox"/> B: 12 - 18 <input type="checkbox"/> C: 11 or less <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">PAGE 1 / 1</div>	
	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW		EXPLANATION
LANDFORM	5	3	1		
VEGETATION	5	3	1		
WATER	5	3	0		
COLOR	5	3	1		
ADJACENT SCENERY	5	3	0		
SCARCITY	5	3	1		
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	2	0	-4		
TOTAL					

Figure 6. Visual Evaluation Form—KOPs on BLM Lands

 TETRA TECH EC, INC.		<h2 style="margin: 0;">VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">FOR KOPs ON BLM LANDS</h3>				
Section A: Project Information						
Project Name	Key Observation Point	VRM Class	Latitude / Longitude	Notes		
Section B: Characteristic Landscape Description						
	LAND / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES			
FORM						
LINE						
COLOR						
TEXTURE						
Section C: Proposed Activity Description						
HAS PHOTO SIMULATION BEEN CREATED FOR KOP? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No IF YES, FIGURE NUMBER: _____						
	LAND / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES			
FORM						
LINE						
COLOR						
TEXTURE						
Section D: Contrast Rating						
DEGREE OF CONTRAST	FEATURES				Does Project Meet VRM Objectives? YES NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> If No, EXPLAIN ON REVERSE SIDE	Are Additional Mitigation Measures Necessary to Meet VRM Class Objectives? YES NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, EXPLAIN ON REVERSE SIDE
		LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES		
	ELEMENTS	STRONG MODERATE WEAK NONE	STRONG MODERATE WEAK NONE	STRONG MODERATE WEAK NONE		
	FORM					
	LINE					
COLOR						
TEXTURE						
OVERALL LEVEL OF CONTRAST: _____						
			Evaluators Names			
			Date			



TETRA TECH EC, INC.

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET FOR KOPs ON BLM LANDS

Section E: Why Does Project Not Meet VRM Class Objective?

Explanation

Section F: Additional Mitigation Measures

Explanation

Figure 7. Visual Inventory Form—KOPs on non-USFS/BLM Lands


 TETRA TECH EC, INC.		VISUAL INVENTORY FORM FOR KOPs ON NON-USFS/BLM LANDS			
Section A: Project Information					
Project Name	Key Observation Point	Latitude / Longitude	Notes		
EVALUATORS NAMES			DATE		
Section B: Landscape Character Features					
	LAND / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES		
FORM					
LINE					
COLOR					
TEXTURE					
NARRATIVE					
Section C: Scenic Quality Score					
	CIRCLE APPROPRIATE LEVEL			<p style="text-align: center;">SCENIC QUALITY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A: 19 or more</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B: 12 - 18</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C: 11 or less</p>	
	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW		EXPLANATION
LANDFORM	5	3	1		
VEGETATION	5	3	1		
WATER	5	3	0		
COLOR	5	3	1		
ADJACENT SCENERY	5	3	0		
SCARCITY	5	3	1		
CULTURAL MODIFICATION	2	0	-4		
TOTAL					

Figure 8. Visual Evaluation Form—KOPs on non-USFS/BLM Lands


 TETRA TECH EC, INC.		VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET FOR KOPs ON NON-NFS/BLM LANDS										
Section A: Project Information												
Project Name	Key Observation Point	Latitude / Longitude	Notes									
Section B: Characteristic Landscape Description												
	LAND / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES									
FORM												
LINE												
COLOR												
TEXTURE												
Section C: Proposed Activity Description												
HAS PHOTO SIMULATION BEEN CREATED FOR KOP? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If YES, FIGURE NUMBER: _____												
	LAND / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES									
FORM												
LINE												
COLOR												
TEXTURE												
Section D: Contrast Rating		Section E: Viewer Sensitivity										
DEGREE OF CONTRAST	FEATURES			VIEWER EXPECTATIONS	DURATION OF VIEW	USE VOLUME	OVERALL SENSITIVITY					
	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS								
	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK					NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
	FORM											
	LINE											
COLOR												
TEXTURE												
OVERALL LEVEL OF CONTRAST: _____				EVALUATORS NAMES	DATE							
				PAGE 1 / 1								

Figure 9. Key Observation Point (KOP) Visual Impacts Summary Table

KOP	Existing Scenic Quality Rating	Viewer Groups ¹	Viewer Sensitivity	Distance (miles)	Visibility	Contrast Rating	Visual Impact Level ²	Mitigation (Y/N)	Post-Mitigation Impact Level
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									
22									
23									
24									
25									
26									
27									
28									
29									
30									

¹ Viewer types are identified in Section 3.4.2. Identify Key Observation Points

² Visual Impact Levels are identified in Section 3.4.8. Visual Impact Assessment

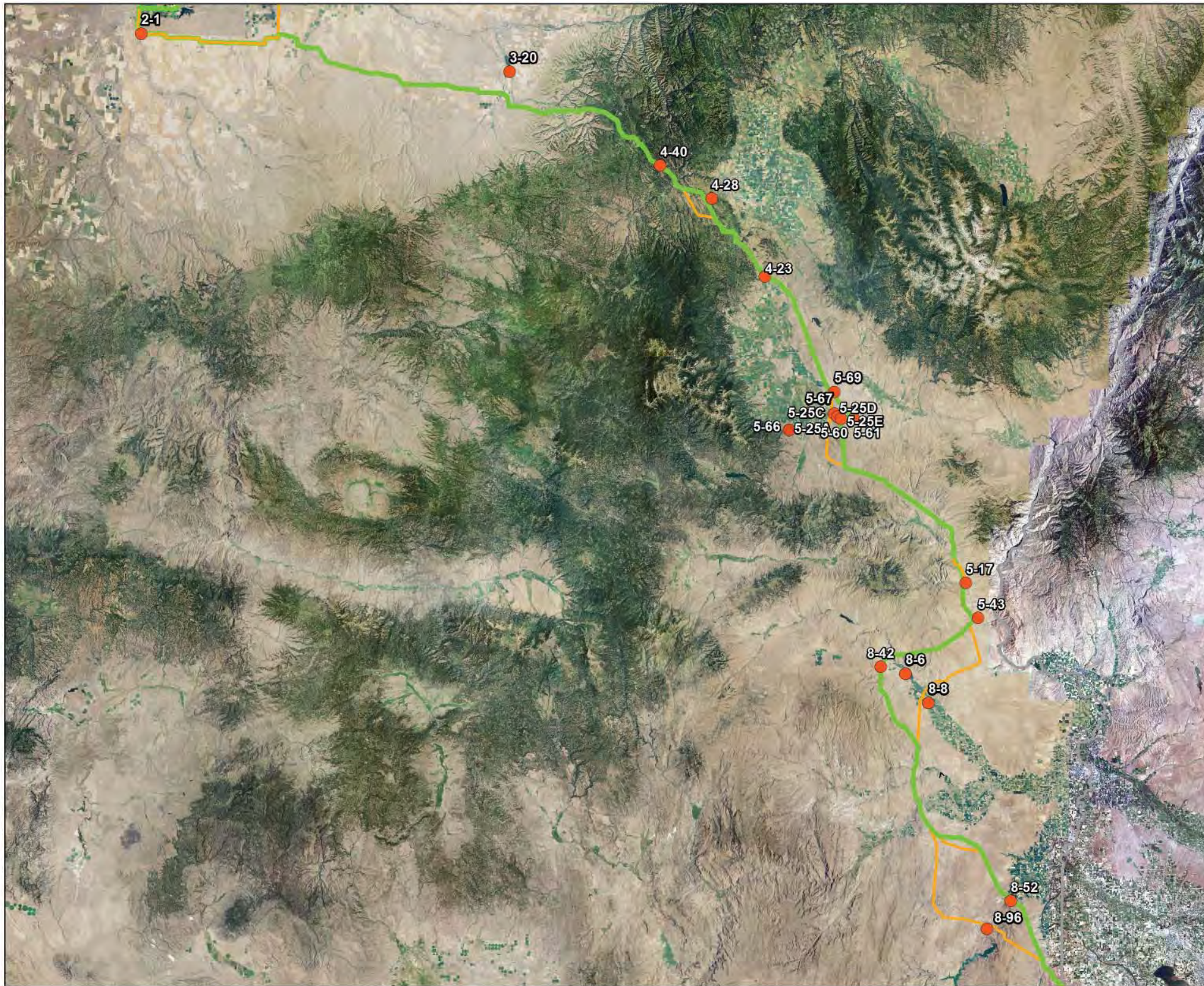
Figure 10. Key Observation Point (KOP) Agency Management Objective Summary Table

KOP	Existing Scenic Quality Inventory Condition¹	Contrast/Dominance Rating²	Visual Impact Level	USFS / BLM Management Objective Met with Project
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				

¹ Scenic Quality Inventory Ratings will be based on the visual quality-landscape unit section of the inventory forms discussed in Section 3.4.5 (see Table 1). It should be noted that current inventory data for scenic quality will be used where information is available.

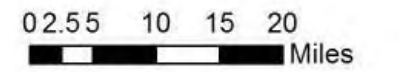
² Contrast/Dominance Rating will use VRM and VMS/SMS system-specific language.

**ATTACHMENT R-4
PHOTOSIMULATION FIGURES**



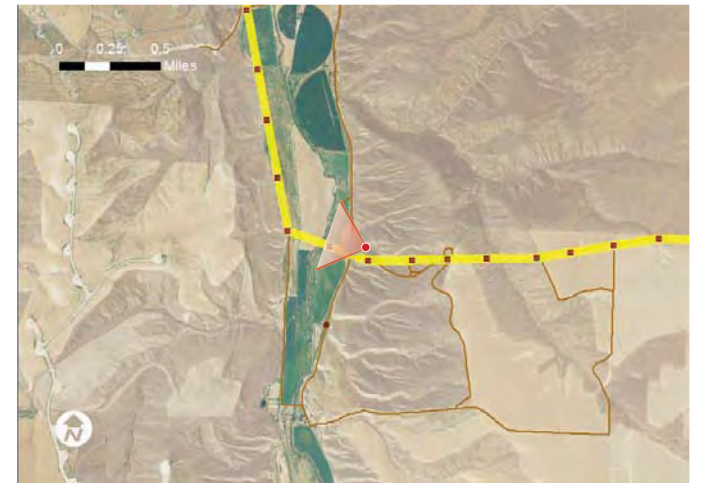
Legend

- Simulated Key Observation Points
- Proposed Corridor
- Alternate Corridor Segment






**Photographic Simulation
Key Observation Point
Location Map**

Boardman to Hemingway
500-kV Transmission Project
Idaho, Oregon, Washington
January 2013
Figure: R-4-1



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 11:53 AM
 Date of photograph: 5.4.2011
 Weather condition: Sunny
 Viewing direction: West/Northwest
 Latitude: 45°37'51.15"N
 Longitude: 119°57'9.549"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.14 mi

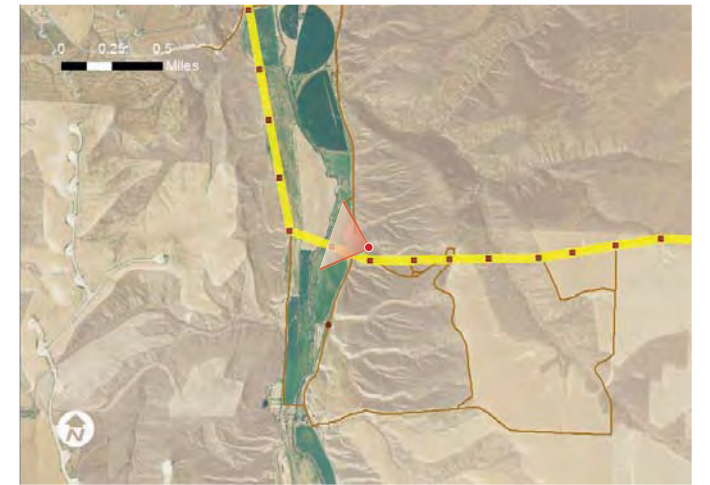
Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 2-1**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-2



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure
Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 11:53 AM
 Date of photograph: 5.4.2011
 Weather condition: Sunny
 Viewing direction: West/Northwest
 Latitude: 45°37'51.15"N
 Longitude: 119°57'9.549"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.14 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Photographic Simulation of
Proposed Alignment
Key Observation Point 2-1**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-3



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 9:28 AM
 Date of photograph: 5.5.2011
 Weather condition: Cloudy
 Viewing direction: Southwest
 Latitude: 45°34'13.438"N
 Longitude: 118°46'48.701"W
 Nearest tower in view: 3.45 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 3-20**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-4



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure
Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 9:28 AM
 Date of photograph: 5.5.2011
 Weather condition: Cloudy
 Viewing direction: Southwest
 Latitude: 45°34'13.438"N
 Longitude: 118°46'48.701"W
 Nearest tower in view: 3.45 mi

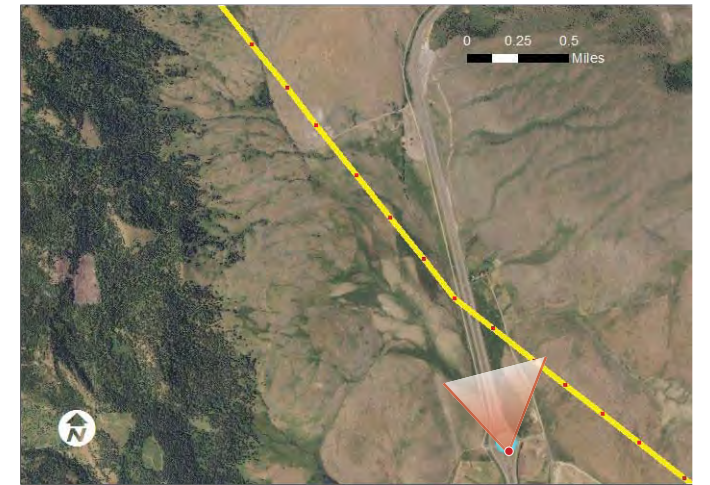
Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper. The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Photographic Simulation of
Proposed Alignment
Key Observation Point 3-20**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-5



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

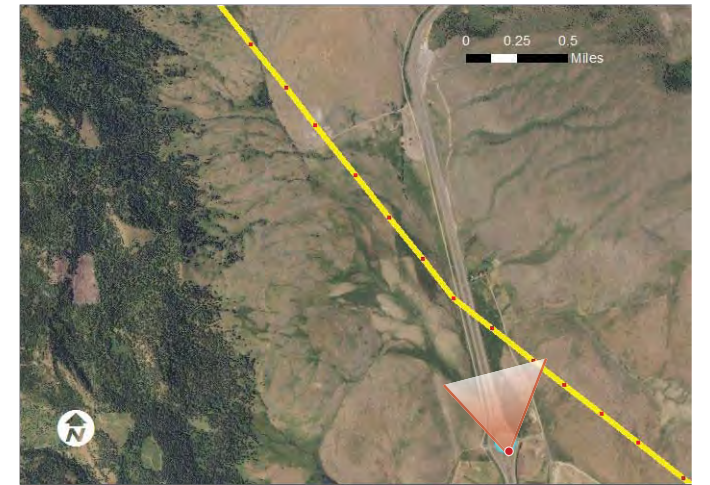
Time of photograph: 4:34 PM
 Date of photograph: 5/5/2011
 Weather condition: Cloudy
 Viewing direction: North
 Latitude: 45°7'26.788"N
 Longitude: 117°57'44.61"W
 Nearest tower in view: .41 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper. The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 4-23**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013
Figure: R-4-6



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

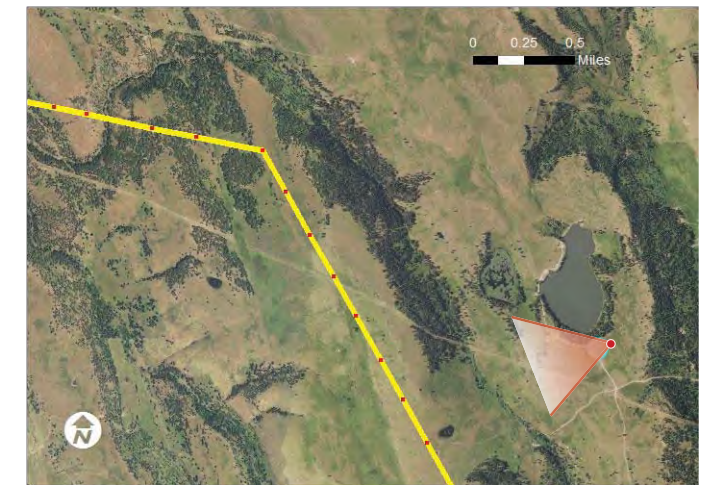
Time of photograph: 4:34 PM
 Date of photograph: 5/5/2011
 Weather condition: Cloudy
 Viewing direction: North
 Latitude: 45°7'26.788"N
 Longitude: 117°57'44.61"W
 Nearest tower in view: .41 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper. The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Photographic Simulation of
Proposed Alignment
Key Observation Point 4-23**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013
Figure: R-4-7



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Foreground Treeline and Topography

Potential Slight View to Structure

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 3:09 PM
 Date of photograph: 5.5.2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Cloudy
 Viewing direction: West
 Latitude: 45°17'47.443"N
 Longitude: 118°8'0.135"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.96 mi

The Photo image above shows the existing view from a key use location adjacent to Morgan Lake. The photo location is near the entrance to the park on the southern boundary of the property looking west. The fencing visible in the photo are the boundary of the park. The aerial image at right shows the locations of the viewpoint, forest cover surrounding the viewpoint, and the Proposed Route approximately 1.0 mile southwest of the viewpoint.

Through a “virtual camera” process matching the existing view and local topography with the three-dimensional coordinates for the proposed transmission line structures, grey cylinders have been placed on the photo image to represent the correct height/elevation and direction of structures on the Proposed Route relative to the viewer. For illustrative purposes, those objects have been placed in front of the trees and topography to indicate their relation to the height/elevation of the tree canopy and terrain. The majority of the structures on the Proposed Route would have top elevations that are lower than the elevation of the tree canopy and intermediate terrain (represented by the green line in the photo), and would not be visible from this location. The portion of the Proposed Structures that extend above the green line have been highlighted by red circles and represents a slight view of the uppermost portion of these structures. According to the analysis there are only two potentially visible structures.





**Photographic Pre-Simulation
Key Observation Point 4-28**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-8



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
-  Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 12:48 PM
 Date of photograph: 5.5.2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Cloudy
 Viewing direction: Southwest
 Latitude: 45°22'4.639"N
 Longitude: 118°17'51.263"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.12 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
 Key Observation Point 4-40**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-9



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 12:48 PM
 Date of photograph: 5.5.2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Cloudy
 Viewing direction: Southwest
 Latitude: 45°22'4.639"N
 Longitude: 118°17'51.263"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.12 mi

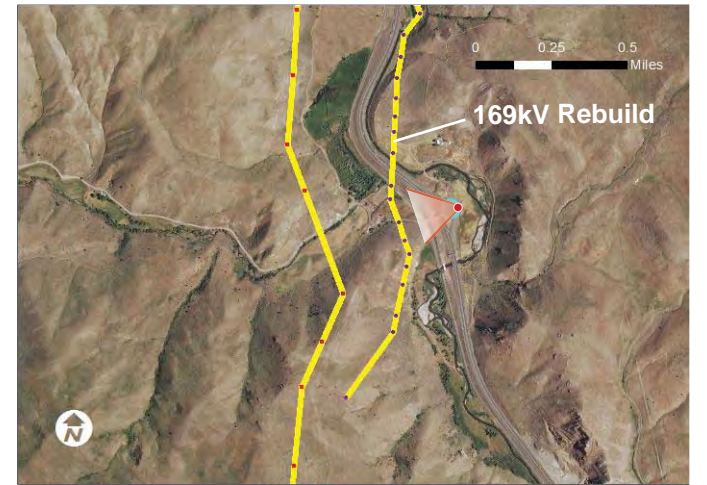
Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.







**Photographic Simulation
Key Observation Point 4-40**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-10



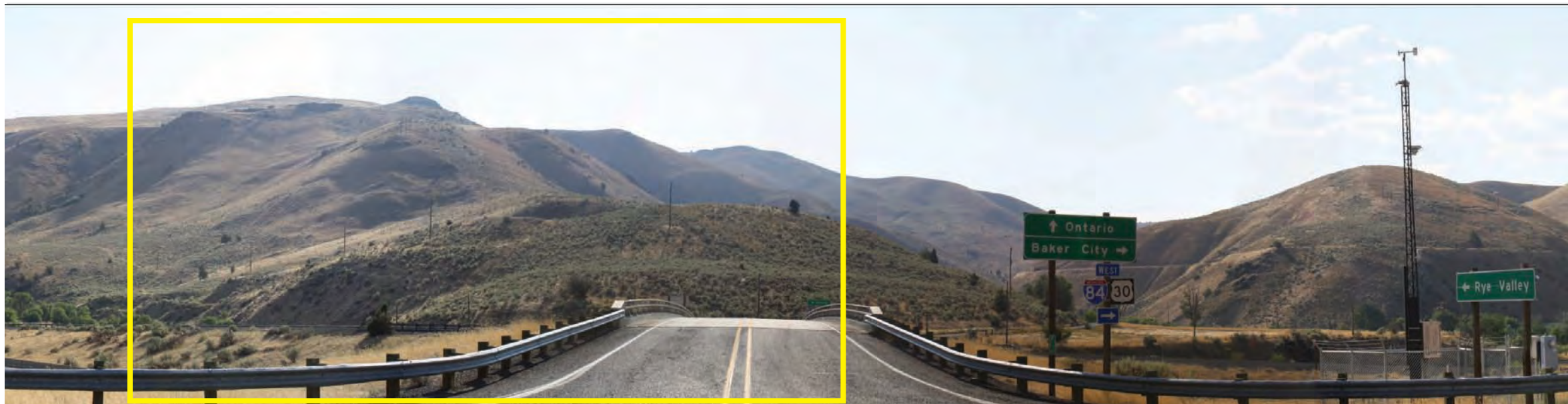
Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure
Locations
-  Proposed Structure
Locations - 169kV Rebuild

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 2:52 PM
 Date of photograph: 9.14.2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: Southwest
 Latitude: 44°26'42.803"N
 Longitude: 117°19'30.829"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.45 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.



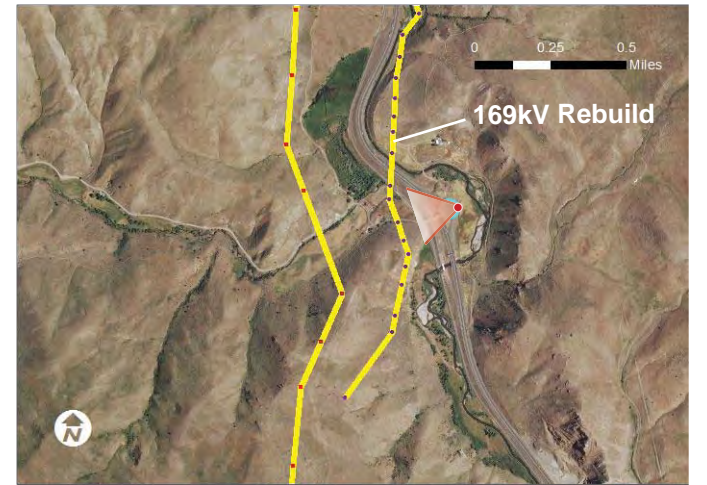
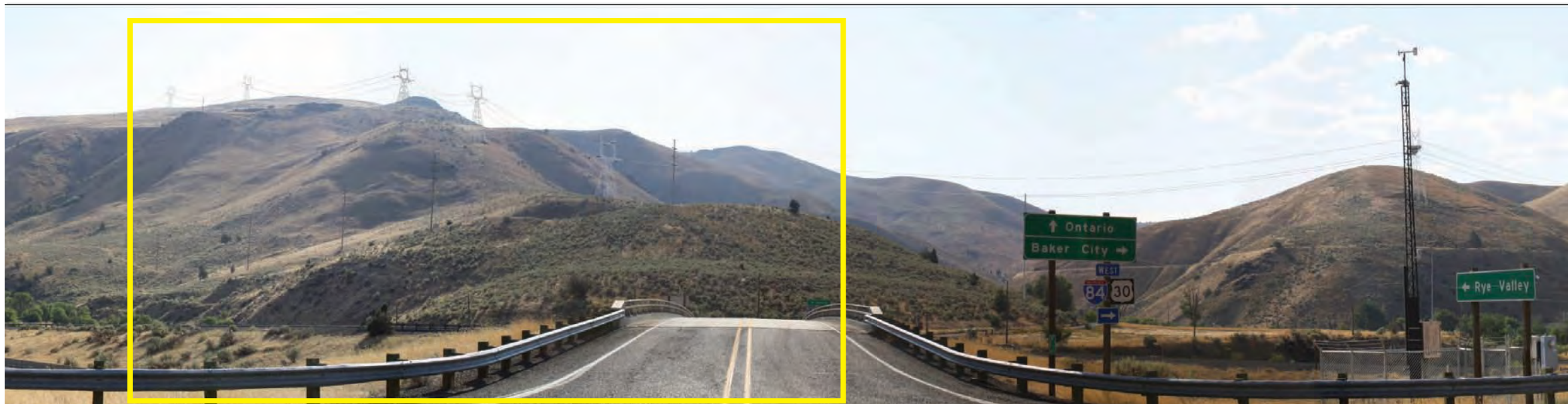
**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 5-17**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013





Figure: R-4-11



Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations
-  Proposed Structure Locations - 169kV Rebuild

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 2:52 PM
 Date of photograph: 9.14.2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: Southwest
 Latitude: 44°26'42.803"N
 Longitude: 117°19'30.829"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.45 mi




**Photographic Simulation
 of Proposed Alignment and
 169kV Rebuild
 Key Observation Point 5-17**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-12



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 11:08 AM
 Date of photograph: 1.25.2012
 Weather condition: Partly Cloudy
 Viewing direction: Southeast
 Latitude: 44°48'47.807"N
 Longitude: 117°43'44.474"W
 Nearest tower in view: 1.03 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper. The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 5-25A**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-13



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 11:08 AM
 Date of photograph: 1.25.2012
 Weather condition: Partly Cloudy
 Viewing direction: Southeast
 Latitude: 44°48'47.807"N
 Longitude: 117°43'44.474"W
 Nearest tower in view: 1.03 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper. The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Photographic Simulation of
Proposed Alignment
Key Observation Point 5-25A**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-14



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Alternative Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure
Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 1:29 PM
 Date of photograph: 3.24.2011
 Weather condition: Partly Cloudy
 Viewing direction: West
 Latitude: 44°49'11.139"N
 Longitude: 117°44'24.517"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.45 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.



**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 5-25C**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013




Figure: R-4-15



Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Alternative Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 1:29 PM
 Date of photograph: 3.24.2011
 Weather condition: Partly Cloudy
 Viewing direction: West
 Latitude: 44°49'11.139"N
 Longitude: 117°44'24.517"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.45 mi




**Photographic Simulation of
 Flagstaff Hill Alternative
 Key Observation Point 5-25C**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-16



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Alternative Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure
Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 2:25 PM
 Date of photograph: 3.24.2011
 Weather condition: Partly Cloudy
 Viewing direction: Northwest
 Latitude: 44°48'53.843"N
 Longitude: 117°43'43.826"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.91 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 5-25D**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-17



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Alternative Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure
Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 2:25 PM
 Date of photograph: 3.24.2011
 Weather condition: Partly Cloudy
 Viewing direction: Northwest
 Latitude: 44°48'53.843"N
 Longitude: 117°43'43.826"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.91 mi

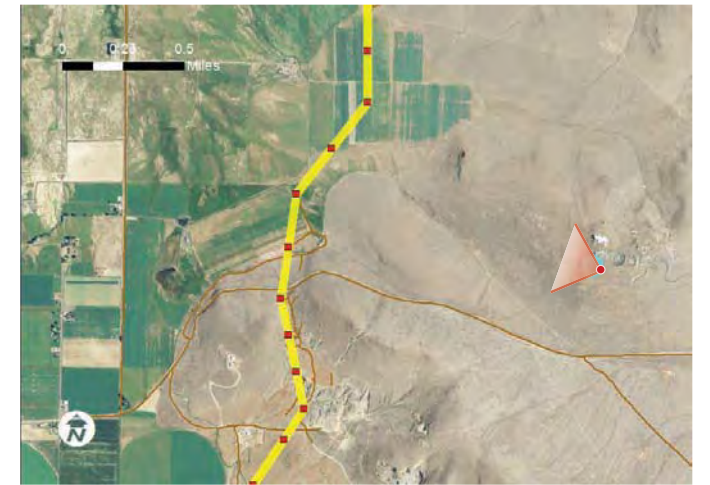
Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Photographic Simulation of
 Flagstaff Hill Alternative
 Key Observation Point 5-25D**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-18



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Alternative Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 11:12 AM
 Date of photograph: 1.25.2012
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: West
 Latitude: 44°48'47.56"N
 Longitude: 117°43'45.432"W
 Nearest tower in view: 1.14 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 5-25E**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-19



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Alternative Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure
Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 11:12 AM
 Date of photograph: 1.25.2012
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: West
 Latitude: 44°48'47.56"N
 Longitude: 117°43'45.432"W
 Nearest tower in view: 1.14 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Photographic Simulation of
Flagstaff Hill Alternative
Key Observation Point 5-25E**

Boardman to Hemingway
500-kV Transmission Project
Idaho, Oregon, Washington
January 2013

Figure: R-4-20



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 2:42 PM
 Date of photograph: 9.14.2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: West
 Latitude: 44°22'0.706"N
 Longitude: 117°17'15.371"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.65 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 5-43**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-21



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 2:42 PM
 Date of photograph: 9.14.2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: West
 Latitude: 44°22'0.706"N
 Longitude: 117°17'15.371"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.65 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Photographic Simulation of
Proposed Alignment
Key Observation Point 5-43**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-22



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 11:51 AM
 Date of photograph: 1.25.2012
 Weather condition: Partly Cloudy
 Viewing direction: East / Southeast
 Latitude: 44°48'32.367"N
 Longitude: 117°43'6.986"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.46 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.



**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 5-60**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013




Figure: R-4-23



Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper. The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

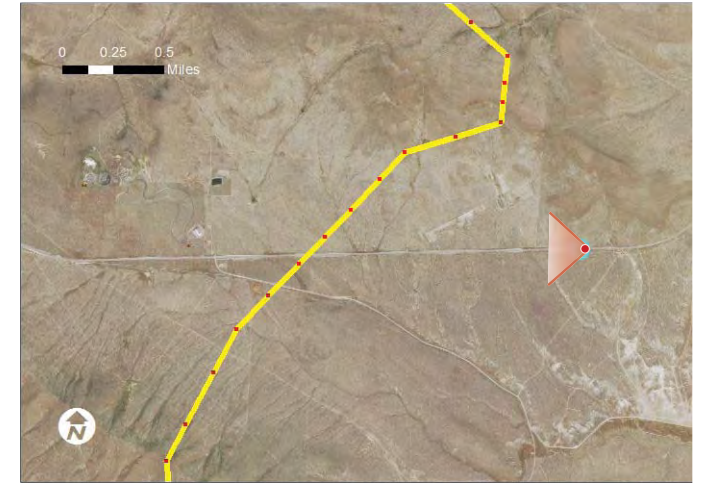
Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 11:51 AM
 Date of photograph: 1.25.2012
 Weather condition: Partly Cloudy
 Viewing direction: East / Southeast
 Latitude: 44°48'32.367"N
 Longitude: 117°43'6.986"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.46 mi




**Photographic Simulation of
 Proposed Alignment
 Key Observation Point 5-60**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-24



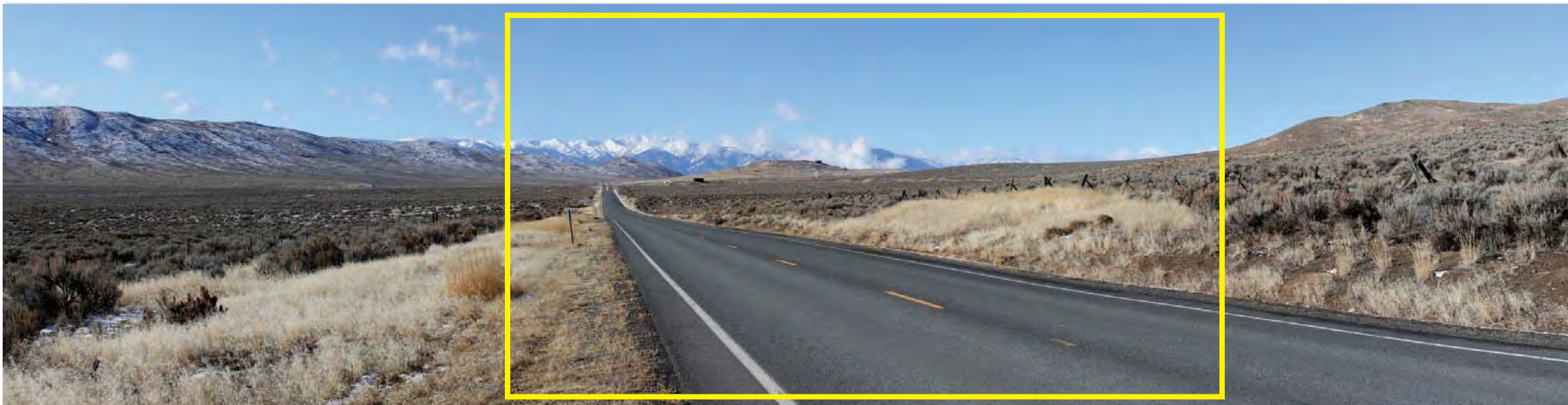
Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 11:57 AM
 Date of photograph: 1.25.2012
 Weather condition: Sunny
 Viewing direction: West
 Latitude: 44°48'32.202"N
 Longitude: 117°40'46.33"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.97 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 5-61**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-25



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 11:57 AM
 Date of photograph: 1.25.2012
 Weather condition: Sunny
 Viewing direction: West
 Latitude: 44°48'32.202"N
 Longitude: 117°40'46.33"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.97 mi

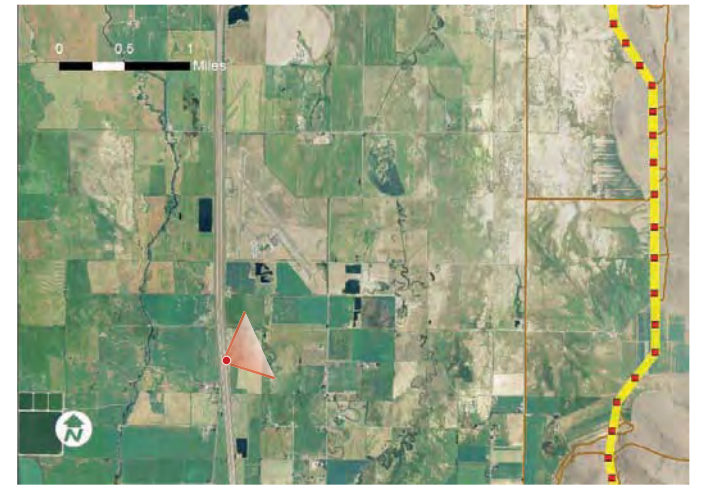
Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper. The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Photographic Simulation of
Proposed Alignment
Key Observation Point 5-6 I**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-26



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Alternative Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 12:25 PM
 Date of photograph: 1.26.2012
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: Northeast
 Latitude: 44°14'30.45"N
 Longitude: 117°30'39.54"W
 Nearest tower in view: 5.54 mi

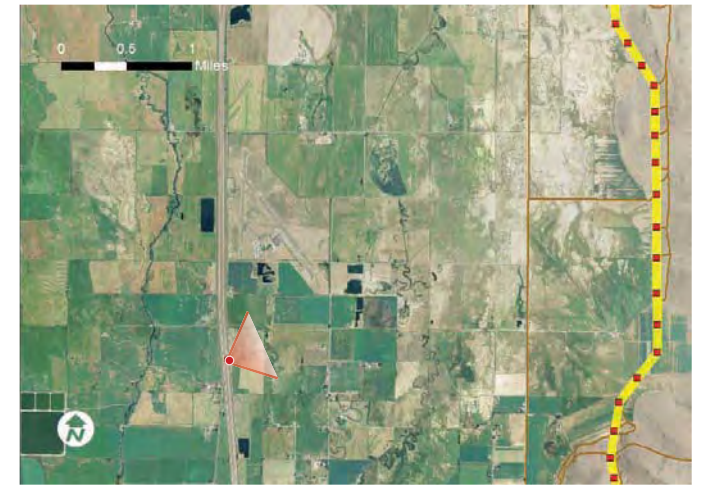
Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 5-66**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-27



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Alternative Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 12:25 PM
 Date of photograph: 1.26.2012
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: Northeast
 Latitude: 44°14'30.45"N
 Longitude: 117°30'39.54"W
 Nearest tower in view: 5.54 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Photographic Simulation of
 Flagstaff Hill Alternative
 Key Observation Point 5-66**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-28



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Alternative Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 11:39 AM
 Date of photograph: 1.26.2012
 Weather condition: Sunny
 Viewing direction: East/Southeast
 Latitude: 44°49'17.661"N
 Longitude: 117°48'54.423"W
 Nearest tower in view: 3.03 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 5-67**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-29



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Alternative Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 11:39 AM
 Date of photograph: 1.26.2012
 Weather condition: Sunny
 Viewing direction: East/Southeast
 Latitude: 44°49'17.661"N
 Longitude: 117°48'54.423"W
 Nearest tower in view: 3.03 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Photographic Simulation of
 Flagstaff Hill Alternative
 Key Observation Point 5-67**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-30



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 11:50 AM
 Date of photograph: 1.27.2012
 Weather condition: Sunny
 Viewing direction: South
 Latitude: 44°52'5.792"N
 Longitude: 117°44'26.221"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.34 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper. The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 5-69**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-31



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 11:50 AM
 Date of photograph: 1.27.2012
 Weather condition: Sunny
 Viewing direction: South
 Latitude: 44°52'5.792"N
 Longitude: 117°44'26.221"W
 Nearest tower in view: 0.34 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Photographic Simulation of
Proposed Alignment
Key Observation Point 5-69**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-32



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 10:45 AM
 Date of photograph: 9.14.2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: Southwest
 Latitude: 44°14'30.456"N
 Longitude: 117°30'39.28"W
 Nearest tower in view: 4.29 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 8-6**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-33



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 10:45 AM
 Date of photograph: 9.14.2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: Southwest
 Latitude: 44°14'30.456"N
 Longitude: 117°30'39.28"W
 Nearest tower in view: 4.29 mi

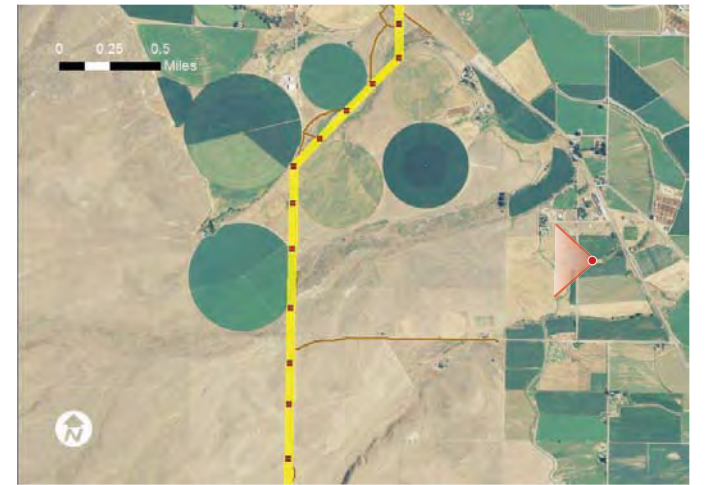
Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper. The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Photographic Simulation of
Proposed Alignment
Key Observation Point 8-6**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-34



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Alternative Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure
Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 10:59 AM
 Date of photograph: 9.14.2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: West
 Latitude: 44°10'36.226"N
 Longitude: 117°26'25.231"W
 Nearest tower in view: 1.4 mi

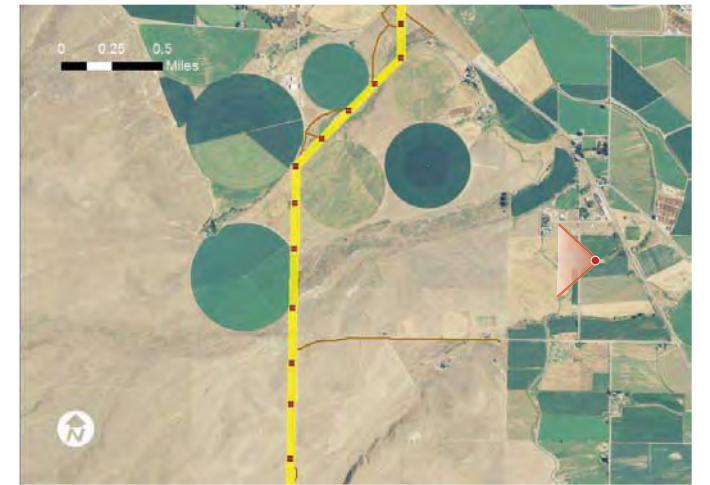
Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 8-8**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-35



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Alternative Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure
Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 10:59 AM
 Date of photograph: 9.14.2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: West
 Latitude: 44°10'36.226"N
 Longitude: 117°26'25.231"W
 Nearest tower in view: 1.4 mi

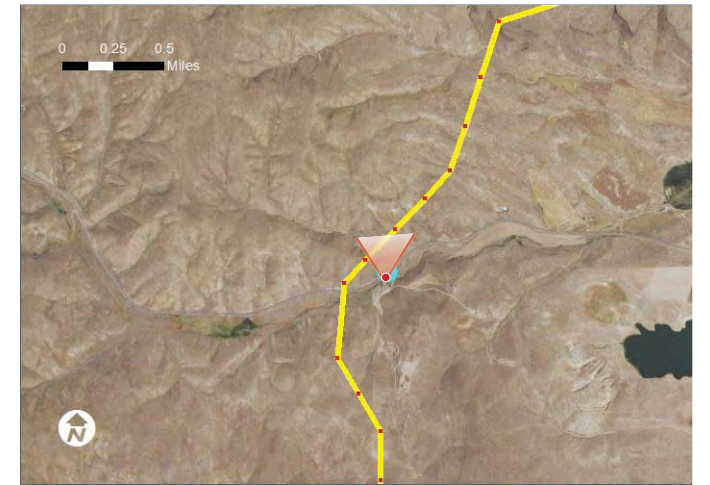
Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






Photographic Simulation of Willow Creek Alternative Key Observation Point 8-8

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-36



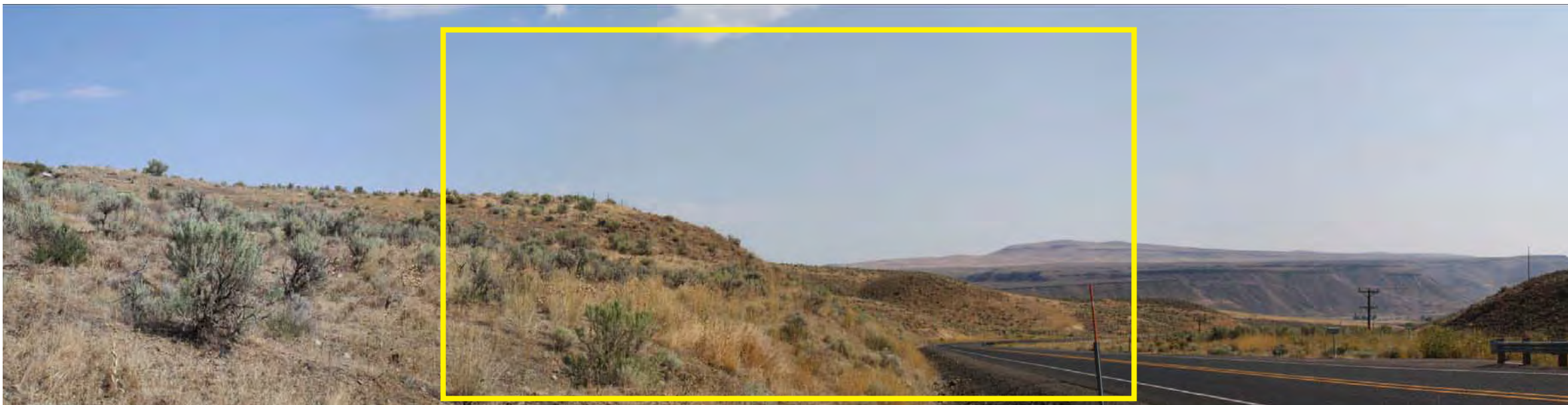
Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 9:33 AM
 Date of photograph: 9/14/2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: North
 Latitude: 44°15'24.26"N
 Longitude: 117°35'20.278"W
 Nearest tower in view: .12 mi

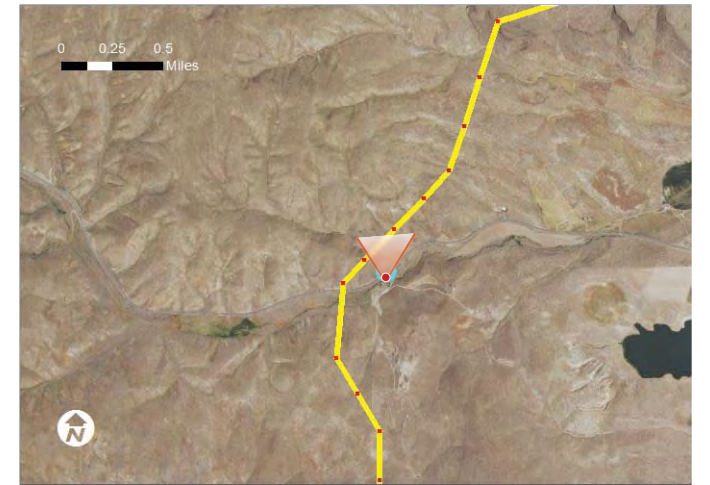
Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 8-42**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-37



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 9:33 AM
 Date of photograph: 9/14/2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: North
 Latitude: 44°15'24.26"N
 Longitude: 117°35'20.278"W
 Nearest tower in view: .12 mi

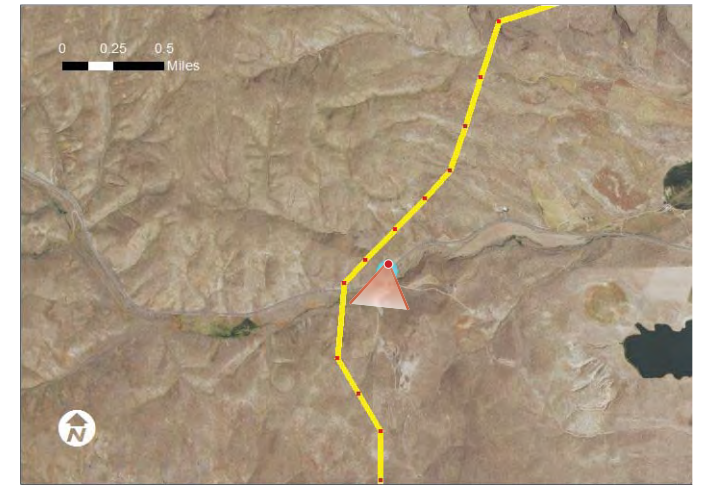
Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Photographic Simulation of
Proposed Alignment
Key Observation Point 8-42**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-38



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 9:33 AM
 Date of photograph: 9/14/2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: South
 Latitude: 44°15'24.26"N
 Longitude: 117°35'20.278"W
 Nearest tower in view: .12 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper. The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 8-42**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013
Figure: R-4-39



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

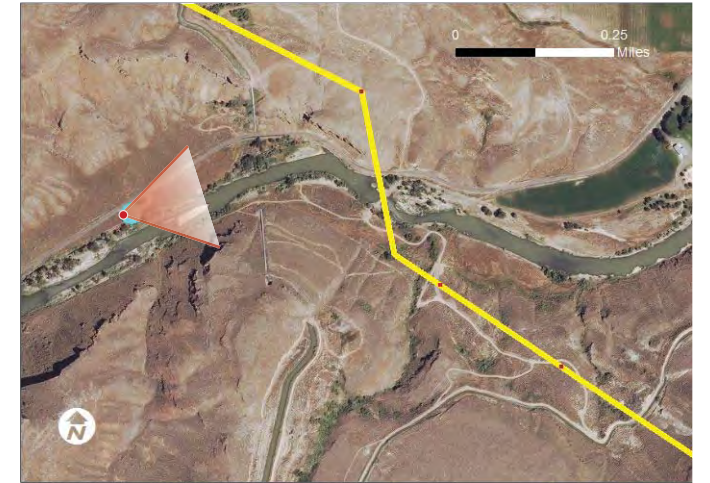
Time of photograph: 9:33 AM
 Date of photograph: 9/14/2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: South
 Latitude: 44°15'24.26"N
 Longitude: 117°35'20.278"W
 Nearest tower in view: .12 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper. The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






Photographic Simulation of Proposed Alignment Key Observation Point 8-42

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013
Figure: R-4-40



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 10:59 AM
 Date of photograph: 9/13/2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: East/Northeast
 Latitude: 43°44'12.687"N
 Longitude: 117°11'1.566"W
 Nearest tower in view: .41 mi

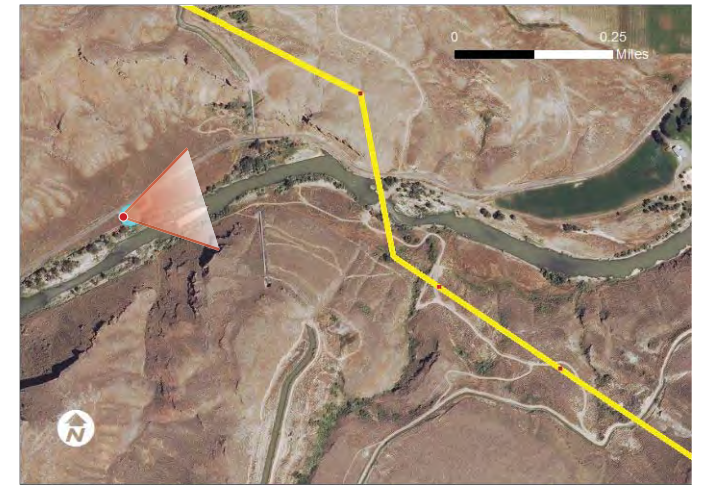
Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 8-52**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-41



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 10:59 AM
 Date of photograph: 9/13/2011
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: East/Northeast
 Latitude: 43°44'12.687"N
 Longitude: 117°11'1.566"W
 Nearest tower in view: .41 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Photographic Simulation of
Proposed Alignment
Key Observation Point 8-52**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-42



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Alternative Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure
Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 12:49 PM
 Date of photograph: 1.25.2012
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: East
 Latitude: 43°40'24.051"N
 Longitude: 117°15'19.022"W
 Nearest tower in view: 1.33 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.






**Existing Conditions
Key Observation Point 8-96**

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-43



Legend

-  Key Observation Point
Cone of Vision
-  Alternative Right-of-Way
-  Proposed Structure Locations

Photograph Information

Time of photograph: 12:49 PM
 Date of photograph: 1.25.2012
 Weather condition: Mostly Sunny
 Viewing direction: East
 Latitude: 43°40'24.051"N
 Longitude: 117°15'19.022"W
 Nearest tower in view: 1.33 mi

Above photograph is intended to be viewed 18 inches from viewer's eyes when printed on 11x17 paper: The photograph below has been cropped to show a wide angle of view with the above photograph's area shown in yellow.



Photographic Simulation of Malheur South Alternative Key Observation Point 8-96

Boardman to Hemingway
 500-kV Transmission Project
 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 January 2013

Figure: R-4-44

**ATTACHMENT R-5
EXCERPTS FROM MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Contents

- 1 Inventory of Management Plans
- 2 Excerpts of Management Plans
 - 2.1 County Comprehensive Plans
 - 2.1.1 Union County Land Use Plan Excerpts
 - 2.1.2 Baker County Comprehensive Plan and Inventory Report Excerpts
 - 2.2 City Comprehensive Plans
 - 2.2.1 City of Pendleton Comprehensive Plan Excerpts
 - 2.3 Federal Management Plans
 - 2.3.1 BLM Vale District, Baker Resource Management Plan (1989) Excerpts
 - 2.3.2 BLM Vale District, Southeast Oregon Resource Management Plan (2002) Excerpts
 - 2.3.3 BLM Boise District, Owyhee Resource Management Plan (1999) Excerpts
 - 2.3.4 BLM Boise District, Cascade Resource Management Plan (1987) Excerpts
 - 2.3.5 USFS Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1990) Excerpts
 - 2.3.6 BOR Owyhee Reservoir Resource Management Plan (1994) Excerpts

1.0 Inventory of Management Plans

The following table provides a listing of all local, state, tribal and federal management plans that were considered in identifying important scenic resources, and indicates whether a copy of excerpted content from each management plan has been included.

This attachment does not include copies of excerpts from numerous plans that were reviewed because those plans do not identify important scenic resources within the analysis area. Plans that were reviewed but for which excerpts are not included fall within three general categories: 1) the plan does not include any discussion of scenic resources or values; 2) the plan discusses scenic values but does not identify specific scenic resources; or 3) the plan identifies specific scenic resources that are not located within the Project analysis area. Additional discussion about each plan is found in Section 3 of Exhibit R.

Management Plan	Copy Included (y/n)
Local Land Use Plans	
County Comprehensive Plans	
Morrow County Comprehensive Plan	No
Gilliam County Comprehensive Plan	No
Umatilla County Comprehensive Plan	No
Union County Land Use Plan	Yes
Baker County Comprehensive Plan and Inventory Report	Yes
Malheur County Comprehensive Plan	No
Owyhee County Comprehensive Plan	No
Canyon County Comprehensive Plan	No
Washington County Comprehensive Plan	No
Klickitat County Comprehensive Plan and Shoreline Master Plan	No
Benton County Comprehensive Plan	No
City Comprehensive Plans	
City of Boardman Comprehensive Plan	No
City of Irrigon Comprehensive Plan	No
City of Lone Comprehensive Plan	No
City of Umatilla Comprehensive Plan	No
City of Hermiston Comprehensive Plan	No
City of Stanfield Comprehensive Plan	No
City of Pilot Rock Comprehensive Plan	No
City of Pendleton Comprehensive Plan	Yes
City of La Grande Comprehensive Plan	No
City of Island City Comprehensive Plan	No
City of Union Land Use Plan	No
City of North Powder Comprehensive Plan	No
City of Haines Comprehensive Land Use Plan	No
City of Baker City Comprehensive Plan	No
City of Huntington Comprehensive Land Use Plan	No
City of Vale Comprehensive Plan	No
City of Adrian Comprehensive Plan	No
State Management Plans	
Columbia Basin Wildlife Areas Management Plan	No
Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area Management Plan	No

Management Plan	Copy Included (y/n)
Elkhorn Wildlife Area Management Plan	No
State Scenic Byway Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hells Canyon Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan • Journey Through Time State Scenic Byway Management Plan • Blue Mountain National Scenic Byway Interpretive Management Plan • Elkhorn Drive National Forest Scenic Byway Visitor Services and management Plan 	No
Tribal Management Plans	
Comprehensive Plan for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)	No
Federal Management Plans	
BLM Vale District, Baker Resource Management Plan (1989)	Yes
BLM Vale District, Southeast Oregon Resource Management Plan (2002)	Yes
BLM Boise District, Owyhee Resource Management Plan (1999)	Yes
BLM Boise District, Cascade Resource Management Plan (1987)	Yes
BLM Spokane Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (1987)	No
USFS Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1990)	Yes
USFS Umatilla National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1990)	No
DOD Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Naval Weapons Training Facility, Boardman (2010)	No
BOR Owyhee Reservoir Resource Management Plan (1994)	Yes
Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (2007)	No

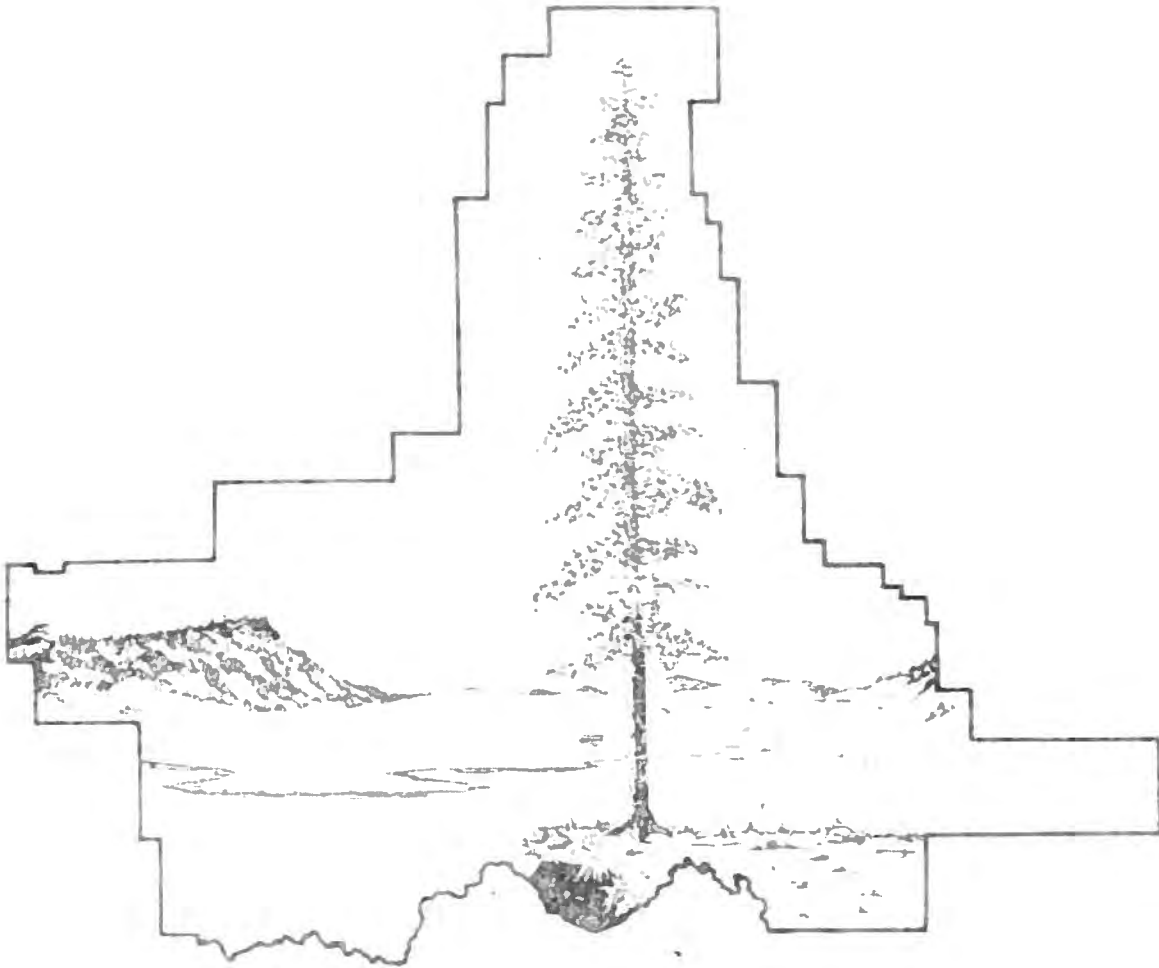
2.0 Excerpts of Management Plans

2.1 County Comprehensive Plans

2.1.1 *Union County Land Use Plan Excerpts*

LAND USE PLAN UNION COUNTY, OREGON

APRIL, 1979



Assistance provided by Local Advisory Committees including the Cities of Cove, Elgin, Imbler, Island City, La Grande, North Powder, Summerville and Union.

Prepared by Lynn D. Steiger and Associates, Incorporated

The preparation of this report was financed in part through an Oregon State Land Conservation and Development Commission planning assistance grant, in part by the Blue Mountain Intergovernmental Council, and in part by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the Urban Planning Assistance Program authorized by Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954 as amended.

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LAND USE PLAN

The Plan maps of the County and of each respective planning region are included in this section, in addition to preface, interpretation, Plan policy and Plan recommendation subsections. Respective City Plan maps and urban growth boundaries are located in Appendix B.

The Preface outlines those findings which serve as the basis of the Plan Recommendations.

The Plan Interpretation defines what is meant by each Plan classification, and provides a more detailed description than can be interpreted from the Plan map itself.

The Plan maps depict the various plan classifications. Boundary delineations are general locations, and are subject to governing body determination of specific alignment and slight interpretative adjustments, provided the intent of the boundary is not altered. The Plan map and the Plan policies together comprise the legally-binding portion of the Plan.

Plan policies are statements intended to supplement the Plan map, and to be used as guidelines by both private and public sectors in interpreting the Plan and for other land use planning decisions. Again, such policy statements have the same level of legality or importance as the Plan map itself. Any planning decisions knowingly made contrary to the policies should be supported with findings justifying such actions. Policies may serve as the basis of appealing a planning decision.

Plan recommendations are recommendatory rather than statutory, and are intended as suggested measures to assist in implementation of the Plan.

PREFACE. The following comments have been included to acquaint the reader with some of the findings and deductions upon which the Plan recommendations have been developed that:

1. One of the primary concerns in Plan development was that agricultural and forest lands are being diminished.
2. The economic base of Union County will continue to be primarily agriculture, forestry, recreation and related industries.
3. Conservation of water quality and quantity is of prime importance to the future development of Union County.
4. Buffer or transitional uses need to be encouraged to assure compatibility of uses.

5. Productive capability of agricultural and forest lands is of utmost importance to the County.
6. The natural beauty of Union County is worthy of preservation and should be preserved consistent with the stated purposes of this Plan.
7. The potential for recreation development in Union County is great.
8. Development of non-farm residences in rural areas has increased expenditures for a wide variety of public services (roads, schools, fire protection, etc.), other expenses (postal, phone, electricity, etc.) and diminishes open space values.
9. Outlying non-farm residences have resulted in large quantities of gasoline being consumed (energy use), in addition to increased service and related costs. Increased commuting has also increased traffic hazards and demand for additional road improvements. The County's capability for making such improvements has diminished, however, because of decreased revenues and increased costs.
10. Enrollment in the Imbler School District has been increasing at an unanticipated rate. (See Appendix D) Recently expanded capacity has been exhausted by the 14% per year increase. The Elgin School District is near capacity and any substantial influx of students there will likely result in overcrowding and create a need for expansion. Enrollment in the La Grande District has been dropping over the last few years, and in Cove, North Powder, and Union pupil counts have remained nearly constant.
11. Location of the many new non-farm residences in farm areas has interfered with normal farming practices, such as spraying, burning, etc.; and has increased noxious weeds, road maintenance costs, and fire hazards, and adversely affected both irrigation and domestic water supplies, disrupted life styles, and, in general has not been a desirable use of the land.
12. Although the Plan reduces the acreage classified for 10-acre minimum lot size, areas indicated for smaller, "rural residential" acreages have been provided in locations adjacent or in close proximity to cities. This has intended to accommodate demands for rural living at the least public cost.

9. That forest or grazing lands may include parks, natural preserves, archeological, geological, biological or botanical sites; habitat for threatened or endangered species or other uses of a significant nature, providing such land is not removed from commercial timber production or grazing until the economic consequences of such have been determined.
10. That non-forest related development in and around timbered areas will not limit timber production, harvest, haul out, slash disposal, road construction, scarification, fertilization, pest or disease control or other timber management operations.

Protect our County's aggregate and other resources

V. Resources

A. State Planning Goal

To conserve open space and protect natural, cultural, historical and scenic resources.

B. Plan Policies

1. That soils characteristics, crop productivity, grazing, wildlife habitat, economics, and other similar values will be taken into account in determining whether land should be maintained in an undeveloped state or converted to urban uses.
2. That the following concerns will be taken into account in protecting area visual attractiveness:
 - a. Maintaining vegetative cover wherever practical.
 - b. Using vegetation or other site obscuring methods of screening unsightly uses.
 - c. Minimizing number and size of signs.
 - d. Siting developments to be compatible with surrounding area uses, and to recognize the natural characteristics of the location.

3. That potential geothermal, hydroelectric and irrigation resources will be protected from encroachments which may limit development of those resources at some future time.
4. That the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission's Management Plan, and the Oregon Forest Practices Act will be used as guides to manage and protect natural resources.
5. That parks, golf courses, campgrounds and similar public and private open space facilities will be developed where demand exists and where natural resources are not unduly diminished or damaged.
6. That development will maintain or enhance attractiveness of the area and not degrade resources.
7. That sites or structures that have local, regional, statewide, or national historical or cultural significance will be protected to the extent practical.
8. That quarried mineral and aggregate resources will have the higher use priority where their removal is compatible with present uses, and that incompatible uses will be discouraged from encroaching upon these resources.
9. That river gravel will not be removed from active streams or rivers except for flood hazard reduction.
10. That Union County will oppose inclusion of any river or stream in the County into the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Program unless studies of such show favorable benefits to the County.
11. That when economically practical the lands surrounding the wildlife management areas should be managed so as not to interfere or create conflict with the management activities.
12. That ecological and scientific natural areas such as the Hot Lake and Ladd Marsh vicinities will be protected for their resource importance, and be utilized for those purposes which best recognize their unique values.

- E. That an official copy of the Plan be filed with the County Recorder and similar copies be available for review in the Planning Department and with each City Recorder.

III. Agriculture Land. It is recommended:

- A. That the amount of land designated for 10-acre Agriculture Zoning be minimized, and that 40-acre (or larger) zoning be adopted for areas designated on Plan maps for timber/grazing and agriculture/timber/grazing.
- B. That zoning ordinance changes be made to provide rural living opportunities primarily in close proximity to urban areas without diminishing productive agriculture lands, and providing a transition between urban and intensive agricultural uses.
- C. That zoning revisions be made to address the need to provide the same protection to highly productive timber and grazing areas as is afforded productive agricultural lands, e.g., the EA zoning could be expanded to EA/ETG (Exclusive Timber/Grazing).

IV. Forest Land. It is recommended:

- A. That the County work with the US Forest Service, State Forestry Department, Extension Service and private industry to insure revegetation of those lands capable of producing commercial timber, including those marginal agricultural lands no longer intensively farmed.
- B. That the County assemble and maintain updated inventory information related to timber productivity, harvest, etc.
- C. That permanent residential development be prohibited in Plan designated timberlands where there is virtually no fire protection or where residential development might likely increase fire hazards to timberlands.
- D. That additional public land withdrawals for wilderness preservation be limited to those lands that have minimal economic value to county communities and that a full economic analysis be made as a part of any future wilderness proposal.

V. Open Spaces, Scenic and Historical Areas, and Natural Resources.

It is recommended:

- A. That the County continue to encourage the study of geothermal, solar, wind, hydroelectric and groundwater resources.
- B. That ordinance provisions be developed according to Federal laws of Historic Preservation to insure recognition and protection of historical and cultural locations and structures, and protection of significant views and sites.
- C. That a program be pursued to provide tax incentives or other means of preserving historical and cultural sites and structures.
- D. That additional research be undertaken to determine specific location of aggregate and that mapping be prepared to indicate where silt and/or gravel buildup may likely need to be removed as a road hazard reduction measure.
- E. That zoning provisions be developed for both removal and processing of mineral and aggregate resources, and that the County develop standards for reclamation of such sites after their use.

VI. Air, Water and Land Resource Quality. It is recommended:

- A. That Union County's first priority for use of water resources be domestic and the production of food, fiber, and energy. Other multi-uses would be a second priority.
- B. That ordinances be developed to require that public hearings be held when considering uses which may adversely affect resource quality and to insure revegetation of land where land alterations have removed existing vegetation.
- C. That all units of local government work closely with the Bureau of Reclamation and related agencies in their water monitoring programs.
- D. That the County consider developing carrying capacities for resources and include such provisions in zoning and/or subdivision regulations.

VII. Areas Subject to Natural Hazards and Disasters.

It is recommended:

- A. That known levels of flooding be documented and/or monumented.

APPENDIX J

Scenic Areas

Several areas in the County have been considered by either State or Federal agencies for inclusion into their respective scenic programs. The only two areas actually designated are shown on the Plan Map as the Blue Mountain Forest Wayside and the Minam River, both designated by the Oregon Transportation Commission.

The Blue Mountain Forest Wayside is a corridor of land approximately one-half mile wide west of La Grande, along Interstate 80N. The purpose of this corridor is to preserve the scenic character of this portion of the Grande Ronde River and provide a rest area for travelers.

The entire Minam River from Minam Lake downstream a distance of approximately 45 miles to its confluence with the Wallowa River is included in the Oregon Scenic Waterways System. Under Oregon Transportation Commission "Scenic Waterways Rules and Regulations", the river is divided into two classifications. The segment of the river from Minam Lake downstream approximately 37 miles to the river's intersection with the Willamette Base Line is administered as a Natural River Area. This classification recognizes and provides for the preservation of the unroaded condition and the natural, wild and primitive conditions of the river and the adjacent lands within one-fourth mile of the bank.

The segment of the river from the Willamette Base Line downstream to its confluence with the Wallowa River is administered as an Accessible Natural River Area; providing for the maintenance of the essentially primitive scenic character of the area and existing road, but restricting future road extension or improvement.

Various segments of the Grande Ronde River within the County are still under study by the Oregon Department of Transportation to identify which portions, if any, might also have potential for inclusion into the Oregon Scenic Waterways System.

Separate from the Oregon Scenic Waterways Act, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 provides for the establishment of a federal policy protecting the free-flowing nature of rivers and their wild, scenic and recreational values. The Grande Ronde River from its confluence with the Snake River to the junction with the Wallowa River and the entire Minam River are presently under study for possible inclusion into this program.

LAND USE PLAN SUPPLEMENT

GOAL 5 RESOURCES

Prepared to meet
the LCDC GOAL 5 Administrative Rule
Adopted Since Original 1979 Plan
Submittal by Union County
JUNE 1984

June 13, 1984

PAGE 1

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in the County's computer and at ENSC.

Due to the large lot sizes in the County no conflicts with resource utilization is anticipated, therefore the County has not pursued or adopted solar easement provision to its Zoning Ordinance. (2A)

June 13, 1994

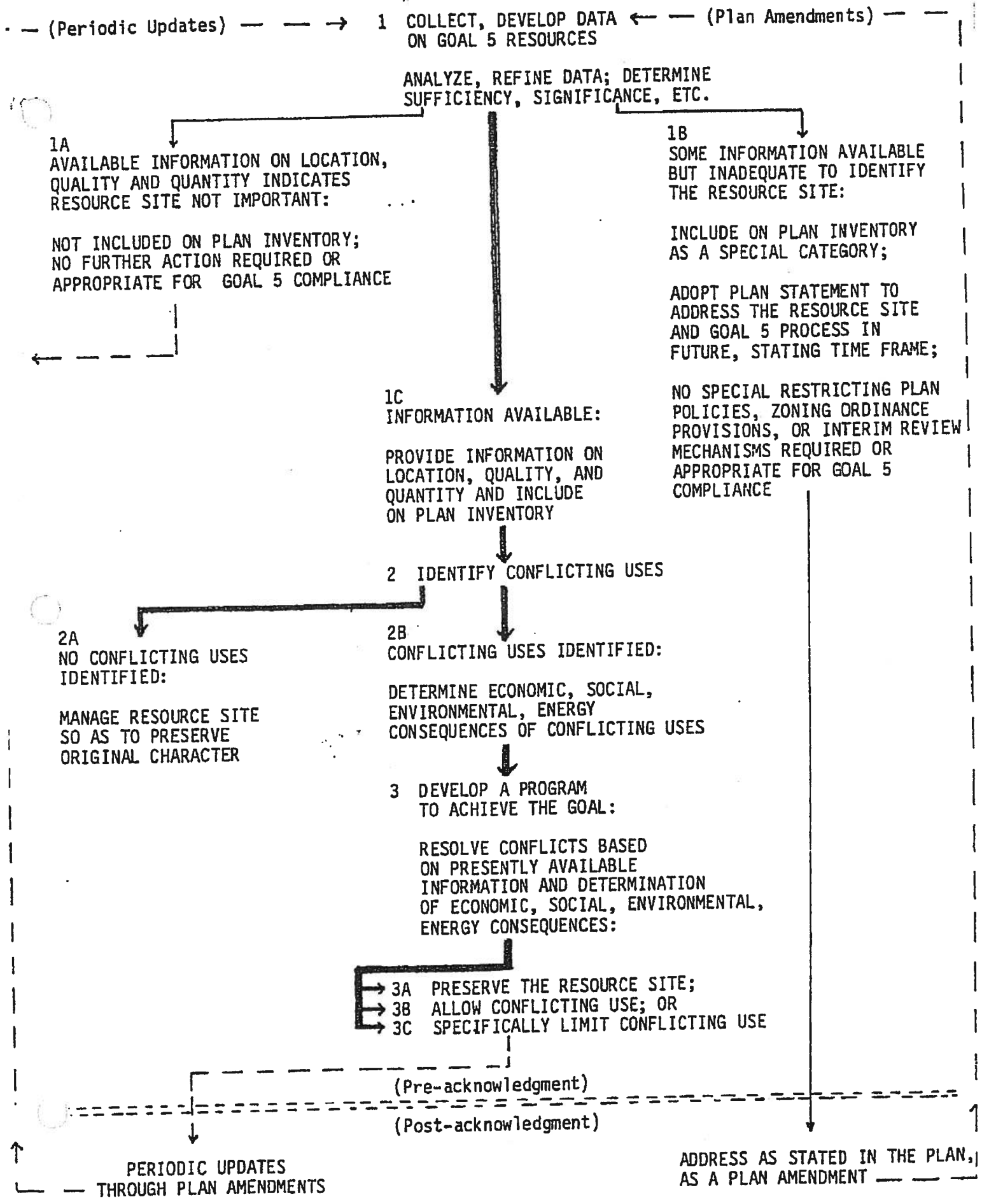
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IX. OUTSTANDING SCENIC VIEWS AND SITES

Outstanding scenic views and sites are indigenous to Union County. Two specific sites are given special consideration by the Oregon Department of Transportation and are described on page 99 of the Land Use Plan - April 1979. The Blue Mountain Forest Wayside is adjacent to I-84 and in state ownership. The majority of the Minam River drainage is in federal ownership and protected under the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program. Therefore no conflicting uses are anticipated. (2A)

June 13, 1984

PAGE 44



2.1.2 Baker County Comprehensive Plan and Inventory Report Excerpts

1993

#1881

UNIVERSITY OF
JUL 26 1993
OREGON LIBRARY

BAKER COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
1993

**BAKER COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN**

ORDINANCE 83-2

Originally Adopted
March 9, 1983

Amended by Ordinances:

84-1, 85-1, 85-2, 85-7
85-8, 85-10, 86-1, 86-2
88-1, 89-1 and 89-2

Acknowledged: April 24, 1986

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V. OPEN SPACE, SCENIC AND HISTORIC AREAS, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

GOAL: To conserve open space and protect natural and scenic resources.

A. Findings: Based upon the referenced documents and/or knowledgeable resource people, the County governing body finds that:

1. Some of the resources identified by this goal have been inventoried and analyzed according to the Goal 5 Administrative Rule (ORS 660-16-000). However it is recognized by the County that in some instances a more detailed and conclusive inventory must be done. Such an inventory shall be provided at periodic updates to this Plan.
2. Conflicting or potentially conflicting uses of land exist in the County, sometimes involving the resources of this goal one with another; sometimes involving Goal 5 resources with land uses addressed by other goals.
3. Economic diversification and improvement in the County will require the development and utilization of all natural resources.
4. Coordination, cooperation, and development of natural resources, properly executed, will have acceptable environmental consequences.
5. "Land needed or desirable for open space" includes agricultural and forest lands (public and private); public parks and campgrounds; lakes, streams and reservoirs; and other special purpose lands such as wilderness areas, recreation areas and wildlife areas.

Open space, as such, is not a significant issue or problem in Baker County. By staff computation, Baker County residents have in excess of 100 acres of open space per capita. Open space shall be addressed and accommodated by the application of the related aspects of other land use goals: agricultural and forest lands; air, land and water resources quality; and recreational needs.

6. "MINERAL AND AGGREGATE RESOURCES" include any naturally occurring inorganic mineral of economic quality and quantity, including such minerals of organic derivation.
 - a. Maps prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) displayed public/private ownership patterns including mineral resource ownership are used in the Baker County Planning Office to

PROPOSED NATURAL AREA PROTECTIVE MEASURE

The definition of a natural area, according to Goal V:

"Natural area--includes land and water that has substantially retained its natural character and land and water that, although altered in in character, is important as habitats for plant, animal or marine life, for the study of its natural historical, scientific or paleontological features, or for the appreciation of its natural features." (Goal 5, LCDC Statewide Goals and Guidelines)

Sites which are designated as natural areas in Baker County require special attention especially if they are not duplicated by sites on federal land which include similar natural area resources. Natural area preservation depends on the voluntary cooperation of landowners, but also involves the efforts of conservation interests and the control of County government. Opportunities for outright purchase, conservation easements, purchase of development rights and other agreements between landowners and conservation groups are frequently lost. The County's role in protecting natural area resources is to ensure that such opportunities are not lost through a lack of communication. A landowner whose land includes a significant natural area will be required to notify the County 30 days in advance of a change in land use which may affect the quality of the resource. A state agency, either the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and/or the State Natural Heritage Advisory Council, along with the general public, will then be notified by the County of a hearing to be held regarding the proposed change. If, during the hearing, it is determined by the County that the integrity of the significant resource is indeed threatened, the County must reach a decision whether to allow, allow with conditions, or disallow the proposed change based on clear and objective criteria to be found in the Zoning Ordinance.

10. "Scenic Views and Sites" are a resource indigenous to Baker County. Of particular significance are those scenic areas identified by the Oregon Department of Transportation and mapped on Plate 10 in the The Technical Information and Inventory Data for Land Use Planning in Baker County. The County in its application of the Goal 5 Administrative Rule identifies these as 2A resources pursuant to OAR 660-10-000.

who can photograph or in other ways record the resource before its destruction or modification, thereby maintaining a more complete record of the County's historical and cultural diversity. The local review board may find the resource of enough significance to warrant a public hearing.

15. "Potential and approved Oregon recreation trails" have not been inventoried in Baker County other than the TransAmerica Bikeway as mapped on Plate 3 in the Technical Information and Inventory Data for Land Use Planning in Baker County. It is a 2A resource (OAR 660-16-000).
16. "Potential and approved federal wild and scenic waterways and state scenic waterways" have not been identified or inventoried in Baker County.

B. Conclusions and Policies: Open Space, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Natural Resources: The County Governing body declares that a program for conserving and protecting the resources of this land use goal shall include:

1. The appropriate planning and regulation of land for compatible primary uses. For purposes of ORS 496.012, "primary uses" are those uses permitted outright under the local Zoning Ordinance.
2. The use of land exchanges, fee acquisition of land, conservation easements or tax incentives where appropriate and necessary to conserve and protect a natural resource.
3. The support of air, land and water quality laws where appropriate and necessary to protect a natural resource.
4. The protection of potential sites for energy production, reservoirs, mineral resources and other particular resource sites against irreversible loss.
5. The implementation of policy to expand existing commercial gravel pits in preference to creating new gravel pits.
6. Mining upon patented mining claims within the Mineral Extraction Zone shall be an outright use.
7. Mining of previously mined land within the Sumpter Valley Overlay Zone shall be an outright use.

8. Gravel pits inventoried as valuable resources within a residential zone shall be protected by the application of a Surface Mining Zone (SMZ).
9. The County continues to commend the voluntary spirit of resource conservation and protection practiced by County landowners. The notification policy and public hearing process are intended to provide notice to the public sector of a pending action affecting a cultural, historic or natural resource. The County shall require the preservation of a resource when it is found to be in the public's best interest to do so.
10. The County will encourage training for its Planning Commission and staff in historic and cultural preservation.
11. The County shall encourage and support the coordination of Museum Commissions, Boards, Chambers of Commerce, Historical Societies, Libraries, Sumpter Valley Railroad Restoration, Historic Baker City, Inc., local governments and the media regarding the preservation of our community's natural heritage.
12. Natural Areas designated as 2A sites are to be protected to ensure the preservation of the resource site.
13. Natural Areas identified as 3C sites shall be reviewed against criteria found in the Zoning Ordinance to allow conflicting uses but in a limited way so as to protect the resource site to some desired extent.
14. Customary resource uses (i.e., grazing and tillage practices) are not considered to be conflicts requiring regulation in Baker County's program to achieve Natural Area protection.
15. The County shall encourage, as appropriate, the signing of properties to recognize Natural Areas that are significant and for which protection is either totally or partially required.
16. The County shall develop programs appropriate to protect identified significant wildlife habitat, after considering the economic, social, environmental and energy consequences of conflicts between wildlife habitat and other uses of these areas.

- 17a. Irrigated agricultural land shall not be identified on "Elk Winter Habitat Protection" program maps.
- 17b. The County believes that wildlife management activities for existing elk herds should be planned for higher elevation, nonirrigated pastureland and timber grazing lands.
18. The County, in coordination with ODFW shall, based on the best information presently available from agencies, landowners and concerned citizens, identify areas suitable for elk winter habitat, consistently with Policy 17A, on its Elk Winter Habitat Goal 5 Protection Program Maps. The County hereby commits itself to conducting such a review for each area of elk winter habitat in the County, with such review and revision process to include public hearings and work sessions before the Planning Commission and County Court, involving affected landowners, citizens and agencies. Said initial review shall be completed within one year of acknowledgment of the County's Comprehensive Plan, and shall result in a complete and accurate set of program maps for elk habitat protection for the County Plan which shall be the basis of further program decisions.
19. The County believes that where, due to unique topography and existing development of irrigated agriculture, there is not enough dry pastureland and timbered grazing land at suitable elevations to provide adequate winter habitat for existing elk herds (e.g., at the base of the Elkhorn Mountains in Baker Valley), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife either should institute a program of winter feeding stations for elk, located in the dry pastureland or timbered grazing areas, so as to prevent elk from descending onto and causing damage to the irrigated agricultural lands, or should use less intrusive management techniques, or should reduce its elk management objectives for those areas. The management technique chosen should be the least intrusive technique on uses allowed by the primary zone.
20. Where a program of feeding stations for elk and other big game animals is adopted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the County will cooperate with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife by allowing public and private feeding station use as conditional uses subject to approval criteria in its zoning and Subdivision Ordinance, which include imposing such conditions that

neighboring property will be adequately protected from big game damage through purchase, easement, diversionary fencing, or other suitable means. However, the County will resist ODFW's use of the successful operation of such feeding stations as a basis for increasing its big game management objectives for the area.

21. The County believes that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife should do its utmost to mitigate and to compensate landowners and operators for big game damage to private property in Baker County, with highest priority given to those properties adjacent to, or in the migratory pathway of, big game moving to and from winter feeding stations. Owners and operators of private land suffering big game damage are identified as beneficiaries of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's statutory obligation under ORS 496.012 to be responsive to primary uses of the land.
22. Residential density shall be limited in identified antelope habitat and deer and elk winter habitat to levels which do not conflict with continued use of these areas as antelope habitat or deer or elk winter habitat, through the use of minimum lot sizes and conditional use standards for residences in the resource zoning districts of the Zoning Ordinance.
23. At least every five years the County will conduct a thorough evaluation of the effectiveness of these implementation measures in preventing conflicts between big game habitat and other uses of identified significant big game habitat, and will adopt, based upon recommendations of the Wildlife Advisory Committee and findings and conclusions of the County Planning Commission and County Court, any adjustments necessary to ensure the protection of significant big game habitat based on the requirements of Goal 5 and OAR 660, Division 16.
- 23a. Any repeal of the adopted 1985 Elk Winter Habitat Protection Program Maps or inventory maps of Elk Winter Habitat will become effective only upon the adoption of new maps consistent with the post acknowledgment Plan Amendment procedures of ORS 197.610 and OAR 660, Division 18.
24. Baker County encourages the future participation of landowners in both the Riparian Land Tax Incentive Program and the Fish Enhancement Property Tax Rebate Program, which offer tax advantages as well as protection for natural resources.

25. Baker County's adoption and implementation of a Flood Plain Ordinance will provide further protection to riparian areas since construction in flood prone areas will be regulated.
26. For new construction of dwellings, agricultural buildings, commercial structures and new roads accessory to such development, the County will impose setbacks adequate to protect and preserve riparian values.
27. Baker County recognizes the roles played by various state and federal agencies in the protection of our natural resources, including riparian areas, including but not limited to the Division of State Lands, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Forest Protection Act, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture.
28. Those resources collectively known as scenic views and sights are identified, after review, as not in known conflict with other land uses and as having no impact areas. The County will promote land uses designed to conserve the natural splendor of the region.
29. Water areas, wetlands, watershed and groundwater resources are often described as the limiting factor in the development of productivity in our region. For this reason, water resources shall receive protection from competing uses through the Goal 5 process.
30. Conversion of industrially-zoned aggregate and mineral sites to new industrial uses shall only be allowed if the aggregate and mineral resource is not jeopardized.
31. When DLCD has returned the Elk Winter Habitat Protection Program Maps to the County, as part of the acknowledgment agreement the County will delete the designation of potential big game wildlife management areas/feeding sites from those maps.

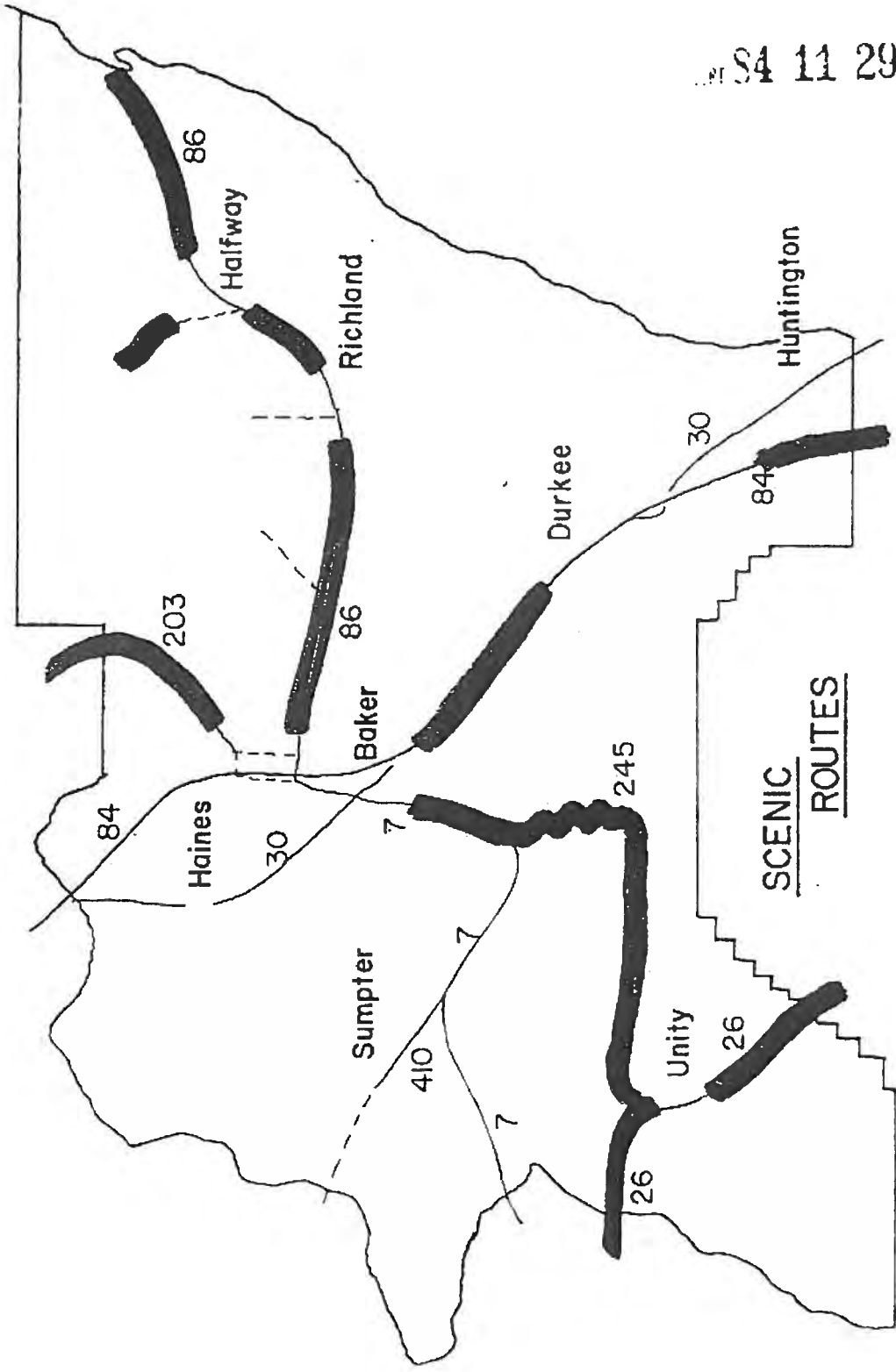


Plate 10

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR BAKER COUNTY

Entered

July 5 2000
County Court Journal
By Julia Woods County Clerk
Charlotte Beck Deputy

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
AN ORDINANCE RE-ADOPTING THE)
BAKER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE)
LANDUSE PLAN AND DECLARING)
AN EMERGENCY)

Ordinance No. 2000-04
Re-Adopting Ord. 83-02

WHEREAS, The Baker County Planning Department has been working for the last three years to codify and re-format the Baker County Comprehensive Landuse Plan in order to make the Plan easier to review and understand and to make future amendments and updates easier to incorporate into the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Baker County Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding the proposed Comprehensive Landuse Plan amendment on April 27th, 2000; and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing the Baker County Planning Commission recommended the Baker County Board of Commissioners approve the proposed amendment to the Baker County Comprehensive Landuse Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Baker County Board of Commissioners held public hearings on May 3rd and May 17th, 2000, and June 7th, 2000 to consider the adoption of the Comprehensive Landuse Plan amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Baker County Board of Commissioners adopted the Comprehensive Landuse Plan amendment proposed in Planning Department file PA-00-01 at the June 7th, 2000 public hearing, subject to modification to remove the sections under Goal 8 regarding destination resorts until such time that the LUBA remand concerning destination resort siting has been resolved; and

WHEREAS, the Baker County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing to read and consider the adoption of this Ordinance on July 5th, 2000 in accordance with the procedures in ORS 203.045(4).

NOW THEREFORE, THE BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Baker County Board of Commissioners re-adopts the Baker County Comprehensive Landuse Plan as codified and re-formatted and attached hereto.


Section 2. The amendments are incorporated and may, in some cases, replace existing Plan text. Provisions adopted under this Ordinance have precedence over earlier versions of the Plan text.

Section 3. This Ordinance may be cited as the "Baker County Comprehensive Landuse Plan" or "Ordinance 2000-04."

Section 4. This Ordinance is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the people of Baker County. An emergency is declared to avoid any conflicts with earlier versions of the Plan or the administration thereof, and this Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

DONE AND DATED July 5, 2000.


BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Brian Cole, Chair

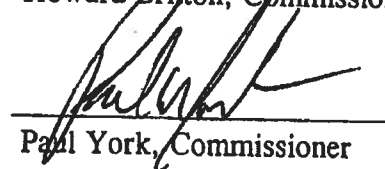
AYE
✓

NAY



Howard Britton, Commissioner

✓



Paul York, Commissioner

✓

**GOAL V
OPEN SPACES, SCENIC AND HISTORIC AREAS
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

OPEN SPACES, SCENIC AND HISTORIC AREAS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

GOAL: To conserve open space and protect natural and scenic resources.

I. OPEN SPACES AND SCENIC AREAS

A. State Highway Scenic Routes

The Oregon State Highway Division has the responsibility for designating scenic areas along State Highways. The designated scenic areas in the County are as follows: (See Plate # 10 of Appendix I)

1. Route U.S. 26 - Highway 5
 - a. From milepoint 199.61 (Baker/Grant County Line) To milepoint 210.60 (Junction Baker/Unity Highway).
 - b. From milepoint 213.11 (.09 miles SE of Unity) To milepoint 222.91 (Baker/Malheur County Line)
2. Route Oregon #245 - Highway 13
 - a. From milepoint 2.46 (Unity Lake Park Entrance) To milepoint 37.03 (Jct. Whitney Highway)
3. Route I-80N - Highway 6
 - a. From milepoint 317.39 (Pleasant Valley Interchange) To milepoint 329.24 (1.81 miles SE Durkee Interchange)
 - b. From milepoint 345.78 (Huntington Interchange) To milepoint 352.00 (Baker/Malheur County Line)
4. Route Oregon #86 - Highway #12
 - a. From milepoint 4.81 (.28 miles E of Sunnyslope Lane) To milepoint 40.64 (Eagle Creek)
 - b. From milepoint 43.03 (.76 miles E of Richland) To milepoint 53.05 (.19 miles E Sage Road)

- c. From milepoint 55.03 (Clear Creek) To milepoint 70.64 (Homestead Road)
- 5. Route Oregon 203 - Highway 340
 - a. From milepoint 22.90 (Baker/Union County Line) To milepoint 31.09 (Salt Creek)
- 6. Route Halfway-Cornucopia - Highway 413
 - a. From milepoint .41 (Cornucopia) To milepoint 5.70 (Pine Creek)

B. Goal V Open Spaces and Scenic Areas Findings

- 1. Land needed or desirable for open space" includes agricultural and forest lands (public and private); public parks and campgrounds; lakes, streams and reservoirs; and other special purpose lands such as wilderness areas, recreation areas and wildlife areas.
- 2. "Scenic Views and Sites" are a resource indigenous to Baker County. Of particular significance are those scenic areas identified by the Oregon Department of Transportation and mapped on Plate 10 of Appendix I. The county, in its application of the Goal 5 Administrative Rule, identifies these as 2A resources pursuant to OAR 660-10-000.
- 3. "Potential and approved Oregon recreation trails" have not been inventoried in Baker County other than the TransAmerica Bikeway as mapped on Plate 3 of Appendix I. It is a 2A resource (OAR 660-16-000).
- 4. "Potential and approved federal wild and scenic waterways and state scenic waterways" have not been identified or inventoried in Baker County.

C. Goal V Open Spaces and Scenic Areas Policies

- 1. Open space, as such, is not a significant issue or problem in Baker County. By staff computation, Baker County residents have in excess of 100 acres of open space per capita. Open space shall be addressed and accommodated by the application of the related aspects of other land use goals: agricultural and forest lands; air, land and water resources quality; and recreational needs.
- 2. Those resources collectively known as scenic views and sights are identified, after review, as not in known conflict with other land uses and as having no impact areas.

The County will promote land uses designed to conserve the natural splendor of the region.

D. Sources of Information

1. Oregon State Highway Division, R.P. Mathew, Outdoor Advertising Supervisor

II. WILD AND SCENIC WATERWAYS; RECREATION TRAILS

A. Potential and Approved Wild and Scenic Waterways

There are no federal or state approved Wild and Scenic Waterways in the County. At this writing, there are no suggested potential Wild and Scenic Waterways in the County.

B. Potential and Approved Oregon Recreation Trails

See Plate #4 of Appendix I for TransAmerica Bikeway. A feasibility study is being conducted by the National Park Service for the Desert National Scenic Trail Project. At this time, it does not appear that the proposed Desert Trail will cross any portion of Baker County.

C. Sources of Information

1. U.S. Department of the Interior; Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
2. Oregon State Department of Transportation, Parks and Recreation Branch
3. Oregon Natural Heritage Program, April 1978, Baker County Data Summary

2.2 City Comprehensive Plans

2.2.1 City of Pendleton Comprehensive Plan Excerpts

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
CITY OF PENDLETON

CITY COUNCIL

Joe McLaughlin
Mayor

John Brenne
Jim Eardley
Steve Fairley
Betty McAuslan

Craig McNaught
Larry O'Rourke
Robert Ramig
Nancy Rees

PENDLETON PLANNING COMMISSION

Gary Burnett, Chairman

Dave Thompson, Vice Chairman
Jerry Imsland
Dennis McFarland

Bill Griffith
Ellyn Weeks
Alan Wilcox

CITY STAFF

Jon S. Nelson, City Manager
Rudy M. Murgo, City Attorney
Mike Hyde, Director Planning & Building
Marge James, Planning Commission Secretary
Denton Sprague, Draftsman

ADOPTED: January 27, 1983
EFFECTIVE: February 26, 1983
UPDATED: May 1, 1990

ORDINANCE NO. 3442

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 1990 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF PENDLETON, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 3249 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

CITY OF PENDLETON ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Plan Adopted. The following documents; copies of which are on file and available for review at the office of the Director of Planning and Building, are hereby adopted as the 1990 Comprehensive Plan for the City of Pendleton, Oregon:

- A. Part I, Technical Information and Findings;
- B. Part II, Needs, Objectives, Policies and Programs;
- C. Part III, Bibliography;
- D. Maps I-VI:
 - I. Land Use Plan
 - II. Special Use Areas
 - III. Waterway Use Plan
 - IV. Joint Management Areas
 - V. Manufactured Housing Subdistricts

SECTION 2. Former Plan Repealed. Ordinance No. 3249, which adopted the 1983 Comprehensive Plan, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Emergency Clause. Inasmuch as it is necessary to comply with a deadline established by the Department of Land Conservation and Development, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Council and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED by the vote of the Council Members present and approved by the Mayor this 1st day of May, 1990.

APPROVED: 
Mayor

ATTEST: 
City Recorder

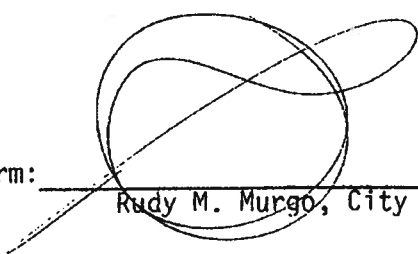
Approved as to form: 
Rudy M. Murgu, City Attorney

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supporting documents. The plans, supporting documents and implementation ordinances shall be filed in a public office or other place easily accessible to the public. The plans shall be the basis for specific implementation measures. These measures shall be consistent with and adequate to carry out the plans. Each plan and related implementation measure shall be coordinated with the plans of effected governmental units.

Exceptions:

When, during the application of the statewide goals to plans, it appears that it is not possible to apply the appropriate goal to specific properties or situations, then each proposed exception to a goal shall be set forth during the plan preparation phases and also specifically noted in the notices of public hearing. The notices of hearing shall summarize the issues in an understandable and meaningful manner.

3. Agricultural Lands.

To preserve and maintain agricultural lands.

Agriculture lands shall be preserved and maintained for farm use, consistent with existing and future needs for agricultural products, forest and open space. These lands shall be inventoried and preserved by adopting exclusive farm use zones pursuant to ORS Chapter 215. Such minimum lot sizes as are utilized for any farm use zones shall be appropriate for the continuation of the existing commercial agricultural enterprise within the area.

4. Forest Lands.

To conserve forest lands for forest uses.

Forest land shall be retained for the production of wood fiber and other forest uses. Lands suitable for forest uses shall be inventoried and designated as forest lands. Existing forest land uses shall be protected unless proposed changes are in conformance with the comprehensive plan.

5. Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Natural Resources.

To conserve open space and protect natural and scenic resources.

Programs shall be provided that will: (1) ensure open space, (2) protect scenic and historic areas and natural resources for future generations, and (3) promote healthy and visually attractive environments in harmony with the natural landscape character.

6. Air, Water, and Land Resources Quality.

To maintain and improve the quality of the air, water, and land resources of the state.

All waste and process discharges from future development, when combined with discharges from existing developments shall not threaten to violate, or violate applicable state or federal environmental quality statutes, rules, and standards. With respect to the air, water, and land resources of the applicable air sheds and river basins described or included in state environmental quality statutes, rules, standards, and implementation plan, such discharges shall not

"open space"; however, it will be needed for the future growth of the community's residential, commercial and industrial uses (see Map 17).

It should be noted that approximately 2.7% of the land inside the city has steep topographical constraints which preclude development and thus will be always open space (See Map 12).

c. Scenic Areas

The City of Pendleton developed in a part of the Umatilla River Valley and has grown onto the adjacent hillsides and into the tributaries' valleys.

Vehicle traffic can approach Pendleton from the north, south, east and west from the surrounding higher plains; thus, the vast natural and agricultural open space is intercepted with an urban community which appears from the outside as an "oasis in the desert."

Conversely, looking outward from the city vistas of the surrounding hillsides, the Blue Mountains to the southeast and the wheatfields to the northwest dominate the community. Careful development in the past has provided housing and development which has maximized the opportunity for the citizens to enjoy such beauty.

The most significant scenic area inside the city limits is the Umatilla River and its tributaries, which are interspersed throughout. These waterways provide the community with a scenic area that contains trees, vegetation, animal habitats and aquatic life. As previously noted, these areas should be protected from incompatible encroachment.

1. Conflicting Uses

The Umatilla River and its tributaries are the most significant scenic area in the city, with water running almost all year (low water in late summer/fall). Any urban use that intrudes into the existing vegetation/trees, requires the removal of landscaping or causes alteration to the banks of levee, may conflict with scenic beauty of the waterway. Like previously cited instances, without a specific land use/development it is impossible to determine the extent of conflict, if any.

2. Consequences

If all the urban uses are allowed unrestricted; a negative social impact would occur at every point where a development removes the natural vegetation with no consideration of the scenic value, with loss of public access and proper integration of man and nature. An environmental loss may occur due to interruptions of the former continuous natural beauty, and economic reduction is possible from the destruction of an attractive area to almost a "water line" imagery.

If all urban use is prohibited, the economic/social environmental/energy consequences would be similar to that as outlined in both the wildlife and fish habitat analysis; i.e. unmarketable land, circuitous traffic movements, blight, etc.

3. Management Controls

The management controls (Federal Flood Insurance, Corps of Engineers, and Division of State Lands regulations/permits) outlined in Section A.4.e.3. of this Chapter are applicable to this section as well.

To insure the compatibility of any urban development along the river and its tributaries and to protect, provide accessibility, enhance the scenic values of the waterways, the city needs to have a permit process to review all development within a specific distance of the floodway.

2. Man-Made

Opposite of the open spaces that have been created by nature is the land that has been developed as open space as a result of specific urban uses, needs and/or desires of an area's citizenry. Such examples include: School sites, parks and recreation areas, airport facilities and irrigation/flood control areas.

a. School Sites

The City of Pendleton is part of State School District 16R. Dispersed within the city limits, there are six elementary schools, one junior high school, and one senior high school. These schools combined occupy 93.18 acres of land which contain the educational buildings, parking areas and open spaces for landscaping and outdoor physical activities. Of the 93 acres of school property, approximately 68 acres are open space: i.e. void of buildings.

Currently, the State Board of Education sets standards for land area required vs. the facility's enrollment capacity which guarantees preserved open space.

1. Conflicting Uses

A public school facility encompasses a large piece of property. Educational facilities are compatible with residential and commercial uses provided there is easy street accessibility, safety for walking students and appropriately designed recreation activities.

Presently, a school can be located in any commercial or residential zoned area by conditional use permit to insure a site's compatibility with surrounding uses, accessibility, pedestrian safety, bus loading/unloading safety, etc. Conflicting uses would be recognized during this review process and measures taken to reduce or eliminate the conflict.

2. Management Controls

The school district currently does not have a Master School Plan which would indicate the approximate location of future facilities/open space needed for the city's future growth. Such a plan needs to be completed to the benefit of both agencies and the taxpayer.

The City needs to continue its requirement for a conditional use permit for all educational facilities (public or private) to assure compatibility of location and student safety and restricting their location to residential and commercially zoned areas.

2.3 Federal Management Plans

2.3.1 *BLM Vale District, Baker Resource Management Plan (1989) Excerpts*



**U.S. Department of the interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Vale District Office
P.O. Box 700
Vale, Oregon 97918

Baker Resource Area
1550 Dewey
Baker, Oregon 97814

July 1989



Record of Decision

Plan

Summary (RPS)



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Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Management Direction

Nine areas totalling 38,988 acres are designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. A management plan will be prepared for each ACEC which will provide a comprehensive management prescription. Portions of the nationally designated Grande Ronde Wild and Scenic River and Powder Wild and Scenic River are within the boundaries of the Grande Ronde ACEC and Powder River Canyon ACEC, respectively.

Joseph Creek ONA/ACEC: Public lands on Joseph Creek (3,360 acres), between Tamarack and Cottonwood Creeks are designated and will be managed as an Outstanding Natural Area/ACEC primarily to protect the natural riparian plant communities of Joseph Creek; and to protect wildlife habitat, high scenic qualities, and outstanding geologic system values for educational and recreational purposes. Natural riparian and upland vegetation in the canyon will be maintained. Cooperation with the Washington Department of Wildlife will continue to maintain and improve wildlife habitat in the Chief Joseph Wildlife Management Area. Wildlife habitat will be managed for deer, elk, bighorn sheep, eagles and other raptors. Aquatic habitat for anadromous fish will be maintained in a natural condition. Recreational use would be limited to fishing, hiking, and observational activities along Joseph Creek. Camping locations will be restricted to protect riparian habitat. Land immediately adjacent to Joseph Creek will be closed to off-road vehicle use (150 acres); remaining lands will be limited to designated roads for off-road vehicle use. A "no surface occupancy" restriction for all gas exploration and development will be applied. Timber harvest will be excluded on 80 acres. Livestock grazing will be restricted through fencing and seasons of use. Adjacent or private lands on Joseph Creek may be acquired to benefit natural riparian and wildlife values.

Grande Ronde ACEC: Public lands on the Grande Ronde River (9,715 acres) in Oregon and Washington, and on the Snake River in Washington, are designated and will be managed as an ACEC. Within the ACEC, approximately 2,570 acres of BLM lands are tentatively included within the boundaries of the Grande Ronde Wild and Scenic River. Final boundaries will be developed as part of the Congressionally required river management plan, which will be completed by 1992. The ACEC is managed to promote protection of the area's unique natural, scenic, geologic, ecologic, and cultural resource values; and to protect wildlife habitat and enhance recreation opportunities. Geologic system values of the Goose-necks National Natural Landmark will be protected.

The visual resource will be protected within the viewshed corridor along the rivers; only those uses compatible with maintaining visual resource classifications will be allowed. Habitat for bald eagles, raptors, game and non-game species, and anadromous fish will be maintained or improved in cooperation with federal and state agencies. An ACEC management plan will be developed to protect natural, scenic, cultural and recreational values. Adjacent lands or inholdings may be acquired to enhance wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and recreational opportunities. A "no surface occupancy" restriction will be applied to oil and gas exploration or development. Off-road vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails. Commercial timber harvest will be restricted to prescriptions that protect or enhance natural, visual, and cultural values.

Keating Riparian RNA/ACEC: BLM lands on Balm, Clover, and Sawmill Creeks (2,173 acres), in the Keating Valley area, are designated and will be managed as an ACEC to protect riparian values and wildlife habitat. To protect and maintain natural riparian ecologic systems for research and educational purposes, a combination of 80 acres of Balm, Clover and Sawmill Creeks within the ACEC will be managed as a Research Natural Area (RNA). Livestock grazing, commercial timber harvest, and camping will be excluded in the RNA. Recreational use in the RNA will be limited to observational activities. A withdrawal from mineral entry will be pursued on 185 acres to protect the RNA. Commercial timber harvest will be restricted in the ACEC to prescriptions that protect or enhance riparian and wildlife values. Riparian habitat and potential Columbian sharp-tailed grouse reintroduction habitat in the ACEC will be maintained or improved through restrictions on livestock grazing (seasons of use, numbers, or fencing). Off-road vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails.

Powder River Canyon ACEC: Public lands in the Powder River Canyon (5,880 acres), between Thief Valley Reservoir and Highway 203 in the Keating Valley, are designated and will be managed as an ACEC. Within the ACEC, 2,385 acres of BLM land are included in the Powder Wild and Scenic River. The ACEC will be managed to protect raptor habitat, wildlife habitat, cultural resources and to maintain scenic qualities while allowing for compatible recreational uses. Forage and habitat needs for big game, bald eagles, golden eagles and other raptors will be maintained or improved. Incompatible uses, including new road development, within the canyon and adjacent upland will be excluded to protect natural and cultural values. Riparian conditions will be maintained or improved by restricting livestock grazing through seasons of use, numbers, or fencing. A "no surface occupancy" restriction will be applied to mineral leasing and development. Off-road vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails. Adjacent lands or inholdings may be acquired to protect identified values.

Unity Reservoir Bald Eagle Nest Habitat ACEC: BLM lands on the North Fork of the Burnt River (360 acres), a potential bald eagle nest area, will be managed to protect habitat consistent with the Endangered Species Act and Pacific States Bald Eagle Management Plan. To protect the bald eagle habitat, 200 acres of the area is designated and will be managed as an ACEC. The remaining 160 acres are under a Bureau of Reclamation project withdrawal for Unity Reservoir, and will also be managed to protect bald eagle habitat. Firewood cutting, commercial timber harvest, and major development actions will be excluded. Off-road vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails and seasonal road closure restrictions will be applied. No new roads will be developed. Seasonal restrictions will be applied to oil and gas exploration and development.

Hunt Mountain ACEC: BLM lands on Hunt Mountain (2,230 acres) are designated and will be managed as an ACEC to protect and maintain habitat for mountain goats and big game, and to protect habitat for sensitive plant species identified by the Oregon National Heritage Program. Livestock grazing will continue to be excluded. Timber harvest will be restricted to prescriptions that protect wildlife and sensitive plant habitat. Off-road vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails.

Oregon Trail ACEC: Seven parcels of public lands with remnants of the Oregon National Historic Trail (1,495 acres) are designated and will be managed as an ACEC to preserve the unique historic resource and visual qualities of these areas. A management plan for preservation, public information and interpretation will be implemented. New uses incompatible with maintaining visual qualities or providing public interpretation will be excluded in a 1/2 mile corridor. No campgrounds will be developed within 1/4 mile of the Oregon Trail in the ACEC. Rights-of-way will avoid the Oregon Trail. Commercial timber harvest is excluded on 5 acres and restricted on 75 acres. Livestock grazing will be excluded on 770 acres. No new road access will be developed. Off-road vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails. No surface occupancy restrictions will be applied to oil and gas leases and development, no mineral material development will be allowed. A withdrawal from mineral entry under the mining laws will be sought for 721.81 acres of public land for Trail sites at Flagstaff Hill, Straw Ranch, and Echo Meadows. Adjacent lands, or lands in the Oregon Trail geographic unit, may be acquired to protect intact segments of the Oregon National Historic Trail; these lands would be incorporated into the ACEC, and the same special management prescriptions or restrictions will be applied.

Sheep Mountain ACEC: BLM lands in the Sheep Mountain area (5,398 acres between Pine Creek and Brownlee Reservoir), including a portion of the Sheep Mountain WSA, are designated and will be managed as an ACEC to protect outstanding scenic qualities, and maintain or improve wildlife and crucial bald eagle winter habitat. Commercial timber harvest will be excluded on 200 acres. Seasonal restrictions for oil and gas exploration and development will be applied. Adjacent lands or inholdings may be acquired to benefit bald eagle habitat. Off-road vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails.

Homestead ACEC: BLM lands on the Snake River Breaks near Homestead (8,537 acres between Pine Creek and Nelson Creek) are designated and will be managed as an ACEC to protect outstanding scenic qualities, and wildlife, bald eagle and sensitive plant habitat. The area will be managed to meet forage and habitat requirements for game and non-game species, as recommended by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Seasonal restrictions will be applied to oil and gas exploration and development. Off-road vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails. Commercial timber harvest will be excluded on 600 acres.

Evaluate areas identified in the draft Baker RMP/EIS as needing study for special management, to determine if they meet the criteria for ACEC designation.

Implementation

Management plans for the Grande Ronde ACEC, Joseph Creek ONA/ACEC, and Powder River ACEC will be prepared within four years of completion of the RMP/ROD. Continue implementing management prescriptions and actions for the Oregon Trail ACEC, as addressed in the existing Vale District Oregon National Historic Trail Management Plan.

Monitoring

ACECs will be monitored for changes in the condition of special resource values to determine if the protection management objectives are being met. Specific monitoring studies and schedules will be developed through the management plans. An interim monitoring program using photo documentation points and biannual examination of each ACEC will be implemented to provide protection against incompatible, inadvertent or unauthorized resource uses within the ACECs.

Management plans will be evaluated every five years to determine if objectives are being met; and will be updated if needed.

Interim protection measures and monitoring schedules would be implemented for study areas that meet ACEC criteria, until formal designation can be addressed.

support

Management activity plans for each ACEC will be developed in cooperation with public interest groups, resource users, state and federal agencies and organizations, and tribal entities.

Ongoing evaluations and identification of new proposed special management areas will be conducted in cooperation with state and federal agencies and natural heritage programs. Areas with the potential to fill needs for Research Natural Areas, as identified and prioritized in statewide natural heritage programs, would be inventoried and evaluated for special management.

Fire management support will be needed for management of natural fire in meeting resource objectives. Acquisition of legal access to public land will be needed for administrative purposes in wildlife habitat management, and for recreation public access.

Cooperation with state wildlife management agencies and the U.S. Forest Service will be required for plan development, resource protection, implementation of habitat and riparian improvement projects, and habitat and ecosystem monitoring.

Priority

1. Protect and monitor resources in the nine designated ACECs. Provide interim protection for these resources, until management plans are completed.

A. Monitor, maintain or improve riparian habitat, habitats for federally-listed threatened or endangered species, federal listing candidate species, and National Register District and Oregon Trail properties in ACECs designated for the protection of these values.

B. Monitor, maintain or improve wildlife and fisheries habitat, and sensitive habitat for state threatened or endangered species, in areas designated for the protection of these values.

C. Provide protection of the natural character of BLM segments of Joseph Creek and the Grande Ronde River in Washington pending determination of suitability for National Wild and Scenic River status.

D. Protect the natural character of the BLM segments of the Snake River which have been determined suitable for National Wild and Scenic River designation.

2. Continue implementation of management actions for the Oregon Trail ACEC.

3. Prepare and implement a management plan for the Joseph Creek ONA/ACEC and Grande Ronde ACEC with emphasis on natural riparian and geologic systems and scenic values, recreation, cultural resources, wildlife habitat, and forest management. Determine the suitability of BLM segments of the Grande Ronde River in Washington, and Joseph Creek, for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

4. Prepare and implement a management plan for the Powder River ACEC, emphasizing raptor, fisheries, game and nongame habitat, cultural resources and recreation.

5. Prepare and implement a management plan for the Keating Riparian RNA/ACEC as part of a larger coordinated activity plan for the Keating Valley.

Pursue the proposed withdrawal from mineral entry under the 1872 mining laws on specific lands identified within the Keating Riparian RNA/ACEC.

6. Implement special management actions for the Unity Reservoir Bald Eagle Habitat ACEC in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Reclamation.

7. Prepare a management plan for the Hunt Mountain ACEC.

8. Prepare management plans for the Sheep Mountain ACEC, and Homestead ACEC.

Visual Resources

Visual resources in the planning area have been classified according to BLM's visual resource management criteria. These criteria include scenic quality, visual sensitivity and viewing distance, and have resulted in four Visual Resource Management (VRM) classifications which are shown on Map 5 and listed in Table 10. Each classification defines management objectives and the degree of visual change that will be acceptable within a landscape.

Visual Resource Management (VRM)

1. Class I-Primarily for ACECs, ONAs, and Wild & Scenic Rivers.

No projects will be allowed within these areas.

2. Class II-Primarily for areas of high scenic quality.

Any project work within a Class II area cannot be visible to a casual visitor from any travel route.

3. Class III-Primarily for areas considered important from an aesthetic view point. Not necessarily outstanding scenery.

Project work can be seen within a Class III area from travel routes. However, projects cannot be a focal point on the landscape.

4. Class IV-Primarily for general scenic landscapes throughout much of BLM.

Project work within a Class IV area can be a focal point on the landscape to the casual visitor.

5. Class V-Primarily for sites requiring reclamation (landfills, timber cuts, mining operational, etc.).

Although no VRM Class I Areas were identified from previous inventories, lands in the McGraw Creek Wilderness Area are managed as VRM Class I lands. Lands within river corridors on the Grande Ronde and Powder Wild and Scenic Rivers will be inventoried and classified appropriately for the protection of high scenic values.

Before the BLM initiates or permits any major surface disturbing activities on public land, an analysis will be completed to determine adverse effects on visual qualities. Activities that will result in significant, long term adverse effects in areas of high visual quality such as the Burnt River, Powder River or Snake River (canyons) shown on Map 5 will not be permitted.

Activities within other areas of high visual quality that may be seen might be permitted if they do not attract attention or leave long term visual changes on the land. Activities in other areas may change the landscape but will be designed to minimize any adverse effect on visual quality.

Table 1 O-Visual Resource Management Class Inventory

Class	Acreage	Percent of Planning Area
I	0	0
II	151,711	35
III	75,156	17
IV	202,887	48
Total	429,754	100

Wilderness Resources

The Bureau's Interim Management Policy for Wilderness Study Areas will continue to guide management in the three WSAs in the planning area: the McGraw Creek WSA, Homestead WSA, and Sheep Mountain WSA. The possibility that these areas may be designated as wilderness will be recognized in all affected land and resource use decisions.

In 1984, 968 acres of the McGraw Creek WSA were designated as Wilderness Area. The McGraw Creek Wilderness Area is presently managed by the U.S. Forest Service under cooperative agreement.

Paleontological Resources

Paleontological localities will be protected through review of all surface disturbing proposals. Collecting of important vertebrate fossils will be allowed subject to existing restrictions and permitting requirements. Commercial or hobby collection of common fossils will be allowed subject to existing federal regulations.

A regional data review and evaluation of the importance of known paleontological resources will be completed. Inventories for paleontological resources will be conducted in connection with individual project proposals. Important paleontological localities will be patrolled periodically to detect unauthorized uses or determine threats to the resource. Evaluation and protection of paleontological resources will be accomplished through coordination with professional paleontologists and the Oregon State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. Volunteers may be used to assist in monitoring and inventories.

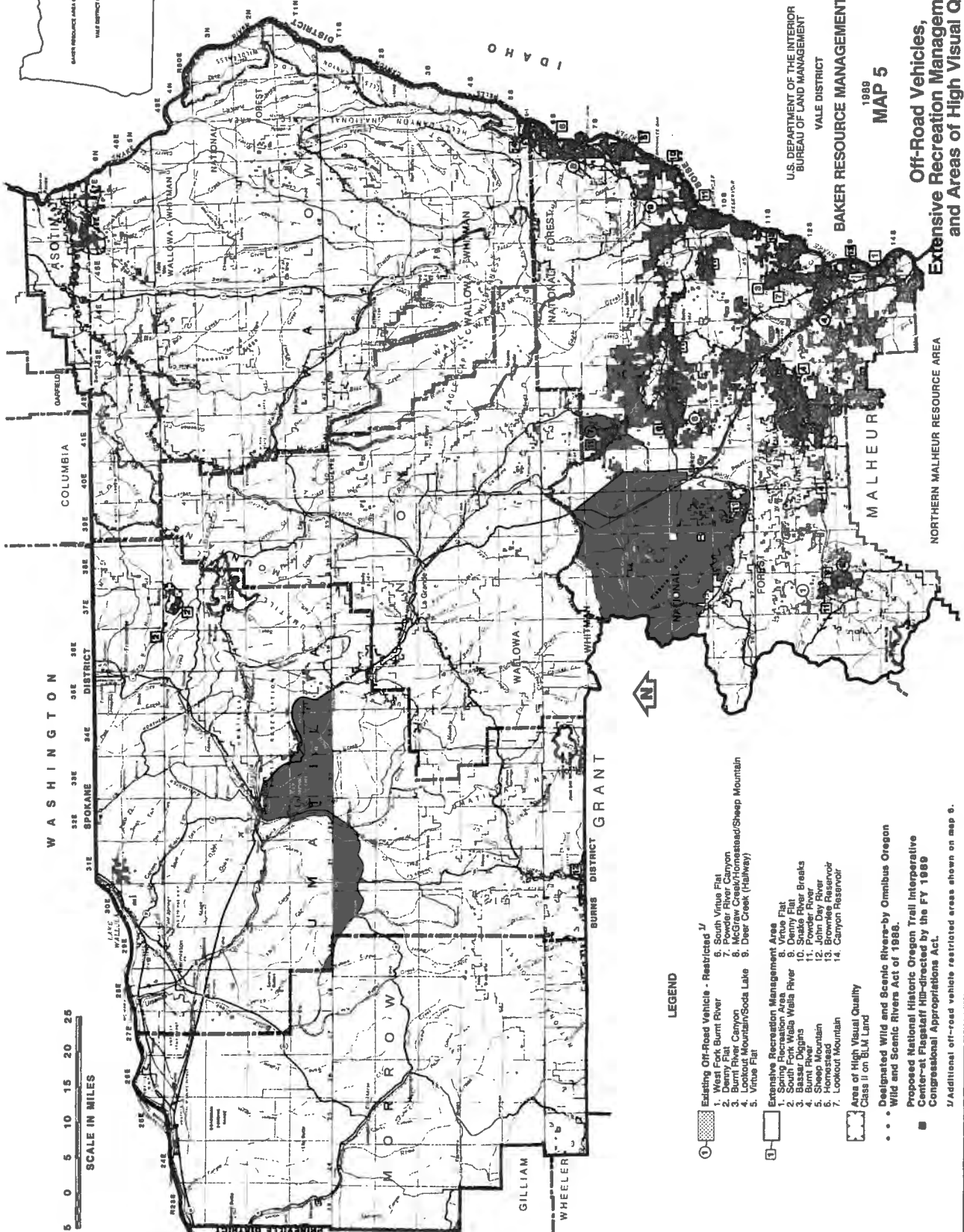
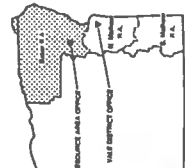
Localities containing vertebrate fossils, and paleontological resources which may provide important scientific information, will receive priority for protection and evaluation; in comparison to common invertebrate or common plant fossil localities which are not ordinarily the focus of protection measures.

Grasshopper Control

Cooperation with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will continue in the control of outbreaks of grasshoppers on public lands in the planning area. Site specific environmental analyses will be prepared when needed to identify and evaluate impacts not adequately considered in broader environmental documents, including district-wide environmental assessments and the Rangeland Grasshopper Cooperative Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (1987).

Noxious Weed Control

Infestations of noxious weeds are known to occur on some public lands in the planning area (refer to Figures 2 and 3). The most common noxious weeds are diffuse, spotted and Russian knapweed, yellow starthistle, Canadian thistle, whitetop and yellow leafy spurge. Control methods will be proposed and subject to site specific environmental analyses consistent with the Record of Decision on BLM's Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program EIS and EIS Supplement. Control methods will not be considered unless the weeds are confined to public lands or control efforts are coordinated with owners of adjoining infested non-public lands. Proper grazing management will be emphasized after control to minimize possible reinfestation. Coordination and cooperation with county weed control officers will continue on a regular basis.



LEGEND

- Existing Off-Road Vehicle - Restricted Use
 1. West Fork Burnt River
 2. Denny Flat
 3. Burnt River Canyon
 4. Mountain Soda Lake
 5. Virtue Flat
 6. South Virtue Flat
 7. Powder River Canyon
 8. McGraw Creek/Homestead/Sheep Mountain
 9. Deer Creek (Highway)
- Extensive Recreation Management Area Flat
 1. Denny Flat
 2. South Fork Walla Walla River
 3. Bassar Diggins
 4. Burnt River
 5. Sheep Mountain
 6. Hump Mountain
 7. Lookout Mountain
 8. Canyon Reservoir
- Area of High Visual Quality Class II on BLM Land
- Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers by Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988
- Proposed National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretative Center-at Playasaterf Hill-directed by the FY 1989 Congressional Appropriations Act.
- Additional off-road vehicle restricted areas shown on map 6.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT

BAKER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

1988

MAP 5

**Off-Road Vehicles,
Extensive Recreation Management Areas
and Areas of High Visual Quality**

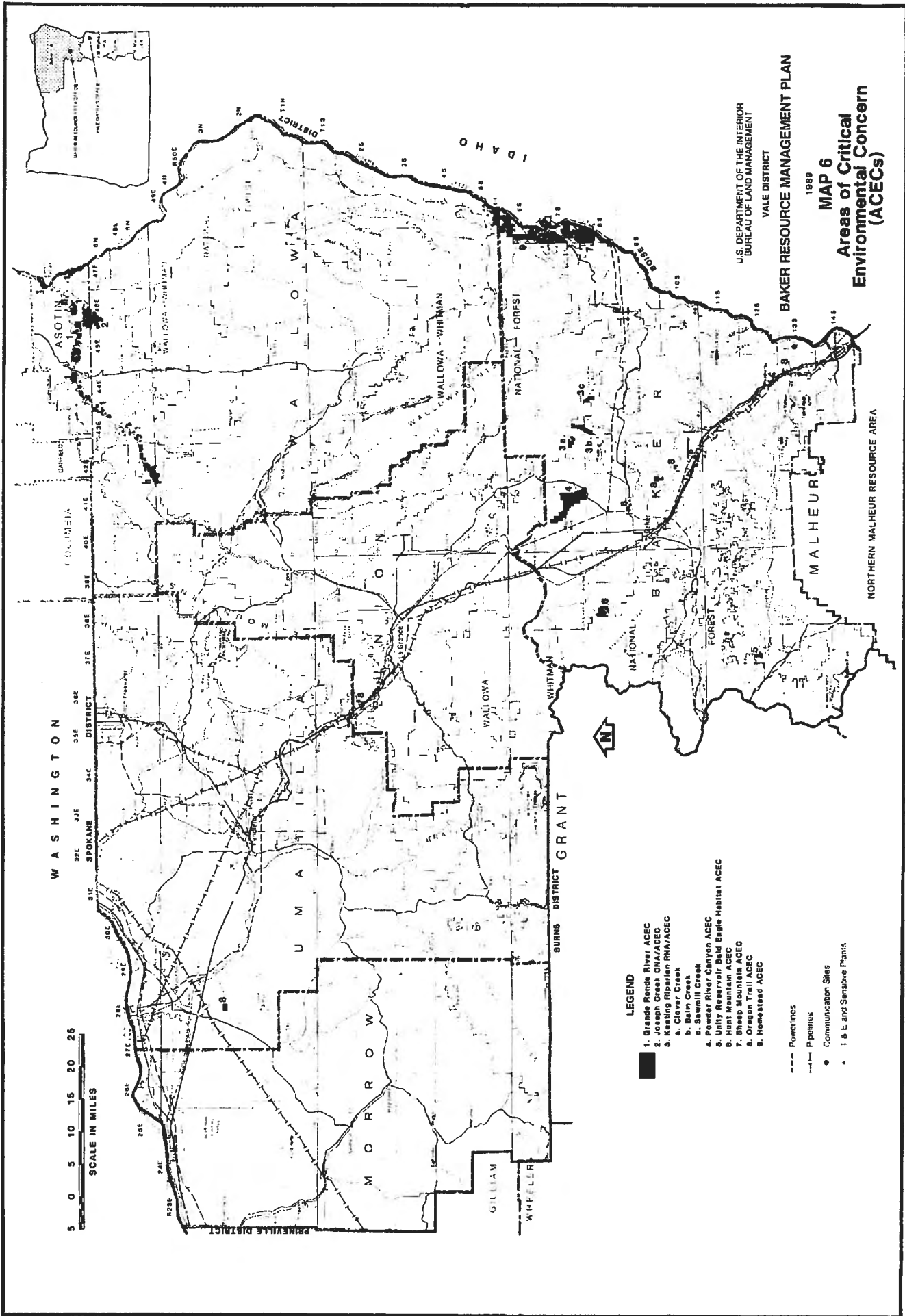
NORTHERN MALHEUR RESOURCE AREA

MALHEUR

BURNS DISTRICT GRANT

GILLIAM
WHEELER





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT
BAKER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

1989
MAP 6
Areas of Critical
Environmental Concern
(ACECs)

WASHINGTON

SCALE IN MILES
5 0 5 10 15 20 25

LEGEND

- 1. Grande Ronde River ACEC
- 2. Joseph Creek ONA/ACEC
- 3. Keating Riparian RMA/ACEC
 - a. Clover Creek
 - b. Balm Creek
 - c. Sawmill Creek
- 4. Powder River Canyon ACEC
- 5. Unity Reservoir Bald Eagle Habitat ACEC
- 6. Hunt Mountain ACEC
- 7. Sheep Mountain ACEC
- 8. Oregon Fire ACEC
- 9. Homestead ACEC

- Powerlines
- - - - - Pipelines
- Communication Sites
- I & L and Sensitive Points

NORTHERN MALHEUR RESOURCE AREA

IDAHO

OREGON

ASOTIN DISTRICT

WALLOWA-WHITMAN DISTRICT

WALLOWA

WHITMAN

NATIONAL FOREST

VALE DISTRICT

BAKER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

MALHEUR DISTRICT

NORTHERN MALHEUR RESOURCE AREA

WHEELER DISTRICT

GILLIAM DISTRICT

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NORTHERN MALHEUR RESOURCE AREA

WHEELER DISTRICT

GILLIAM DISTRICT

BURNS DISTRICT

GRANT DISTRICT

WALLOWA

WHITMAN

NATIONAL FOREST

VALE DISTRICT

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**2.3.2 BLM Vale District, Southeast Oregon Resource Management Plan (2002)
Excerpts**



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Vale Field Office
100 Oregon Street
Vale, Oregon 97918

September 2002



Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision



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JRA: The Bretz landslide area and Buckskin Communication Site area will be closed to motorized use except by authorization. OHV use in the Saddle Butte Lava Flow will be limited to designated routes. For the area within the Owyhee NWSR corridor designated as limited to designated routes, the Owyhee Springs area will be extended 1 mile west, and the Three Forks area will be extended about 2 miles northeast. The limited to designated routes designation of Willow Creek WSA will be extended about 6 miles northwest. Certain additional portions of the Campbell, Jackie's Butte Summer, Eiquren, Louse Canyon Community and Star Valley Community grazing allotments will be designated as limited to existing routes.

Visual Resources

Objective: *Manage public land actions and activities in a manner to be consistent with visual resource management (VRM) class objectives.*

Rationale: Section 102(8) of FLPMA declares that public land will be managed to protect the quality of scenic values and, where appropriate, to preserve and protect certain public land in its natural condition. NEPA, section 101(b), requires Federal agencies to "assure for all Americans... esthetically pleasing surroundings." Section 102 of NEPA requires agencies to "utilize a systematic, interdisciplinary approach which will ensure the integrated use of ... Environmental Design Acts in the planning and decision making" process. Guidelines for the identification of VRM classes on public land are contained in "BLM Manual Handbook 8410-1," Visual Resource Inventory. The establishment of VRM classes on public land is based on an evaluation of the landscapes scenic qualities, public sensitivity toward certain areas (such as certain special management areas, travel corridors and landscape settings), and the location of affected land from primary travel corridors (distance zoning).

Monitoring: Use the visual contrast rating system, described in BLM Manual 8400, where appropriate, when assessing proposals for projects on public land. Periodically assess, and as needed revise and implement, measures of visual mitigation/rehabilitation activities conducted for surface disturbing activities (also see Appendix W).

Table 12.—Visual Resource Management classes of public land (acres) ¹ (PSEORMP Table 3-11)

Resource Area	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV
Malheur Resource Area	309,796	144,403	199,078	1,365,457
Jordan Resource Area	998,501	72,823	440,579	1,104,052

¹ Includes FERC acres. The figures in this table represent public lands in the planning area that have been inventoried and given a VRM classification. Changes in acreage figures between the Draft and Final SEORMP are based on updated GIS information and reflect the best available data.

Management Actions: Public lands within the planning area will be managed as depicted on Map VRM. Table 12 shows VRM classifications. Visual resources in ACEC's will be managed as displayed in Table 13. WSA's, managed in accordance with current policy, will be managed under VRM Class I, subject to any change to current policy. Upon congressional designation of wilderness, any area congressionally released from further wilderness consideration will be managed under VRM Class II, unless inventory shows it to be Class I. Management of the Main, West Little, and North Fork Owyhee NWSR's and administratively suitable study rivers with a tentative wild classification will be managed as VRM Class I. The corridor of the South Fork Indian Creek study river in MRA will be managed as VRM Class II. Manage as VRM Class III, when needed, those administrative sites, recreation sites, and other specific sites requiring developed support facilities to meet public health and safety requirements or to enhance approved resource based recreation use opportunities.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Objective: *Designate areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC's)/research natural areas (RNA's) where relevance and importance criteria are met and special management attention is required to protect the values identified.*

Rationale: Section 202(c)(3) of FLPMA mandates that priority be given to the designation and protection of ACEC's. These areas are defined in section 103(a) as areas where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important values, resources, systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. Further guidance and evaluation criteria are found at 43 CFR Part 1610.7-2.

Monitoring: ACEC's will be assessed on a periodic schedule in order to evaluate maintenance and enhancement of relevant and important values and to evaluate effectiveness of management in maintaining those values. Monitoring may include collection of both qualitative and quantitative data. Appendix W contains additional monitoring guidelines.

Description of management directives: ACEC's will be designated and managed as outlined in Table 13. The section following the table describes each ACEC and its management. The descriptions are organized by resource area. Maps ACEC-M and ACEC-J show all ACEC's.

Management common to all ACEC's: The areas described below will be managed to maintain or enhance their relevant and important values. Management actions will be evaluated for their effects in maintaining or enhancing the ACEC values. These actions may include forest management practices; livestock grazing management (including timing and intensity of grazing); construction of range, wildlife, and recreation projects; prescribed burning; western juniper control practices and other vegetation treatments; management of recreational activities and wild horses; and animal damage control practices. Acquisition of subsurface minerals and private land inholdings through willing seller(s) will be pursued, if applicable, to protect relevant and important values or to improve manageability. Any land acquired from private parties or relinquished by the BOR adjacent to the ACEC may become part of the ACEC if relevant and important values are present, and will be managed following special management described below. For development of locatable minerals, any surface-disturbing actions beyond casual exploration will require a plan of operations if an area is designated as an ACEC. Opportunities to manipulate vegetation will be limited, particularly in ACEC/RNA's, whose purpose is to maintain and promote natural values and processes. Following wildfires, ACEC/RNA's will be allowed to revegetate naturally. Small areas may be seeded with native species, if the relevant and important values of the ACEC/RNA will be enhanced. Nonnative species will not be used in an ACEC/RNA for vegetation rehabilitation. Noxious weeds will be aggressively controlled using integrated weed management methods.

Table 13.—Specific management for ACEC's/RNA's¹ (PSEORMP Table 3-12)

	ACEC . acres	Rights- of-way	Off- highway vehicles	Visual resource manage- ment	Plant collecting	Road mainten- ance	Leasable minerals	Locatable minerals	Salable minerals
Malheur Resource Area									
Black Canyon ACEC/RNA	2,644	AV	L	II/III ²	L	L	O	O	C
Castle Rock ACEC ³	22,799	AV	L	II	L	O	NSO	W/O ⁴	C/O ⁵
Coal Mine Basin ACEC/RNA	755	AV	L	II	L	L	NSO	W	C
Dry Creek Gorge ACEC ³	16,082	AV	L	II	O	L	NSO	W	C
Hammond Hill Sand Hills ACEC/RNA ³	3,712	AV	L	III	L	L	O	W	C
Honeycombs ACEC/RNA ³	15,847	AV	L	I	L	L	NSO	W	C
Lake Ridge ACEC/RNA ³	3,825	AV	L	II	L	L	OWS	O	C
Leslie Gulch ACEC ³	11,673	E ⁶	L	I/II ⁷	L	L	NSO	W ⁸	C
Mahogany Ridge ACEC/RNA ³	682	AV	L	II	L	L	NSO	W	C
North Fork Malheur River ACEC ³	1,810	E	L	I	L	L	NSO	W	C
North Ridge Bully Creek ACEC/RNA	1,569	AV	L	III	L	L	OWS	O	C

Table 13.—Specific management for ACEC's/RNA's¹ (continued)

	ACEC acres	Rights- of-way	Off- highway vehicles	Visual resource manage- ment	Plant collecting	Road mainten- ance	Leasable minerals	Locatable minerals	Saleable minerals
Oregon National Historic Trail ACEC- Keency Pass Segment	3,154	AV	L	II/III ⁹	L	L	NSO	W/O ¹⁰	C/O ¹¹
Oregon National Historic Trail ACEC- Tub Mountain Segment	5,902	AV	L	II	L	L	NSO	W/O ¹⁰	C/O ¹¹
Oregon National Historic Trail ACEC- Birch Creek Segment	119	AV	L	II	O	O	NSO	W	C
Owyhee River Below the Dam ACEC ³	11,239	AV	L	II	L	O	NSO/O ¹²	W/O ¹³	C/O ¹⁴
Owyhee Views ACEC ³	52,506	AV	C/L ¹⁵	I	L	L	NSO	W	C
South Alkali Sand Hills ACEC	3,520	AV	L	III	L	L	NSO	W	C
South Bull Canyon ACEC/RNA	792	AV	L	III	L	L	O	O	C
South Ridge Bully Creek ACEC/RNA	620	AV	L	III	L	L	OWS	O	C
Spring Mountain ACEC/RNA	1,002	AV	C	III	L	NA	O	O	C
Stockade Mountain ACEC/RNA	1,767	AV	L	III	L	L	O	W	C

Table 13.—Specific management for ACEC's/RNA's¹ (continued)

	ACEC acres	Rights- of-way	Off- highway vehicles	Visual resource manage- ment	Plant collecting	Road mainten- ance	Leasable minerals	Locatable minerals	Saleable minerals
Jordan Resource Area									
Dry Creek Bench ACEC/RNA ³	1,616	AV	L	II	L	L	O	O	C
Jordan Craters ACEC/RNA ³	31,370	E	L	I	L	L	NSO	O	C
Little Whitehorse Creek Exclosure ACEC/RNA ¹	58	E	C	II	L	NA	NSO	W	C
Mendi Gore Playa ACEC/RNA ³	148	AV	L	II	L	L	NSO	O	C
Palomino Playa ACEC/RNA	642	AV	L	II	L	L	NSO	O	C
Saddle Butte ACEC ³	7,056	AV	L	II	L	L	O	O	C
Toppin Creek Butte ACEC/RNA ³	3,996	AV	L	II	L	L	O	O	C

¹ Abbreviations:

AV = avoidance area: granting rights-of-way (surface, subsurface, aerial) within the area should be avoided, but rights-of-way may be granted if there is minimal conflict with identified resource values and impacts can be mitigated.

C = closed to mineral material removal, and/or OHV use.

E = exclusion area: rights-of-way would not be granted within the area.

L = limited: limitations applicable to OHV use, plant collection, and road maintenance.

OHV use: use would be limited to designated routes. Plant collecting: plant materials, including common species, may be collected by permit only. Road maintenance: maintenance would be limited to the existing roadway; shoulder, barrow/ditch construction would be limited to only that necessary to ensure public safety and serviceability of the road.

NL = not available for mineral leases.

NSO = no surface occupancy. Open to mineral leasing subject to NSO stipulations.

O = open. The activity is allowed in the area. NEPA compliance and clearances for cultural resources and threatened and endangered species required for some activities. Mineral activity is subject to standard stipulations (where appropriate), NEPA compliance, and application of site-specific controls.

OHV = off-highway vehicles.

OVS = open with special stipulations. Open to mineral leasing activities subject to controlled surface use, seasonal timing restrictions, and/or restricted or no uses in avoidance areas (such as riparian areas, live water, areas with special wildlife or plant features, or sensitive viewsheds).

VRM = visual resource management. VRM classes are defined in Appendix H.

W = withdrawal. Areas recommended (to the Secretary of the Interior) for withdrawal from operation of the mining laws (locatable mineral entry).

² II/III = Class II in area inventoried as VRM II; VRM III on remainder.

³ All or a portion of this ACEC falls within an additional or proposed SMA that currently may have restricted management for activities such as OHV, VRM, or mineral management. This

Table 13.—Specific management for ACEC's/RNA's¹ (continued)

ACEC must meet the minimum management requirements for the SMA (such as WSA, NWSR). Management prescriptions associated with the relevant and important values of the ACEC.

¹ W/O = Withdrawal on 3,280 acres; open on remainder.

² C/O = Closed on 3,280 acres; open on remainder.

³ E = Valid existing right-of-way would remain in effect.

⁴ I/II = Areas outside vehicular corridor VRM I; VRM II on remainder.

⁵ W = Withdrawal process completed September, 1999 (see text).

⁶ II/III = VRM II within corridor; VRM III on remainder.

⁷ W/O = Withdrawal within corridor; open on remainder.

⁸ C/O = Closed within corridor; open on remainder.

⁹ NSO/O = No-surface-occupancy stipulation applies within viewshed; open on remainder.

¹⁰ W/O = Withdrawal within viewshed; open on remainder.

¹¹ C/O = Closed within viewshed; open on remainder.

¹² C/L = Closed west of reservoir as depicted on OHV maps; limited on remainder.

such as biological control, site-specific spraying, and grubbing by hand, consistent with protection and enhancement of relevant and important values. Where management for a designated ACEC limits motorized and mechanical vehicles to designated roads and trails, the use of these vehicles off designated trails to maintain existing improvements and for livestock handling may be allowed within the ACEC after a case-by-case assessment and determination of need.

Management prescriptions were developed independently of WSA and NWSR considerations. However, IMPLWR will be followed until Congress designates these areas as wilderness or releases them from further wilderness consideration. If the WSA is not Congressionally designated as wilderness, the prescriptions for each designated ACEC will be followed.

Malheur Resource Area

Black Canyon ACEC/RNA

Description and values: The 2,644 acre Black Canyon ACEC/RNA, located north of the Malheur River above Jonesboro, Oregon, occupies the drainage of Black Canyon, a steep south-facing canyon that drains the uplands directly above the mainstem of the Malheur River. The drainage consists of an intermittent to perennial stream flowing just enough to develop riparian vegetation in the steep canyon. The uplands surrounding the drainage are sparsely vegetated due to the shallow soils and dry south-facing aspect.

The relevant and important values of the ACEC/RNA are the following vegetation cells identified by the ONHP: stiff sagebrush/Sandberg bluegrass, western juniper/big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass, riparian community dominated by coyote willow with Pacific willow, and first to third order stream system in sagebrush zone.

A main east-west road traverses the north end of the ACEC/RNA, and a trail goes to Willow Spring. The ACEC/RNA includes a portion of one livestock grazing allotment.

The ACEC has a high potential for the occurrence of hot springs and epithermal-related gold/silver/mercury deposits, moderate potential for the occurrence of both uranium and geothermal resources, and a low potential for the occurrence of all other leasable and locatable minerals. There is no BLM record that mining claims were ever located within the boundaries of the ACEC/RNA, and no demonstrated interest in either precious metals/mercury or uranium; consequently, the potential for development is low. Although the ACEC/RNA is within an area of high heat flow, an absence of nearby hot springs and an apparent lack of shallow (<3,000 feet deep) thermal waters indicate a low potential for development of geothermal resources.

Specific management: Rights-of-way will be granted only if there is minimal conflict with identified resource values and impacts can be mitigated. OHV use will be limited to designated roads and trails. The ACEC/RNA will be VRM Class II and III as identified during the VRM inventory for visual resources in the planning area. Plant collecting will require a permit. The area will be open to leasable and locatable minerals activities and closed to saleable minerals development. Livestock use will continue based on existing permit stipulations and approved AMP's. Any proposed changes in grazing, including time and intensity of use, will be evaluated for impacts on the relevant and important values and will be permitted if values will be maintained or enhanced. Where adverse impacts are identified, existing livestock use will be adjusted using a variety of methods including fencing, reduction in livestock numbers, and changes in grazing season. Proposed projects in the area will be

Several dirt roads through the area are maintained by the BLM as needed. The ACEC/RNA includes a portion of one livestock grazing allotment.

The ACEC has a high potential for the occurrence of hot springs and epithermal-related gold/silver/mercury deposits, a moderate potential for the occurrence of uranium, oil and gas and geothermal resource, but a low potential for the occurrence of all other locatable and leasable minerals.

At present, there are 15 mining claims located in the ACEC/RNA, mainly for gold associated with hot springs. Consequently, there is a high potential for the development of this commodity. As there is no significant domestic uranium industry, and no apparent interest in the commodity, the potential for development is low. Although the ACEC/RNA is within an area of high heat flow, a lack of nearby hot springs and apparent absence of shallow (<3,000 feet deep) sources or thermal water indicate a low potential for development of geothermal resources. Likewise, a lack of nearby oil and gas occurrences and an absence of current production indicate a low potential for oil and gas development.

Specific management: Rights-of-way will be granted if there is minimal conflict with identified resource values and impacts can be mitigated. OHV use will be limited to designated roads and trails. Plant collecting will require a permit. VRM will be Class III. Road maintenance will be limited to the existing roadway, and shoulder/barrow ditch construction will be limited to that necessary to control runoff, minimize soil erosion, and ensure public safety and serviceability of the road. The area will be withdrawn from locatable minerals activities, closed to saleable minerals development, and remain open to leasable minerals activities. Livestock use will continue based on existing permit stipulations and approved AMP's. Any proposed changes in grazing, including time and intensity of use, will be evaluated for impacts on the relevant and important values and will be permitted if values will be maintained or enhanced. Existing livestock use will be adjusted where adverse impacts are identified using a variety of methods, including but not limited to fencing, reduction in livestock numbers, and changes in grazing season. Proposed projects in the area will be evaluated for impacts and permitted where relevant and important values will be maintained or enhanced.

Rationale: While existing management actions have partially served to help protect values of the area, the proposed management for minerals, visual resources, OHV, livestock, rights-of-way, and other surface-disturbing activities will provide a more appropriate degree of management and protection for the relevant and important values.

Honeycombs ACEC/RNA

Description and values: The 15,847-acre Honeycombs ACEC/RNA is located on the east edge of Owyhee Reservoir about 20 miles south of Vale. The ACEC/RNA has high scenic values derived from the unusual geologic structure and colorful desert soils of volcanic origin. Special status plant species and the presence of California bighorn sheep contribute to the value of the area as an ACEC/RNA.

The relevant and important values for the ACEC/RNA include scenery, geologic formations, bighorn sheep and habitat, four special status plant species (sterile milkvetch, Ertter's senecio, grimy ivesia, and Owyhee clover), and big sagebrush/needleandthread grass on cinders plant community which meets a vegetation cell need identified by Oregon Natural Heritage Program (ONHP).

A portion of the Honeycombs WSA (3-77A) comprises 100 percent of the existing ACEC/RNA and 99 percent of the potential addition. This WSA has been recommended suitable by BLM for wilderness designation and is currently managed in accordance with BLM's IMPLWR. Under this direction, surface-disturbing activities requiring reclamation are generally pre-

cluded from a WSA until Congress makes a decision on wilderness designation. The Honeycombs WSA is a component of the existing Owyhee River Complex SRMA.

The ACEC/RNA is located within one livestock grazing allotment. A north-south dirt road is near the eastern boundary and is maintained by BLM for high-clearance and 4-wheel drive vehicles. The Three Fingers HMA for wild horses is also located within and surrounding this ACEC/RNA.

The ACEC/RNA has a high potential for the occurrence of hot springs and epithermal-related gold/silver/mercury deposits, a moderate potential for the occurrence of oil and gas and geothermal resources, and a low to moderate potential for the occurrence of uranium. It has a low potential for the occurrence of all other locatable and leasable minerals. While there are no mining claims currently located in the ACEC/RNA, there has been past interest, especially between 1989 and 1993, largely in the eastern portion of the ACEC/RNA; consequently, it has a moderate potential for the development of hot springs and epithermal-related gold/silver/mercury deposits. Although the ACEC/RNA is located within an area of high heat, a lack of nearby hot springs and apparent absence of shallow (<3,000 feet deep) sources of thermal water indicate a low potential for the development of geothermal resources. Likewise, a lack of nearby oil and gas occurrences and an absence of production within the planning unit indicate a low potential for oil and gas development. While there is a possibility of mineable quantities of uranium, a lack of interest in this commodity and an absence of a significant domestic uranium industry indicate a low potential for development of this commodity.

Specific management: Rights-of-way will be granted only if there is minimal conflict with identified resource values and impacts can be mitigated. OHVs will be limited to designated roads and trails. Plant collecting will require a permit. Road maintenance will be limited to the existing roadway, and shoulder/barrow ditch construction will be limited to that necessary to control runoff, minimize soil erosion, and ensure public safety and serviceability of the road. Development of leasable minerals will be subject to the NSO stipulation. The area will be under VRM Class I. The ACEC/RNA will be withdrawn from locatable mineral activities and closed to saleable minerals development. BOR land relinquished between the reservoir and ACEC/RNA boundaries will become part of the ACEC/RNA. Livestock use will continue based on existing permit stipulations and approved AMP's. Any changes in grazing use, including time and intensity of use, will be evaluated for impacts on the relevant and important values and permitted if the values will be maintained or enhanced. Existing livestock use will be adjusted where adverse impacts are identified using a variety of methods including fencing, reduction in livestock numbers, and changes in grazing season. Proposed projects in the area will be evaluated for their impacts and permitted where relevant and important values will be maintained or enhanced.

Rationale: Although existing management actions have partially protected values, the increase in size of the ACEC/RNA and proposed management within the extended area for minerals, livestock, and other surface-disturbing activities will fully protect the existing area and additional representations of the relevant and important values. The area's soils are highly fragile, being quickly and permanently disturbed by minimal surface activities. Proposed management will adequately protect this resource. Other management as proposed will protect all the valued resources.

Lake Ridge ACEC/RNA

Description and values: The 3,825-acre Lake Ridge ACEC/RNA is located southeast of Juntura, Oregon, along Tim's Peak road on a broad plateau dissected by steep canyons, with Tim's Peak rising to the north. A naturally occurring waterhole provides a perennial source of water. The ACEC/RNA is dominated by low sagebrush plant communities with both low sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass and low sagebrush/Idaho fescue present.

The relevant and important values identified in this ACEC/RNA are the low sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass community and low sagebrush/Idaho fescue community vegetation cells identified by ONHP. Sage grouse, which frequent the area, and several leks have also been identified as a relevant and important value.

Portions of two WSA's are located within the ACEC/RNA. Gold Creek (3-33) and Camp Creek (3-31) WSA's are recommended by BLM as suitable for wilderness designation. The WSA's are currently managed in accordance with BLM's IMPLWR. Under this direction, surface-disturbing activities requiring reclamation are generally precluded until Congress makes a decision on wilderness designation.

The ACEC/RNA includes a portion of one livestock grazing allotment.

The ACEC/RNA has a high potential for the occurrence of hot springs and epithermal-related gold/silver/mercury deposits, moderate potential for the occurrence of geothermal resources, a low to moderate potential for the occurrence of uranium, and a low potential for the occurrence of all other leasable and locatable minerals. There is no record with the BLM that mining claims have ever been located within the boundaries of the ACEC/RNA, and no demonstrated interest in precious metals/mercury or uranium deposits; consequently, the potential for development is low. While the ACEC/RNA is located within an area of high heat flow, an absence of nearby hot springs and an apparent lack of shallow (<3,000 feet deep) indicate a low potential for the development of geothermal resources.

Specific management: Right-of-ways will be granted only if there is minimal conflict with identified resource values and impacts can be mitigated. OHV use will be limited to designated roads and trails. Plant collecting will require a permit. The entire area will be under VRM Class II. Road maintenance will be limited to the existing roadway, and shoulder/barrow ditch construction will be limited to that necessary to control runoff, minimize soil erosion, and ensure public safety and serviceability of the road. Leasable minerals activities will be open with special stipulations subject to seasonal/timing restrictions, restricted or no uses in avoidance areas for sage grouse. The area will be open for locatable minerals activities and closed for saleable minerals development. Livestock use will continue based on existing permit stipulations and approved AMP's. Any proposed changes in grazing, including time and intensity of use, will be evaluated for impacts on the relevant and important values and will be permitted if values will be maintained or enhanced. Existing livestock use will be adjusted where adverse impacts are identified using a variety of methods, including but not limited to fencing, reduction in livestock numbers, and changes in grazing season. Proposed projects in the area will be evaluated for impacts and permitted where relevant and important values will be maintained or enhanced.

Rationale: While existing management actions have partially served to protect values of the area, the proposed management for minerals, VRM, livestock, rights-of-way, and other surface-disturbing activities will more adequately protect the relevant and important values on the critical portions of the area. More stringent management for visual resources and limiting leasable minerals and saleable minerals activities will provide additional protection of the valued resources in this area.

Leslie Gulch ACEC

Description and values: The 11,673-acre Leslie Gulch ACEC is located near the southeastern part of Owyhee Reservoir. The diverse vegetation and highly scenic area is an attractive destination for visitors seeking a variety of wildland experiences.

Relevant and important values include high scenic values associated with the colorful ash talus cliff, bighorn sheep and habitat, and five special status plant species, which include

Packard's mentzelia, grimy ivesia, sterile milkvetch, Ertter's senecio, and Owyhee clover. A detailed management plan was written for the area and signed in 1995.

Portions of three WSA's are located within and comprise approximately 92 percent of the existing ACEC. Portions of the Upper Leslie Gulch WSA (3-74), Honeycombs WSA (3-77A), and Slocum Creek WSA (3-75) located within the ACEC have been recommended as suitable for wilderness designation by BLM. The WSA's are currently managed in accordance with BLM's IMPLWR. Under this direction, surface-disturbing activities requiring reclamation in WSA's are generally precluded until Congress makes a decision on wilderness designation. Leslie Gulch ACEC was withdrawn from mineral entry by Public Land Order 7412 (*Federal Register*, Vol. 64, No.184, September 23, 1999) with the withdrawal effective as of September 23, 1999.

Specific management: All management as identified and prescribed in the Leslie Gulch Management Plan (1995) will be retained. Management as described in the plan includes, but is not limited to, the following actions. Rights-of-way will not be granted. OHV use will be limited to designated roads and trails. The ACEC will be under VRM Class II, except the areas outside the vehicular corridor will be under VRM Class I. Plant collecting will require a permit. Road maintenance will be limited to that necessary to control runoff, minimize soil erosion, and ensure public safety. The area will be limited or closed to all mineral activity, including mineral leasing (under NSO stipulations), mineral material sale, and locatable mineral exploration and development. The area will be closed to livestock grazing. Proposed projects in the area, particularly recreational development, will follow management plan guidance.

Rationale: Because of the recent date of the management plan, which provides protection for the relevant and important values, no further management changes will be proposed for this ACEC except that the VRM Class I will contribute to providing maximum protection for the relevant and important values.

Mahogany Ridge ACEC/RNA

Description and values: The 682-acre Mahogany Ridge ACEC/RNA is located on the northern and northeastern slope of Mahogany Mountain west of U.S. Highway 95 and north of Jordan Valley, Oregon. The ACEC/RNA includes undisturbed stands of mountain mahogany trees on parcels of the northern and western slopes of Mahogany Ridge. It fills a vegetation cell need for mountain mahogany-sagebrush and mountain mahogany-Oregon grape complex identified by ONHP and includes a higher-elevation mountain big sagebrush-mountain mahogany/slender wheatgrass-bluebunch wheatgrass community.

The relevant and important values in the ACEC/RNA include habitat for the broad-tailed hummingbird and other neotropical migratory birds, a special status plant species (Owyhee clover), and the mountain mahogany-big sagebrush vegetation communities identified by ONHP.

A portion of the Upper Leslie Gulch WSA (3-74) is within the ACEC/RNA. This WSA has been recommended suitable by BLM for wilderness designation and is currently managed in accordance with BLM's IMPLWR. Under this direction, surface-disturbing activities requiring reclamation are generally precluded until Congress makes a decision on wilderness designation.

The ACEC/RNA is located within one livestock grazing allotment.

The ACEC/RNA has a moderate to high potential for the occurrence of hot springs and epithermal-related gold/silver/mercury deposits, moderate potential for the occurrence of uranium, oil and gas and geothermal resources, and a low potential for the occurrence of all other locatable and leasable minerals. No mining claims are currently located within the ACEC/RNA; however, there has been a substantial amount of past interest, largely between

The ACEC/RNA has a moderate potential for the occurrence of geothermal resources, a low to moderate potential for the occurrence of oil and gas, and a low potential for the occurrence of locatable and all other leasable minerals. There is no record with BLM that mining claims have ever been located within the borders of the ACEC/RNA, and no apparent interest in mineral development in the immediate area; consequently, the ACEC/RNA has a low potential for mineral development.

Specific management: Rights-of-way will be granted only if there is minimal conflict with identified resource values and impacts can be mitigated. OHV use will be limited to designated roads and trails. Plant collecting will require a permit. The ACEC/RNA will be VRM Class III. Road maintenance will be limited to the existing roadway, and shoulder/barrow ditch construction will be limited to that necessary to control runoff, minimize soil erosion, and ensure public safety and serviceability of the road. Leasable minerals activities will be open with special stipulations subject to seasonal/timing restrictions, restricted or no uses in avoidance areas for sage grouse. Locatable minerals activities will be open, but the area will be closed for saleable minerals development. Livestock use will continue based on existing permit stipulations and approved AMP's. Any proposed changes in grazing, including time and intensity of use, will be evaluated for impacts on the relevant and important values and will be permitted if values will be maintained or enhanced. Existing livestock use will be adjusted where adverse impacts are identified using a variety of methods, including but not limited to fencing, reduction in livestock numbers, and changes in grazing season. Proposed projects in the area will be evaluated for impacts and permitted where relevant and important values will be maintained or enhanced.

Rationale: While existing management has partially served to protect values of the area, the proposed management for minerals, livestock, rights-of-way, and other surface-disturbing activities will more adequately protect the relevant and important values. The increased acreage and other associated management provide protection of a more complete representation of the valued resources in this area.

Oregon National Historic Trail ACEC-Keeney Pass Segment

Description and Values: The 3,154-acre Keeney Pass segment of the Oregon National Historic Trail ACEC is located approximately 6 miles south of Vale on Lytle Boulevard. The Oregon Trail was the principal travel corridor for America's westward migration and expansion during the 19th century and became the most famous of western trails used by explorers, fur traders, missionaries, emigrants, and gold seekers. The trail was the primary route from Fort Boise to Vale. The scenic values of this ACEC are associated with the historical landscape integrity of the area. The rolling hills, covered with sagebrush, grasses and dust, have changed little since the emigrants passed through this country and contribute to the overall scenic and recreational value.

The relevant and important values identified in this ACEC are historic; scenic; and a special status plant species, Cronquist's stickseed.

Lytle Boulevard, a two-lane asphalt county road, parallels and in some places overlies the Oregon Trail into Vale. It is the main road for traffic traveling south to Nyssa and Adrian in Oregon, Homedale in Idaho, and to U.S. Highway 95. At BLM's Keeney Pass Interpretive Site, interpretive panels and a foot trail accommodate visitors along the Oregon Trail. The segment at Keeney Pass covers a total of 1 mile of intermittent ruts, 100 feet to 0.5-mile long. These ruts are all that remain of the original route crossing 8 miles on BLM land in Malheur County.

Currently, the 1989 "Oregon National Historic Trail Management Plan" prescribed a sequence of long- and short-term management actions for the protection, preservation, interpretation and public recreation use of the Oregon National Historic Trail. On November 10, 1978,

Congress designated the Oregon Trail as a National Historic Trail by an amendment (Public Law 95-625) to the "National Trails System Act" (Public Law 90-543). The Act, which directs the Secretary of Interior to administer the Oregon National Historic Trail, identifies and protects the Oregon Trail, along with its historic remnants and artifacts, for public use and enjoyment. The National Park Service (NPS) has the responsibility to administer the Oregon National Historic Trail, providing oversight and assistance to other Federal agencies. Direct management of the Oregon Trail rests within the individual Federal agency having jurisdiction over the land including sites and segments. These Federal agencies are responsible for providing NPS with an opportunity to review management actions for the Oregon Trail. The Oregon Trail is an identified SRMA. Management decisions provide for Oregon Trail protection within a 0.5-mile wide corridor and informational signing. The 1981 NPS Oregon Trail management plan provides general guidance for the future protection, development, interpretation and management by lead agencies having direct management responsibility for the Oregon Trail. The NPS plan recommends specific protection and interpretation for Keeney Pass in the Vale District.

The Oregon Trail in the vicinity of Keeney Pass, which includes a four-mile route of the Oregon Trail with intermittent wagon ruts, is a historic district enrolled in 1979 on the National Register of Historic Places as the Oregon Trail Historic District (Lytle Pass Area). A 0.5-mile wide corridor has been established to avoid and minimize surface disturbances along the Oregon Trail.

A portion of one grazing allotment lies within this segment of the ACEC. One livestock watering reservoir is located outside the corridor and is presently dry. Numerous projects are scattered throughout this segment of the Oregon Trail, including cattleguards, barbed wire/steel posts fences, livestock watering troughs, pipelines, waterwells, fiber optic cable line, crested wheatgrass seedings, and 2-track and 4-wheel drive routes.

This segment of the ACEC has a high potential for the occurrence of uranium, and geothermal resources, a predominately moderate potential for the occurrence of hot springs and epithermal-related gold/silver/mercury deposits, moderate potential for the occurrence of oil and gas and a low potential for all other leasable and locatable minerals. No mining claims are currently located within this segment, but interest was especially high between 1988 and 1992 when most of the segment was covered with mining claims; consequently, the potential for development of hot springs and epithermal-related gold/silver/mercury deposits is moderate. As this segment of the ACEC is located within and immediately adjacent to the Vale Known Geothermic Resource Area (KGRA), which has had recent interest in geothermal energy, the potential for development of this commodity is high. While mineable quantities of uranium may occur in the area, a lack of demonstrated interest in the commodity and an absence of a significant domestic uranium industry indicate a low potential for development. Although traces of hydrocarbons have been reported in the vicinity of the ACEC, an absence of demonstrated interest in the commodity and a lack of production in the planning area indicate a low potential for the development of petroleum products. An existing minerals pit is located outside the viewshed at Keeney Pass.

Specific management: Existing designated multipurpose utility corridors will continue to be available for use. The ONHTMP covers the management within the 1,032-acre corridor. The plan dictates that the protective corridor will be VRM Class II, and where existing intrusions make Class II management impractical, managed as Class III; the location of range improvements will be planned so that the historic landscape of the Oregon Trail is not diminished; and off-road motorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails within the protective corridor. The plan also states nonmotorized trekking on trail remnants will be generally permitted under stipulated conditions; new rangeland facilities will be designed and

placed to be visually unobtrusive within the protective corridor; minerals leases within the protective corridor will be issued with NSO stipulations. Under the plan, the corridor will be closed to saleable minerals developments; heavy equipment use for wildfire suppression activities will be avoided on and within 200 feet of trail remnants; rangeland drills will not be used within 200 feet of trail remnants; and revegetation using native plant species by aerial broadcast will be the preferred post-fire rehabilitation method within the protective corridor; livestock use will continue based on existing grazing permit stipulations and approved AMP's. Management outside the 1,032 acres will include OHV use limited to designated roads and trails, open to minerals activities outside the viewshed, and under VRM Class III.

Rationale: While existing management has partially served to protect values of the area, the additional acreage and the proposed management for minerals, rights-of-way, plant collecting, OHV, and livestock will more adequately protect the relevant and important values.

Oregon National Historic Trail ACEC—Tub Mountain Segment

Description and values: The 5,902-acre Tub Mountain segment of the Oregon National Historic Trail ACEC is located about 6 miles northeast of Vale, Oregon, off Highway 20 and 5th Avenue East, and follows the county road from Alkali Spring to Lone Willow Spring. The Oregon Trail was the principal travel corridor for America's westward migration and expansion during the 19th century and became the most famous of western trails used by explorers, fur traders, missionaries, emigrants and gold seekers. Charcoal samples obtained from a hearth excavated in 1993 yielded radiocarbon dates of AD 1680–1760 and 1800–1940. The segment from Alkali Spring to Lone Willow Spring consists of low rolling hills and highly eroded drainages covered with sagebrush and bunchgrasses. This route was the primary route of travel from Vale to Farewell Bend. Management decisions provide for Oregon Trail protection within a 0.25-mile wide corridor and informational signing for the Tub Mountain segment of the Oregon Trail. The BLM maintains one interpretive site at Alkali Spring which was the "nooning" spot for wagon trains leaving Vale.

The relevant and important values are historic, cultural, and scenic. The scenic values of this ACEC are associated with the integrity of the historical landscape. The rolling hills, covered with sagebrush, grasses, and dust, remain relatively unchanged since the emigrants passed through this country and contribute to the overall scenic value.

The ACEC segment is bisected by a county road maintained and bladed by Malheur County, and there are several 2-track and 4-wheel drive routes, numerous barbed wire/steel post fences, livestock watering troughs, water wells, corrals, and reservoirs.

This segment of the ACEC includes portions of one grazing allotment.

This segment of the ACEC has a high potential for the occurrence of hot springs and epithermal-related gold/silver/mercury deposits, and uranium, a moderate to high potential for the occurrence of geothermal resources, a low to moderate potential for the occurrence of oil and gas, and a low potential for the occurrence of all other locatable and leasable minerals. No mining claims are currently located within the boundaries of this segment. Interest was high between 1986 and 1993 and several mining claims were located, mainly in the eastern portion of the segment, indicating a high potential for the development of hot springs and epithermal-related gold/silver/mercury deposits. Mineable quantities of uranium may occur within the ACEC and surrounding area, but a lack of demonstrated interest and an absence of a significant domestic uranium industry indicate a low potential for development. Likewise, an absence of nearby sources of oil and gas and a lack of production indicate a low potential for the development of petroleum products.

Specific management: Rights-of-way will be granted only if there is minimal conflict with identified resource values and impacts can be mitigated; OHV use will be limited to designated roads and trails; and the ACEC will be VRM Class II. Plant collecting will require a permit. Road maintenance will be limited to that necessary to control runoff, minimize soil erosion, and ensure public safety. Locatable minerals will be withdrawn within the viewshed or 0.5-mile either side of the Oregon Trail. Minerals materials development will be allowed only outside of the viewshed, and leasable minerals activities will be subject to the NSO stipulation. Any proposed changes in grazing, including time and intensity of use, will be evaluated for impacts on the relevant and important values and will be permitted if values will be maintained or enhanced. Livestock use may be adjusted where adverse impacts are identified. Proposed projects in the area will be evaluated for impacts and permitted where relevant and important values will be maintained or enhanced.

Rationale: While existing management actions have partially served to help protect values of the area, the additional acreage and proposed management for minerals, OHV, plant collecting, and livestock will more adequately protect the relevant and important values.

Oregon National Historic Trail ACEC–Birch Creek Segment

Description and values: The 119-acre Birch Creek segment of the Oregon National Historic Trail ACEC is located about 2 miles south of Farewell Bend, Oregon, west of Interstate 84. The Oregon Trail was the principal travel corridor for America’s westward migration and expansion during the 19th century and became the most famous of western trails used by explorers, fur traders, missionaries, emigrants and gold seekers. The segment at Birch Creek was a camping area before coming to the Snake River at Farewell Bend. A wagon rut swale is still discernible where the trail crossed the hills on public land. The scenic value of this ACEC is associated with the historical landscape integrity of the area. The rolling hills and view to the north of Farewell Bend and the Snake River have not changed since the emigrants passed through this country and contribute to the overall scenic value. The BLM maintains an interpretive site with a fenced enclosure around the ruts, interpretive panels, a foot trail adjacent to the ruts, and parking turnout.

The relevant and important values are historic and scenic.

The ACEC is bisected by a county-maintained gravel road, has a reservoir, and rights-of-way for access to private land. Accessibility from Interstate 84 at Farewell Bend increases the attractiveness of this recreation site for the public, and the existing gravel road allows visits by large groups in buses as well as 2-wheel drive vehicles. This segment of the ACEC includes a portion of one livestock grazing allotment.

This segment of the ACEC has a high potential for the occurrence of hot springs and epithermal-related gold/silver/mercury deposits, moderate to high potential for the occurrence of uranium, moderate potential for the occurrence of geothermal resources, and a low potential for all other locatable and leasable minerals. No mining claims are located within the boundaries of this segment, and very little interest has been expressed in the immediate vicinity. However, a substantial amount of interest has been expressed to the south, both in the mid-to late-1980’s and currently; consequently, this segment has a high potential for the development of hot springs and epithermal-related gold/silver/mercury deposits. Mineable quantities of uranium may occur in the area, but an apparent lack of interest in the commodity and an absence of a significant domestic uranium industry indicate a low potential for the development of uranium. The area is within a zone of high heat flow and within 3 miles of a thermal spring; consequently, the potential for the development of low-temperature, direct heat use of geothermal resources is moderate.

Specific management: Rights-of-way will be granted only if there is minimal conflict with identified resource values and impacts can be mitigated. OHV use in the area will be limited to designated roads and trails, and the area will be VRM Class II. The area will remain open to current road maintenance activities, and will also be open to plant collecting. The ACEC will be withdrawn from locatable minerals activities and closed to saleable minerals development. Leasable minerals activity will be subject to the NSO stipulation. Any proposed changes in grazing, including time and intensity of use, will be evaluated for impacts on the relevant and important values and will be permitted if values will be maintained or enhanced. Where adverse impacts are identified, existing livestock use will be adjusted using a variety of methods including fencing, reduction in livestock numbers, and changes in grazing season. Proposed projects in the area will be evaluated for impacts and permitted where relevant and important values will be maintained or enhanced.

Rationale: While existing management actions have partially served to protect values of the area, the proposed management for minerals, visual resources, livestock, rights-of-way and other surface-disturbing activities will more adequately protect the relevant and important values.

Owyhee River Below the Dam ACEC

Description and values: The 11,239-acre ACEC includes public land of the Owyhee River canyon and its associated viewshed located just north of the Owyhee Dam. The ACEC includes the viewshed of BLM-administered land from near the dam to downstream approximately 13 road miles to near the siphon site. This corridor contains the controlled flowing Owyhee River with its associated predominately narrow canyon bottom and picturesque canyon slopes and walls. Paralleling the river, a two-lane asphalt county road bisects the ACEC. This is the main road that recreating visitors use to get to the area, which includes the popular Owyhee Reservoir. BLM's Snively Hot Springs and the interpretive site of the existing Lower Owyhee Canyon Watchable Wildlife Area currently have limited recreation support facilities to accommodate visitors within the corridor. The river corridor receives some of the highest recreational use in the planning area and is being designated in this plan as a SRMA. The BOR's approved Owyhee Reservoir RMP (April 1994) emphasizes cooperative efforts with BLM for the protection of important resource values and enhancement of recreation opportunities and uses within the river canyon. The BLM adheres to conditions of a national agreement in the management of FERC-administered land located within the ACEC.

The relevant and important values of the ACEC include high scenic values of diverse landscape elements in a substantially natural setting, a special status plant species (Mulford's milkvetch), the rare presence of a black cottonwood gallery in a riverine system, and the combined wildlife values of diverse habitat types supporting a large number of wildlife species and an important migratory corridor for neotropical birds.

Other developments within the ACEC include several bladed dirt roads leading mostly out of the river canyon bottom from the county asphalt road, and several indiscriminate short two-track primitive vehicle routes on the canyon bottom along the river. There is evidence of past minerals material extraction along the river's floodplain. There are two communication relay sites, and a high voltage power line crosses the canyon corridor. The southeast portion of the ACEC has telephone, power line, road and irrigation water tunnel rights-of-way associated with the BOR's Owyhee Irrigation Project. Portions of four livestock management allotments are within the potential ACEC.

Controlled releases from Owyhee Dam have variable effects on the riparian ecosystem along the river corridor. Based on evaluations of the river corridor, those segments of the river within the potential ACEC, with adjacent BLM-administered land, have been determined eligible and suitable for possible inclusion in NWSR System.

The ACEC has a moderate to high potential for the discovery of hot springs and epithermal-related gold/silver/mercury deposits and geothermal resources, and a moderate potential for the occurrence of uranium and oil and gas. It has a low potential for all other leasable and locatable minerals.

While there are no current mining claims located within the ACEC, the surrounding area, especially the Grassy Mountain area, located some 3 miles to the northwest, has been the focus of intensive exploration in recent years, mainly for hot springs gold, largely between 1986 and 1994; consequently, it has a moderate to high potential for development of hot springs and epithermal gold/silver/mercury deposits. Although there has been little interest in geothermal resources in the ACEC, the presence of two hot springs indicate moderate to high potential for the development of low temperature, direct-use geothermal resources. Mineable quantities of uranium may occur within the boundaries of the ACEC; however, a lack of interest in the commodity and an absence of a significant domestic industry suggests a low potential for development of uranium. Likewise, a lack of known occurrences and an absence of production indicate a low potential for the development of oil and gas resources.

Specific management: New rights-of-way will be granted only if there is minimal conflict with the identified relevant and important resource values and adverse impacts could be mitigated. Existing rights-of-way will not be affected. Provisions will be included to enable the performance of operations and issuance of rights-of-way needed to adequately manage and maintain existing authorized facilities and the BOR's Owyhee Irrigation Project. Motorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails; some existing trails will be closed, and their location will be on file in the Vale District Office. The area will be VRM Class II. Plant collecting will require a permit. The area will be open to road maintenance. Leasable minerals activities will be subject to the NSO stipulation within a defined foreground viewshed, while the remaining area will be open with standard stipulations. The foreground viewshed will also be withdrawn from locatable minerals activities, with the remainder of the area open. The ACEC will be open to saleable minerals development, but with such activities within the defined foreground restricted to those past extraction sites and to the extent needed to allow for their rehabilitation. Proposed recreation site improvements or developments will be allowable where resource protection, public safety, health, and/or enhanced recreation experience will be provided while maintaining or enhancing relevant and important ACEC values. Livestock use will continue based on existing permit stipulations and approved AMP's. Any proposed changes in grazing, including time and intensity of use, will be evaluated for impacts on the relevant and important values and will be permitted if the values will be maintained or enhanced. Grazing will be adjusted where adverse impacts are identified using a variety of methods, including but not limited to fencing, reduction in numbers, and changes in grazing season. Proposed projects will be evaluated for impacts and permitted where relevant and important values will be maintained or enhanced.

Rationale: While existing management has partially served to help protect values of the area, the management for minerals, proposed rights-of-way, OHV, livestock operations, and other surface-disturbing activities will provide a more appropriate degree of management of, and protection for, the relevant and important values.

Owyhee Views ACEC

Description and values: The Owyhee Views ACEC includes 52,506 acres of public land adjacent to BOR's 53-mile long Owyhee Reservoir and certain land adjacent to the lower most portion of the congressionally designated Owyhee NWSR. The ACEC consists of the landscape as observed from the reservoir and certain maintained roads in the area. Nearby ACEC's (Leslie Gulch, Honeycombs, Dry Creek Gorge and Owyhee River Below the Dam) and the existing Owyhee Wild and Scenic River management area are not included in this ACEC. The highly picturesque landscape is rugged and largely dissected with ridges and

steep slopes, vertical canyon walls and isolated, towering buttes of the Owyhee River canyonlands. Multiple deep-cut and highly scenic side canyons are cut by ephemeral drainages which extend to the reservoir.

The relevant and important values of the ACEC include the high scenic properties associated with the area's virtually unaltered landscape, special status bighorn sheep and habitat, and special status plant species (sterile milkvetch, Ertter's senecio, and Owyhee clover). Another special status plant species (Cusick's chaenactis) is suspected to grow in the area. The visual sensitivity of the area is elevated due to the current level and expected future increases of recreation use, both on the reservoir and within the ACEC.

Portions of two WSA's are located within the ACEC. Dry Creek Buttes (3-56) and Wild Horse Basin (3-77B), are recommended by BLM not to be congressionally designated as wilderness.

The BOR manages Owyhee Reservoir and its associated threaded corridor of acquired private and withdrawn public land that encompass the reservoir. Following 4 years of extensive public involvement, the BOR approved its "Owyhee Reservoir RMP/EIS" in 1994. The agency established a citizen's task force to assist in development of the "Owyhee Reservoir RMP/EIS." Proposals for management of the RMP/EIS reflect the task force's recommendation that the reservoir's setting should remain in a substantially unaltered, natural state. As the largest reservoir in Oregon, the absence of substantial development within its highly scenic and visually sensitive canyon setting remains an attractive attribute for recreation users. There is an increasing trend of dispersed recreation use within the ACEC. Activities include hiking, big and small game hunting, backpacking, photography, wildlife and potential wild horse observation, and geologic and general sightseeing.

The ACEC includes portions of eight livestock grazing allotments, and a portion of the Three Fingers Wild Horse HMA is within the area.

The ACEC has a moderate to high potential for the occurrence, and development, of precious metals (particularly hot springs related gold deposits). Interest was especially high between 1986 and 1992, with most of the exploration occurring within the Dry Creek Buttes WSA. Mining claims were also located in other portions of the ACEC, mainly within the Wild Horse Basin, Blue Canyon and Owyhee Breaks WSA's. Presently, two picture jasper operations are the only minerals development activities occurring within the ACEC.

Specific management: New rights-of-way will be granted only if there is minimal conflict with the identified relevant and important values and impacts could be mitigated. Existing rights-of-way will not be affected. An OHV closed area will be located in the southwest portion of the ACEC, and the OHV use within the remainder of the area will be limited to designated roads and trails. The area will be VRM Class I. Plant collecting will require a permit. Road maintenance will be limited to the existing roadway, and shoulder/barrow ditch construction will be limited to that necessary to control runoff, minimize soil erosion, and ensure public safety and serviceability of the road. Leasable minerals activities will be subject to NSO stipulations. The area will be closed to saleable minerals development and withdrawn from locatable minerals activities. Livestock use will continue based on existing permit stipulations and approved AMP's. Any changes in grazing, including time and intensity of use, will be evaluated for impacts on the relevant and important values and will be permitted if the values will be maintained or enhanced. Where adverse impacts are identified, existing livestock use will be adjusted using a variety of methods, including but not limited to, fencing, reduction in livestock numbers, and changes in grazing season. Proposed projects in the area will be evaluated for impacts and permitted where relevant and important values will be maintained or enhanced.

Rationale: The protection and opportunities for enhancement of a significant portion of the area's important and relevant values will be fully realized by maintaining the existing landscape in a virtually unaltered state and with VRM Class I management.

South Alkali Sand Hills ACEC

Description and values: The 3,520-acre South Alkali Sand Hills ACEC is located northeast of Vale, northwest of Ontario, Oregon, and west of Henry Gulch, and encompasses several ridges and drainages within the low, hilly country. The potential ACEC was selected to represent prime habitat and critical populations for two special status plant species, Mulford's milkvetch and Cronquist's stickseed, which are found on sandy soils in small, localized areas within a portion of the Vale District near the town of Vale. The area represents the greatest concentration known for both species growing together on a global basis.

The relevant and important values of the ACEC are the two special status plant species and their habitat.

Two dirt roads run along the two main ridges of the ACEC. A portion of one livestock grazing allotment occurs within the ACEC.

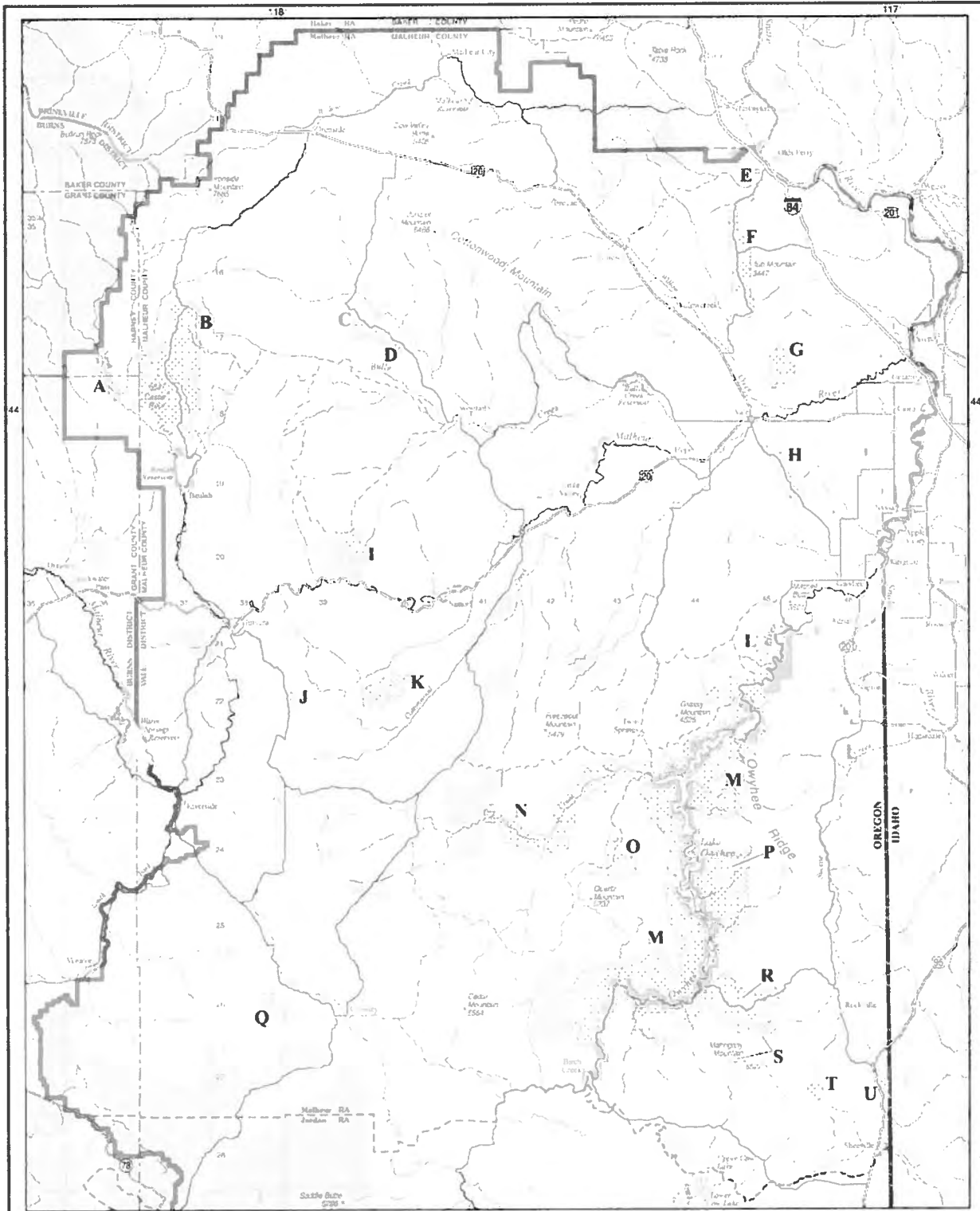
The ACEC has a high potential for the occurrence of hot springs and epithermal-related gold/silver/mercury deposits, uranium and geothermal resources, a moderate potential for the occurrence of oil and gas, and a low potential for the occurrence of all other leasable and locatable minerals. There is no record with BLM that mining claims were ever located within the boundaries of the ACEC and no demonstrated interest in either hot springs precious metals or uranium; consequently, the potential for development is low. The ACEC is within 2 miles of the Vale KGRA, which has had recent interest in geothermal development; consequently, the potential for development is high. Although traces of oil have been reported from the ACEC, a lack of demonstrated interest in the commodity, as well as a lack of current production, indicate a low potential for the development of petroleum products.

Specific management: Management will remain as described in the "South Alkali Management Plan" (1995). Rights-of-way will be granted only if there is minimal conflict with identified resource values and impacts can be mitigated. OHV use will be limited to designated roads and trails. The ACEC will be VRM Class III. Plant collecting will require a permit. Road maintenance will be limited to the existing roadway, and shoulder/barrow ditch construction will be limited to that necessary to control runoff, minimize soil erosion, and ensure public safety and serviceability of the road. Leasable minerals activities will be subject to the NSO stipulation. The area will be withdrawn from locatable minerals activities and closed to saleable minerals development. Livestock use will continue based on existing permit stipulations and approved management plans. Any proposed changes in grazing, including time and intensity of use, will be evaluated for impacts on the relevant and important values and will be permitted if values will be maintained or enhanced. Existing livestock use will be adjusted where adverse impacts are identified using a variety of methods, including but not limited to fencing, reduction in livestock numbers, and changes in grazing season. Proposed projects in the area will be evaluated for impacts and permitted where relevant and important values will be maintained or enhanced.

Rationale: While existing management has partially served to protect values of the area, the proposed management for minerals, VRM, livestock, rights-of-way, and other surface-disturbing activities will more adequately protect the relevant and important values.

South Bull Canyon ACEC/RNA

Description and values: The 792-acre South Bull Canyon ACEC/RNA is located south of the Malheur River approximately 6 miles to the southeast of Juntura, Oregon, along the road



LEGEND

— Southeastern Oregon RMP Planning Area Boundary

▨ Area of Critical Environmental Concern/ Research Natural Area

Malheur Resource Area ACECs/RNAs

- A - North Fork Malheur River ACEC
- B - Castle Rock ACEC
- C - North Ridge Bully Creek ACEC/RNA
- D - South Ridge Bully Creek ACEC/RNA
- E - Oregon Trail - Birch Creek ACEC
- F - Oregon Trail - Top Mountain ACEC/RNA
- G - South A Hill Sand Hills ACEC
- H - Oregon Trail - Keeney Pass ACEC
- I - Black Canyon ACEC/RNA
- J - South Bull Canyon ACEC/RNA
- K - Lake Ridge ACEC/RNA
- L - Owyhee River Below the Dam ACEC
- M - Owyhee Views ACEC
- N - Dry Creek Gorge ACEC
- O - Hammond Hill Sand Hills ACEC/RNA
- P - Honeycombs ACEC/RNA
- Q - Stockade Mountain ACEC/RNA
- R - Leslie Gulch ACEC
- S - Mahogany Ridge ACEC/RNA
- T - Spring Mountain ACEC/RNA
- U - Coal Mine Basin ACEC/RNA

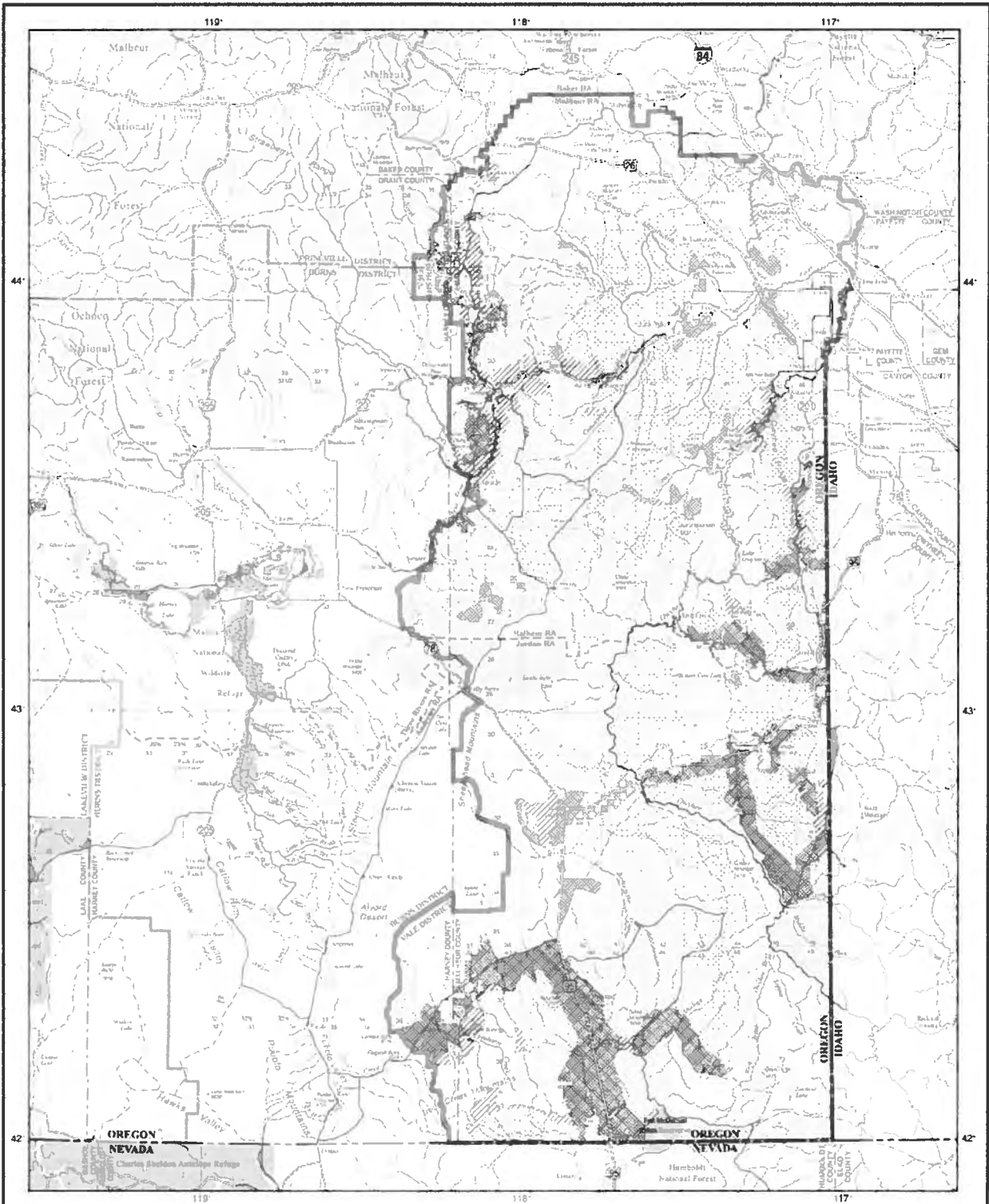
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
VALE DISTRICT
Malheur Resource Area Portion
2002








SOUTHEASTERN OREGON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

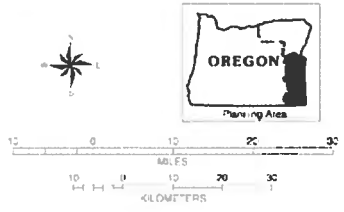
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Map ACEC-M: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern / Research Natural Areas



LEGEND

-  Class I
-  Class II
-  Class III
-  Class IV
-  Southeastern Oregon RMP Planning Area Boundary



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 Bureau of Land Management
VALE DISTRICT
 2002



**SOUTHEASTERN OREGON
 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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Map VRM: Visual Resource Management

2.3.3 BLM Boise District, Owyhee Resource Management Plan (1999) Excerpts

OWYHEE

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP)

December 30, 1999



U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management
Lower Snake River District • Boise Field Office



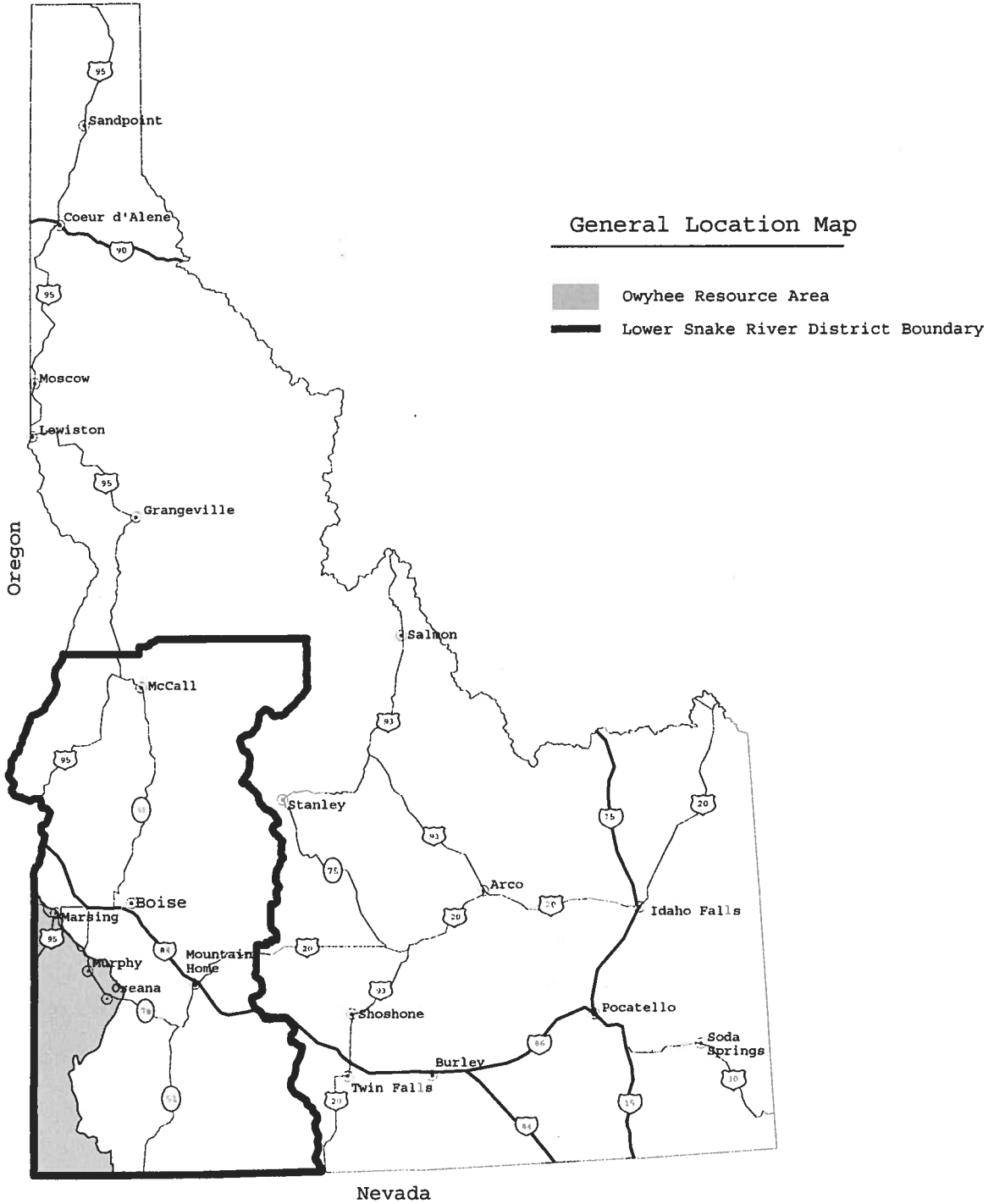


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Owyhee Resource Management Plan Objectives, Management Actions and Allocations

Visual Resources

Objective:

VISL 1: Manage public lands for visual resource values under Visual Resource Management (VRM) classifications.

Rationale: The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA; P.L. 94-579), Section 102(8), declares as policy that public lands will be managed to "... protect the quality of the scenic values... that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition." The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; P.L. 9-190), Section 101(b), requires federal agencies to "... assure for all Americans... esthetically pleasing surroundings." Section 102 of NEPA requires agencies to "...utilize a systematic, interdisciplinary approach which will ensure the integrated use of ... Environmental Design Acts in the planning and decision making..." process. Guidelines for the identification of VRM classes on public lands is contained in BLM Manual Handbook 8410-1, Visual Resource Inventory. The establishment of VRM areas is based upon an evaluation of the landscapes' scenic qualities, public sensitivity toward certain areas (such as special recreation designations or wilderness), and the location of affected lands from major travel corridors (distance zoning).

Monitoring:

- In VRM Class I and Class II areas, on-site visual quality control inspections will occur at the time of project construction, reconstruction, and maintenance.
- In VRM Class III and IV areas, ongoing quality control inspections of ORA project work in general will be done, however, attendance at specific project sites during construction, reconstruction, and maintenance will not be required.

Management Actions and Allocations:

1. Classify and manage public lands under the following VRM classifications:

Class I areas:	71,332 acres
Class II areas:	242,150 acres
Class II-IMP areas:	123,496 acres
Class III areas:	144,785 acres
Class IV areas:	738,228 acres

See Map VISL-1.

See Appendix VISL-1 for classification and objectives.

Cultural Resources

Objective:

CULT 1: Protect known cultural resource values from loss until their significance is determined.

Rationale: The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 identifies federal agency responsibilities to preserve prehistoric and historic cultural resources. Cultural resource sites are deteriorating from the effects of vandalism and neglect.



Owyhee Resource Management Plan Objectives, Management Actions and Allocations

Monitoring:

- Monitor cultural resource sites to determine site condition and mitigation needs.

Management Actions and Allocations:

1. Monitor a minimum of 15 cultural resource sites each year to determine site condition and provide information for developing management actions.
2. Mitigate the negative impacts to significant cultural resource sites known to be suffering the effects of agents of deterioration.
3. Develop management strategies to ensure preservation of cultural resource values within specific areas known to contain concentrations of unique or significant cultural resource sites.

Objective:

CULT 2: Provide special management emphasis for the protection and conservation of significant cultural resource sites and values.

Rationale: The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 provides for the protection of cultural resource values on land managed by federal agencies and identifies federal agency responsibilities to preserve prehistoric and historic cultural resources.

Monitoring:

- According to schedule outlined in the Oregon Trail Management Plan and the Birds of Prey Cultural Resource Management Plan.
- Make three site visits per year to ensure Silver City homeowner compliance with Owyhee County Historic Preservation Committee recommendations.

Management Actions and Allocations:

1. Protect the integrity of those portions of the 80 mile Oregon Trail and associated cultural resource sites on public land. See Map CULT-1.
2. Manage the existing Silver City, DeLamar and Guffey Butte/Black Butte Historic Districts in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. See Map CULT-1.
3. Manage the existing Guffey Butte/Black Butte Archaeological District ACEC to protect cultural resource values. See Table ACEC-1 and Map CULT-1.
4. Identify, evaluate, and nominate sites/areas that qualify to the National Register of Historic Places and prepare Cultural Resource Management Plans for those sites.



Owyhee Resource Management Plan Objectives, Management Actions and Allocations

2. Increase law enforcement actions and public education to reduce the amount of illegal disposal of hazardous materials on public lands.
3. Implement remediation/removal actions for hazardous materials incidents on public lands in a timely and efficient manner.
4. Actively pursue having the polluter pay for hazardous material incidents and cost reimbursement for actions taken by the BLM when a responsible party is identified.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

Objective:

ACEC 1: Retain existing and designate new areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs) where relevance and importance criteria are met and where special management is needed to protect the values identified.

Rationale: Section 202 (c)(3) of FLPMA mandates that priority be given to the designation and protection of areas of critical environmental concern. Further guidance and evaluation criteria are found at 43 CFR Part 1610.7-2.

Monitoring:

- Relevant and important values of each designated ACEC would be monitored on a regular schedule to evaluate the effectiveness of management in maintaining those values.

Management Actions and Allocations:

1. Designate the following as areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs): See Map ACEC-1.
 - Guffey Butte/Black Butte Archaeological District (7,750 acres).
 - Owyhee River Bighorn Sheep Habitat Area (141,796 acres).
 - Boulder Creek Outstanding Natural Area (6,978 acres).
 - North Fork Juniper Woodland Outstanding Natural Area (4,204 acres).
 - Cinnabar Mountain Research Natural Area (277 acres).
 - Coal Mine Basin Research Natural Area (1,604 acres).
 - Jump Creek Canyon (612 acres).
 - McBride Creek Research Natural Area (261 acres).
 - Pleasant Valley Table Research Natural Area (1,467 acres).
 - Sommercamp Butte Research Natural Area (440 acres).
 - Squaw Creek Research Natural Area (150 acres).
 - The Badlands Research Natural Area (1833 acres).

The total acreage of the 12 designated areas is 167,372 acres.



Owyhee Resource Management Plan Objectives, Management Actions and Allocations

2. Designate The Tules as a Research Natural Area (114 acres). The Tules is within the boundary of the Owyhee River Bighorn Sheep Habitat Area ACEC.
3. Manage designated ACECs with the special management actions identified in Table ACEC-1.
4. Complete enclosure fencing of Squaw Creek RNA/ACEC and a segment of McBride Creek RNA/ACEC within two years.



Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

ACECs are defined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) as areas within the public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards. Areas designated as Research Natural Areas (RNAs) and Outstanding Natural Areas (ONAs) are also designated as ACECs.

Guffey Butte/Black Butte Archaeological District (7,750 acres)

The Guffey Butte/Black Butte Archaeological District was first designated as an ACEC on March 30, 1983 in the Kuna Management Framework Plan. The boundary encompasses 32,228 acres (26,714 public land acres) along 33 miles on both the north and south sides of the Snake River Canyon and corresponds with the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area boundary established in 1971. This area is within the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area established in 1993 by Public Law 103-64. About 7,750 acres of the Guffey Butte/Black Butte ACEC are within the Owyhee Resource Area. The remainder of the ACEC is located in the Bruneau Resource Area.

The Guffey Butte/Black Butte Archaeological District has long been known to be an area of intense prehistoric occupation. Its significance was recognized by its placement on the National Register of Historic Places in February, 1979. The 114 sites which comprise the district include a wide diversity of historic and prehistoric sites. The historic sites include Swan Falls Dam, Guffey townsite and railroad bridge, and the Halverson Bar mining settlement. A portion of the Oregon Trail also passes through the area. The prehistoric sites include a spectacular rock art site known as the Wees Bar petroglyph field and Shellbach Cave, the first scientifically excavated site in Idaho.

Owyhee River Bighorn Sheep Habitat Area (141,796 acres)

The Owyhee River Bighorn Sheep Habitat Area was first designated as an ACEC on March 30, 1983 in the Bruneau and Owyhee Management Framework Plans. The boundaries of that ACEC encompassed 180,000 acres along the Owyhee River and in the Battle Creek-Deep Creek-East Fork Owyhee River and the South Fork Owyhee River areas; 129,763 acres in the Owyhee Resource Area with the remainder in the Bruneau Resource Area. The ACEC was designated to protect and enhance habitat for bighorn sheep, to maintain or improve the habitat to at least a good range condition class, and to protect and maintain the scenic and natural values present in the area. Habitat evaluation has resulted in identification of an additional 12,033 acres of suitable bighorn sheep habitat for a total of 141,796 acres in the Owyhee Resource Area. The ACEC is located within the following six Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) of the Owyhee Resource Area: Owyhee River Canyon, Little Owyhee River, Owyhee River-Deep Creek, South Fork Owyhee River, Yatahoney Creek, and Juniper Creek. All six of these areas have been recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. The Tules area, which encompasses 114 acres, is within the southeast portion of the Bighorn Sheep Habitat Area ACEC (see description below). The Tules is designated as an RNA only since it is encompassed by the much larger ACEC.

California bighorn sheep, a BLM sensitive species which formerly occupied this region, were reintroduced into this area during the 1960's. It is estimated that about 500-700 bighorns occupy this area at the present time and it is anticipated that the populations will continue to expand into adjacent habitat in Nevada. The bighorns have already extended their range into the adjacent habitat in Oregon. In addition to bighorn sheep, the area also contains a diversity of other special status animal species including wintering bald eagles, ferruginous hawks, sage grouse, redband trout and several species of bats and neotropical



Appendix ACEC-1 Area of Critical Environmental Concern

migratory birds. The ACEC also contains crucial deer winter habitat, as well as habitat for pronghorn antelope, mountain lion, river otter, beaver, chukar, and a diversity of waterfowl, raptors and other nongame birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibian species typically associated with riparian, canyon and shrub steppe habitats. The area contains numerous rugged, deep canyons which have exceptionally high scenic quality, and the Owyhee River, a popular early spring whitewater boating river. This river segment has been recommended suitable as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. It has also been designated as a Stream Segment of Concern (SSOC).

Boulder Creek (6,978 acres)

Boulder Creek is comprised of a deep, winding canyon which cuts through a basalt and rhyolite tableland. A 10,741 acre area was recognized as an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) in the 1981 Owyhee MFP based on high scenic values and multiple natural resource values. Interdisciplinary analysis concluded that 6,978 public land acres meet the ACEC criteria. This area is designated an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA/ACEC).

The dominant plant communities represented in the area include western juniper-Idaho fescue (*Juniperus occidentalis-Festuca idahoensis*) and western juniper-low sagebrush (*Artemisia arbuscula*), in addition to the riparian shrub component. The area also contains a number of special status animal species including redband trout, sage grouse and several species of bats and neotropical migratory birds as well as other wildlife including elk, mule deer, mountain lion, pronghorn antelope, river otter, beaver, chukar partridge, and a diversity of waterfowl, raptors, mammals and other nongame species.

Cinnabar Mountain (277 acres)

Cinnabar Mountain, on the eastern edge of the Owyhee Mountains and at an elevation of 7,000 feet, contains excellent examples of reasonably undisturbed high elevation mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) communities. It also includes a low sagebrush-bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*) community on a windswept portion of Hayden Peak. Extensive historical as well as current use of the Owyhee Mountains has resulted in few such communities in excellent condition. Therefore, Cinnabar Mountain serves as a valuable rangeland reference area. Because of its elevation, Cinnabar Mountain also has high scenic values. A number of special status animal species are known or expected to occur in the area including sage grouse, one or more species of bats and neotropical migratory birds and a diversity of other wildlife species including elk, mule deer, mountain lion, several species of raptors and other nongame animals. Cinnabar Mountain is designated a Research Natural Area (RNA/ACEC).

Coal Mine Basin (1,604 acres)

The extensive and colorful ash beds present in Coal Mine Basin contain a diverse assemblage of plant communities, three BLM special status plant species, a large diversity of special status and other animal species, scenic values, and fossils of both vertebrates and plants. Smooth stickleaf (*Mentzelia mollis*), Packard's lomatium (*Lomatium packardiae*), and Malheur yellow phacelia (*Phacelia lutea* var. *calva*), are narrow endemic BLM sensitive plant species present at several locations within the area. Other special status plants such as Owyhee clover (*Trifolium owyheense*) and biennial princesplume (*Stanleya confertiflora*), grow in similar habitats but have not yet been found in this area. Plant communities include Wyoming sagebrush-bluebunch wheatgrass (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*), mountain mahogany-Idaho fescue, Wyoming sagebrush-Idaho fescue, Great Basin wildrye (*Elymus cinereus*), needle-and-thread grass (*Stipa comata*), and low sage-Idaho fescue. Fossils of roots, leaves, fish, Oreodonts, and horses may



be found throughout the area. The layering and color variation of the ash flows combined with their topographic relief create a rugged and highly scenic landscape. Among the special status animal species known or very likely to occur are sage grouse, pygmy rabbit, and several species of bats and neotropical migratory birds as well as mule deer, pronghorn antelope, chukar, gray partridge, and a diversity of raptors and other nongame birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. This area is designated a Research Natural Area (RNA/ACEC). Seven hundred fifty-five acres (755) adjacent to this area were addressed by the Vale District, Oregon BLM for designation as an RNA/ACEC in the October 1998 Draft Southeast Oregon RMP/EIS. If designated in Oregon, the two adjoining areas would have the same name and be referred to collectively as the Coal Mine Basin RNA/ACEC.

Jump Creek Canyon (612 acres)

Jump Creek Canyon contains excellent examples of several different undisturbed riparian communities along its perennial stream, a diversity of special status animal and other wildlife species, pockets of excellent condition Wyoming sagebrush-bluebunch wheatgrass, and high scenic values. Riparian communities include syringa-red-osier dogwood (*Philadelphus lewisii* - *Cornus stolonifera*), water birch-syringa (*Betula occidentalis*), and a water birch gallery forest. Special status animal species include redband trout which occur throughout the length of the creek, several species of bats and neotropical migratory birds that are known or expected to occur within riparian and canyon habitats bordering the creek and adjacent sagebrush steppe uplands, and the Mojave black-collared lizard which occurs in outcrops near the lower end of the canyon. Mule deer, mountain lion, various raptors and other nongame birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish also occur within this unique area. The presence of numerous waterfalls, springs, pools, and steep canyon walls have created a unique and highly scenic environment. A small portion of the area is currently designated as a recreation site, and the remainder is within the Jump Creek SRMA. Jump Creek is designated as a Stream Segment of Concern (SSOC).

McBride Creek (261 acres)

McBride Creek provides habitat for four BLM sensitive species, including smooth stickleaf, barren milkvetch (*Astragalus sterilis*), Cusick's false yarrow (*Chaenactis cusickii*), and Malheur yellow phacelia. All four are limited in distribution to volcanic ash flows on or near the Idaho-Oregon border. The area is designated a Research Natural Area (RNA/ACEC).

North Fork Juniper Woodland (4,204 acres)

This area includes the North Fork Owyhee River Canyon and several tributary drainages which shed water from rhyolitic rock outcrop uplands at 5,000 to 5,800 feet elevation. This area was designated as an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) in the 1981 Owyhee MFP. The area was also evaluated on the basis of "illustrative character, condition, diversity, rarity, and value for science and education" and, in 1987, the National Park Service recommended that the area be designated the North Fork Owyhee River National Natural Landmark (NNL) as the best example of a "montane western juniper woodland subtheme" in the Columbia Plateau Natural Region.

This area is dominated by a canopy of old-growth and mature stands of western juniper, with an upland understory of Idaho fescue intermingled with low sagebrush. Willow (*Salix*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), dogwood, alder (*Alnus* spp.), currant (*Ribes* spp.), wild rose (*Rosa woodsii*), sedges (*Carex* spp.) and grasses are dominant along the perennial and intermittent stream channels in the canyon bottoms. The area supports a number of special status animal species including redband trout and several species of bats and neotropical migratory birds as well as other wildlife including elk, mule deer, mountain lion, river



otter, beaver and a diversity of waterfowl, raptors and other nongame birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians typically associated with western juniper, riparian and shrub steppe habitats. This segment of the North Fork Owyhee River has been recommended suitable as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. The area is also within the North Fork Owyhee River WSA which has been recommended suitable for wilderness designation. This area is designated an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA/ACEC).

Pleasant Valley Table (1,467 acres)

Present within Pleasant Valley Table are excellent examples of Owyhee sagebrush-Sandberg bluegrass (*Artemisia papposa-Poa secunda*) and low sagebrush-Idaho fescue community types. The area has remained relatively undisturbed due to its rocky terrain. Owyhee sagebrush was at one time listed as a special status plant species in Idaho, but it has since been removed from that list. Although it is still a regional endemic, it is more common than previously believed. However, extensive and good condition communities dominated by this species are rare. Pleasant Valley Table also contains a rare community type occupied by silver sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*) and Idaho fescue. A number of special status animal species including sage grouse and several species of bats and neotropical migratory birds are known or expected to occur within the area as well as other wildlife including elk, mule deer, mountain lion, and a diversity of raptors and other nongame birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians typically associated with sagebrush steppe habitats. The entire area is within the North Fork Owyhee River WSA which has been recommended suitable for wilderness designation. This area is designated a Research Natural Area (RNA/ACEC).

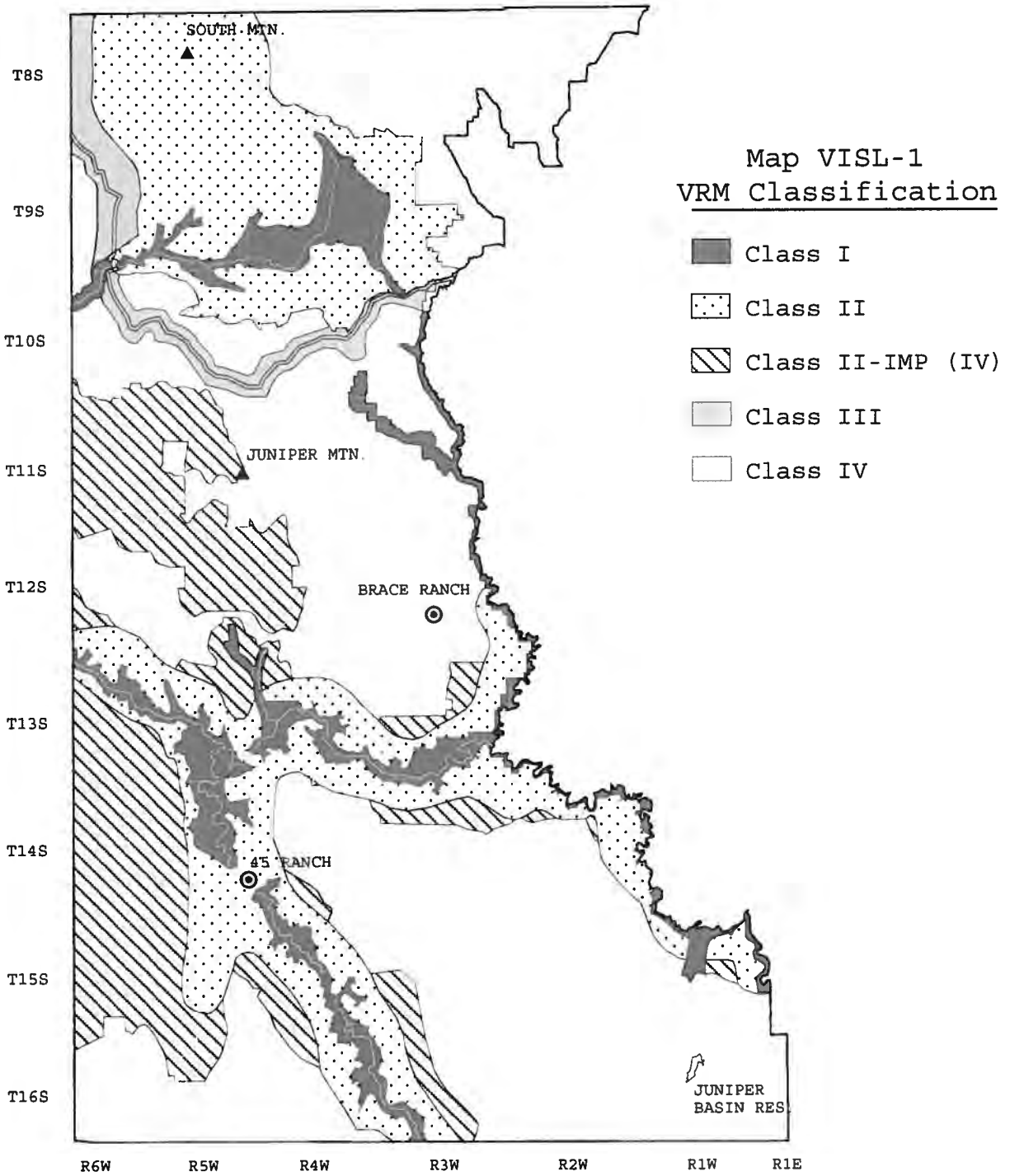
Sommercamp Butte (440 acres)

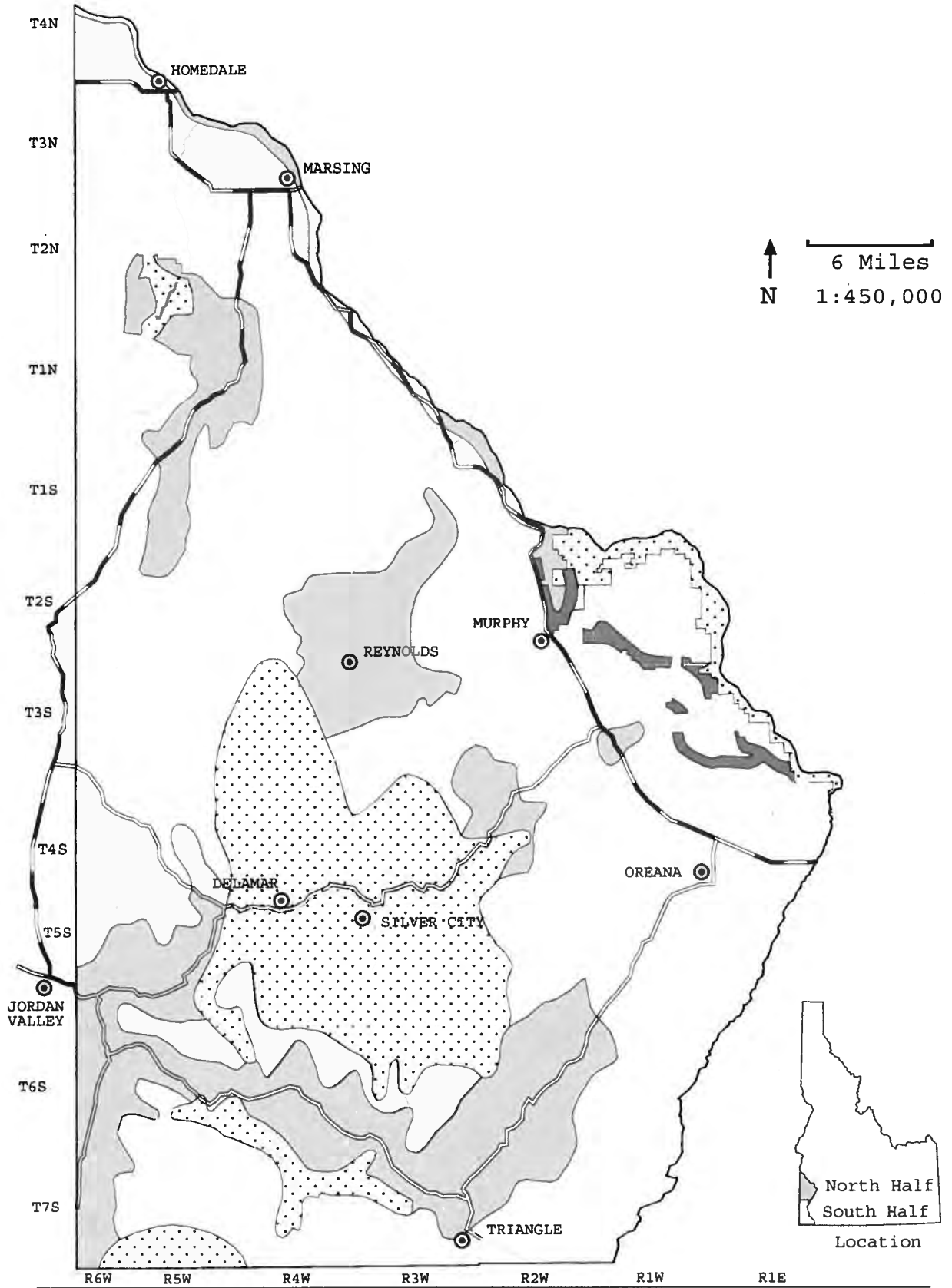
This area is noteworthy for its extensive, good ecological condition mountain mahogany-bluebunch wheatgrass community type. The rimrock butte top supports a mountain mahogany-gland ocean-spray (*Holodiscus dumosus*) community type. Mountain mahogany communities are currently poorly represented in special management areas within the Owyhee Uplands ecological region. The Sommercamp Butte area ranges in elevation from 6,000 to 6,360 feet. Because of its elevation, Sommercamp Butte also has relatively high scenic values. It is bordered to the north and east by State of Idaho land. Special status animal species known or expected to occur in the area include sage grouse, numerous neotropical migratory birds, bats, and a diversity of other wildlife including elk, mule deer, pronghorn, and a variety of raptors and other nongame species. Sommercamp Butte is designated a Research Natural Area (RNA/ACEC).

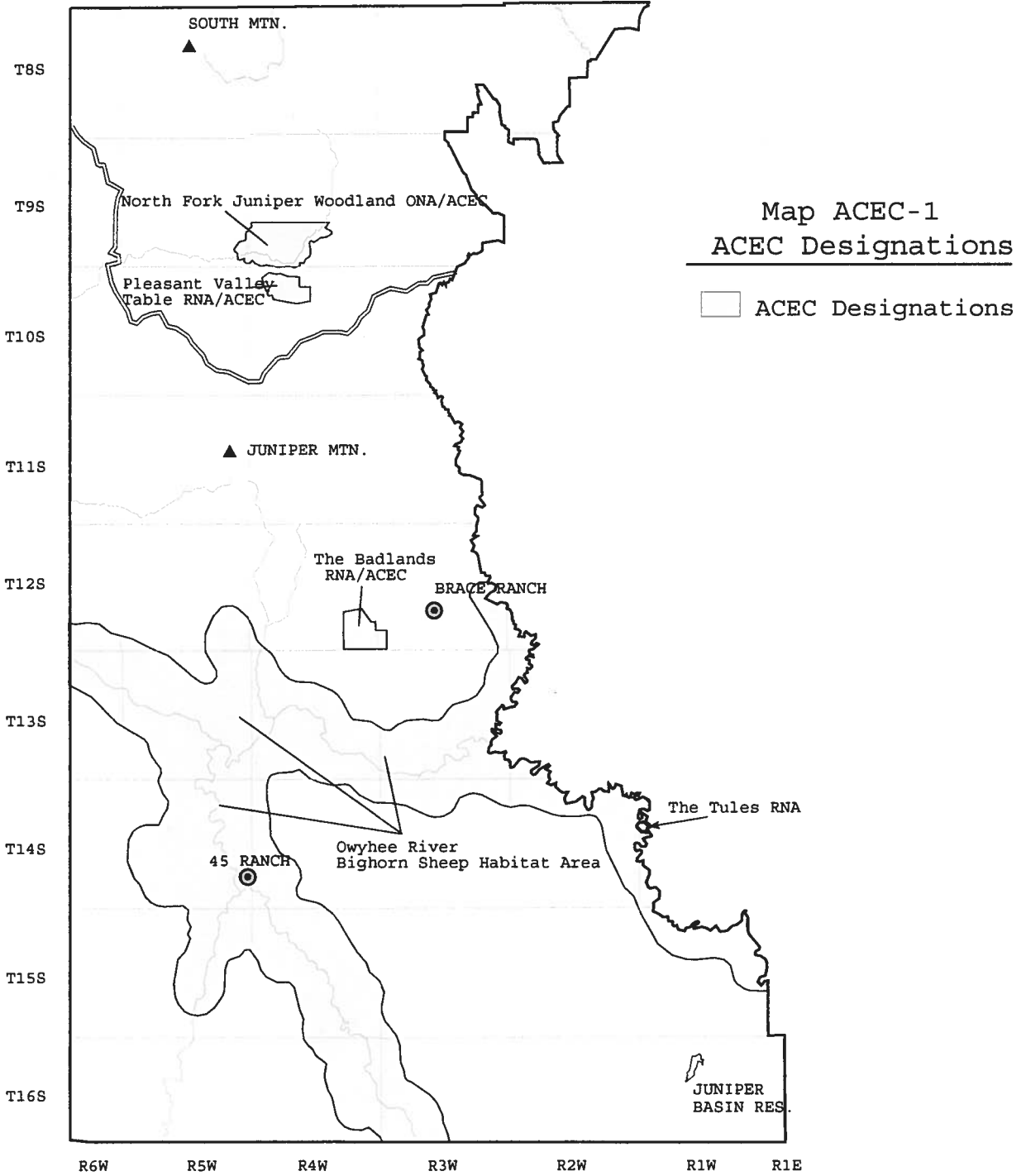
Squaw Creek (150 acres)

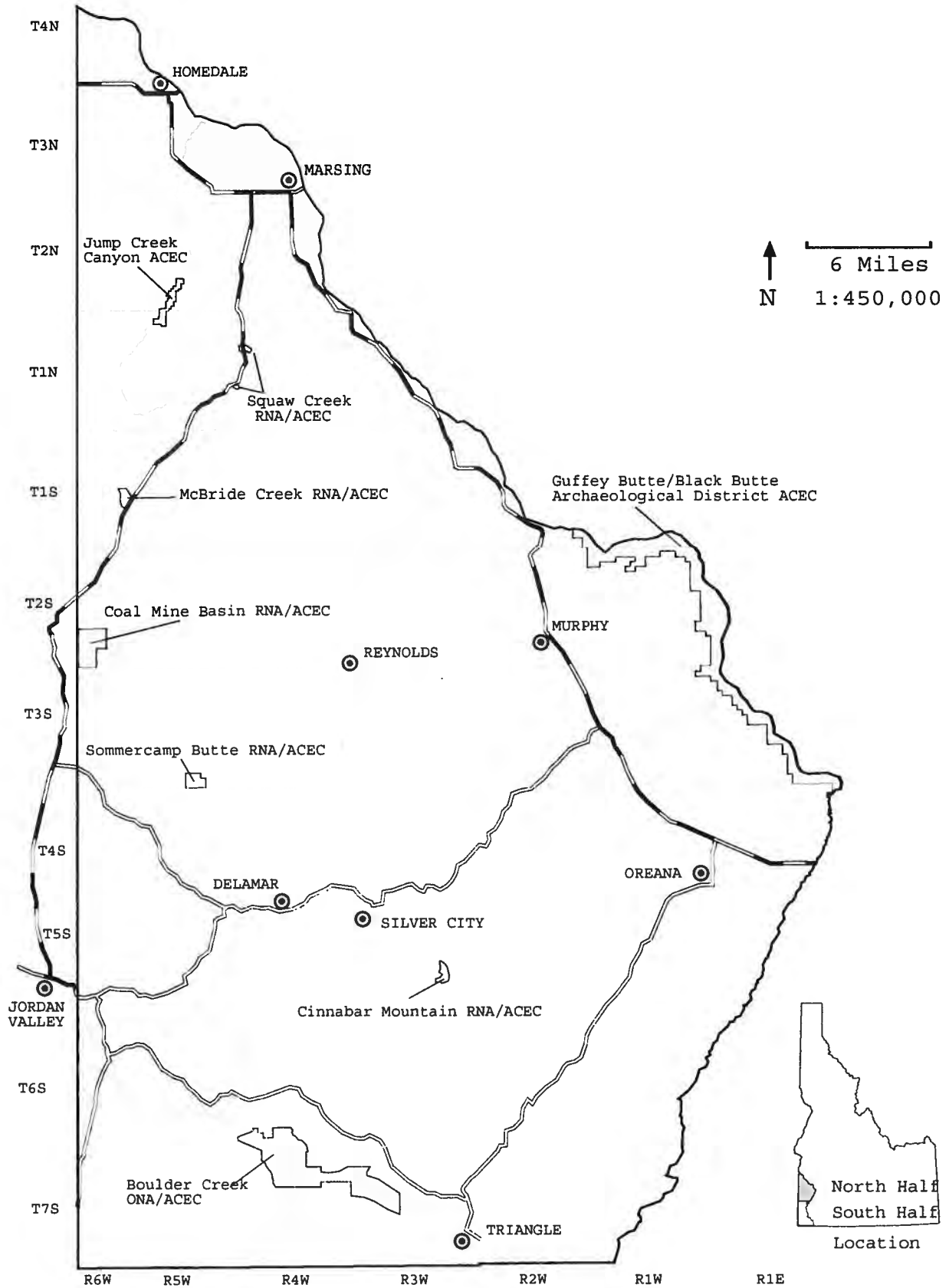
Two of the three physically separated portions of Squaw Creek are represented by excellent condition, low elevation Wyoming sagebrush-bluebunch wheatgrass communities. The northeast segment is within the Hardtrigger Wild Horse Herd Management Area. Both of the northern segments have been partially protected from livestock grazing by a lack of water, topography, and the presence of an old road-cut on all but one side. The third parcel to the south burned in 1989, and is now a bluebunch wheatgrass community, with Wyoming sagebrush beginning to return. It is also in excellent condition due to nearly complete isolation from grazing for many years. All areas contain an extensive microbiotic soil crust, resulting in little exposed soil. Squaw Creek is particularly valuable as a rangeland reference area, since so few low elevation bunchgrass communities in excellent condition remain. Special status animal species known or likely to occur in this area include sage grouse, California bighorn sheep, and several species of bats and neotropical migratory birds as well as other wildlife including mule deer, chukar, gray partridge, and a diversity of raptors and other nongame birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. This area is designated a Research Natural Area (RNA/ACEC).











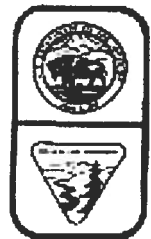
2.3.4 BLM Boise District, Cascade Resource Management Plan (1987) Excerpts

C A S C A D E

Proposed Resource Management Plan

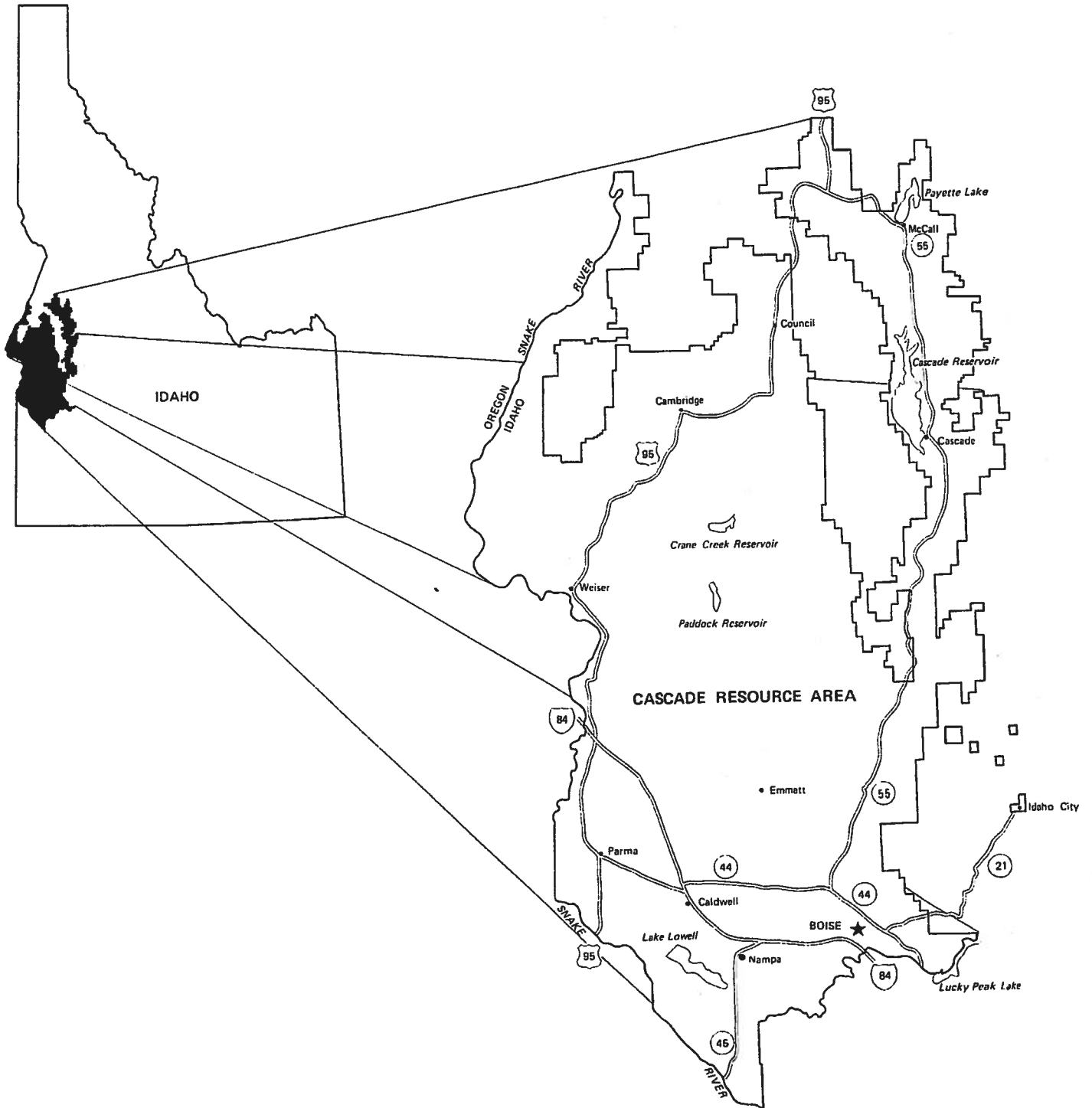
and

Final Environmental Impact Statement



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Boise District, Idaho
August 1987

MAP 1



GENERAL LOCATION MAP

PART I

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Selection of Preferred Alternative

Designation of these open play areas helps to divert this use from other more fragile areas and provide the opportunity to concentrate facilities to accommodate use.

The areas identified as closed to off-road vehicle use are those with candidate or sensitive plant species, proposed/existing developed recreation sites, and a motorcycle park buffer zone.

Developed Site

Twenty-one areas have been identified for various levels of recreation management. Facilities will be managed/developed at 16 specific sites within these areas (campgrounds, boat launch, trails, high ORV use areas).

Rationale

The plan identifies the need for designated sites primarily to accommodate increased demand on the important river systems (Weiser, Snake and Payette Rivers).

Because of the public land pattern in the Cascade Resource Area, most of the important recreation areas are located fairly close to population areas on lands administered by other state and federal agencies.

The recreationalist can utilize developed facilities provided by private enterprise, state parks or National Forest recreation sites while recreating on the adjacent public lands.

VRM

Visual resource classes in the resource area will be managed as follows: 81,000 acres as Class II; 383,466 acres as Class III; 23,000 acres as Class IV.

Rationale

The visual resource management system will be used to identify management proposals that may impact aesthetic values. The degree of alterations to the natural landscape would be guided by the criteria for the visual resource management classes in BLM Manual 8400.

Wilderness

The Box Creek WSA (111-91A) was not analyzed for wilderness in this document.

Rationale

The original wilderness inventory identified Box Creek as a wilderness study area because of its proximity to a National Forest roadless area. A separate EIS for areas less than 5,000 acres will evaluate this area for further wilderness consideration.

Designate and manage 21 areas as follows:

Sites	Special Management Areas		Minerals (acres)			ROW 1/			ORV (acres) 2/		
			Locat-ables	Lease-ables		Avoidance (acres)			0	L	C
				With-drawal	Clo-sed	No Surf	0	Surf			
1. Cascade Uplands <u>3/</u>	ERMA	334,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	241,498	88,039	5
2. Weiser River	Boat Launch	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
3. Clay Peak	Cycle Park	948	0	0	948	0	948	0	436	0	512
4. Oxbow Brownlee	SRMA	40,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39,779	0
5. Steck	Campground <u>5/</u>	11	0	0	11	11	11	0	0	0	11
6. Weiser Dunes	Play Area	200	0	0	0	0	200	0	200	0	0
7. Snake River	Boat Launch	10	0	0	10	10	10	0	0	10	0
8. Payette River Corridor <u>6/</u>	SRMA/WSR (2,600/8 mi)	19,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,984	0
9. North Fork	Campground <u>5/</u>	10	0	0	10	10	10	0	0	0	10
10. Garden Valley	Boat Launch	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
11. South Fork	Campground <u>5/</u>	3	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	3
12. Chief Parrish	Picnic Site	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	2
13. Boise Front <u>7/</u>	SRMA/ACEC	12,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,995	0
14. Hulls Gulch	Interpret. Trail	5	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	5
15. Treasure Valley <u>8/</u>	ERMA	72,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68,780	0
16. Little Gem	Cycle Park	3,000	0	0	0	0	3,000 <u>9/</u>	0	2,100	900	0
17. Dewey	Play Area	30	0	0	0	0	30	0	30	0	0
18. Parma	Play Area	10	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0
19. Pickles Butte	Play Area	180	0	0	0	0	180	0	180	0	0
20. Paddock Reservoir <u>5/</u>	Campground	5	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	5
21. Birds of Prey	Natural Area	640	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	640	0

1/ 0 = Overhead; Surf = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.2/ 0 = Open; L = Limited; C = Closed.3/ Specific constraints covered under Weiser River, Clay Peak and Paddock Reservoir.4/ Specific constraints covered under Steck, Weiser Dunes and Snake River.5/ Exclude or limit livestock grazing.6/ Specific constraints covered under North Fork, Garden Valley, South Fork and Chief Parrish.7/ Specific constraints covered under Hulls Gulch.8/ Specific constraints covered under Little Gem, Dewey, Parma and Pickles Butte.9/ Except for electrical transmission towers in existing right-of-way.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Projects: Water and/or sanitary facilities - 8, launch ramp - 1, access - 8

Activity Plans: RAMPs for Oxbow-Brownlee, Boise Front and Payette River Corridor.

Cultural Resources

Objectives

Protect, through special designation and management, areas with significant cultural values.

Actions

Nominate eight sites to the National Register of Historic Places and manage as shown below.

Surface and subsurface ROWs will be routed to avoid cultural sites.

Sites	NR 1/ Acres	Minerals (acres)			ROW			ORV Use		
		Locatables		Leaseables	Avoidance (acres) 5/			ORV Use (acres) 3/		
		Withdrawal	Closed	No Surf	O	S	Sub	O	L	C
1. Placerville Townsite	8 4/	8	0	8	0	8	8	0	8	0
2. Grays Creek	40	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	40	0
3. Indian Creek	20	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	20	0
4. Milk Creek	20	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	20	0
5. Cabin Creek	20	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	20	0
6. Quartzburg	386	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	386	0
7. Centerville	516	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	516	0
8. Pioneerville	581	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	581	0
9. Mineral	429	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	429	0

1/ National Register of Historic Places.

2/ Acreage to be determined by National Register nomination process.

3/ O = Open, L = Limited, C = Closed.

4/ National Register of Historic Places (existing).

5/ O = Overhead; S = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.

Projects: 5 mi. fencing

Activity Plans: CRMP (9)

Forest Resources

Objectives

Manage 26,663 acres of suitable commercial forest land for timber management and harvest.

Allow firewood harvesting (commercial and noncommercial) on forest lands.

Manage 5,232 acres of forest lands under CFL set asides. This includes 5,139 acres for TPCC withdrawal, 70 acres for seed withdrawal, and 23 acres for campground withdrawal.

Provide an annual harvest of approximately 1.7 MMBF.

Obtain access to suitable commercial forest lands through acquisition when necessary for program management.

Actions

Projects: Build 68 mi. of forest access road (3.4 miles annually)
 Acquire access on one to two areas

Activity Plans: Timber Management Plans

Special Considerations

Harvesting of suitable commercial forest land will generally be through selective cutting practices. Any clearcutting will be limited to a size of 40 acres or less. Timber harvest would occur on approximately 150-700 acres annually.

Mineral Resources

Objectives

Make 456,281 acres (94% of area) available for locatable exploration and development and 456,289 acres (94% of area) for leaseable mineral exploration and development.

Continue making available saleable minerals from three material sale sites and 16 free-use sites as needed.

Actions

Leaseables (acres)			Locatables (acres)		Saleables (acres)	
Open	Closed	No Surface Occ.	Open	Withdrawn	Available	Unavailable
456,289	31,177	3,549	456,281	31,185	95	0

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

This plan recommends ACEC designation for three areas which met the criteria (of relevance and importance) to be considered for ACEC designations (Boise Front Area; Columbian Sharp-tail Grouse Habitat Area; and the Black Canyon Long-billed Curlew Management Area). The ACECs are shown on Map 2-3. The following summarizes the description and special requirements for the three ACECs recommended in the RMP. Additional information are available at the Boise District Office, BLM.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Name: Boise Front Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Purpose

The purpose for designating 12,000 acres of the Boise Front as an ACEC is to focus attention and identify management direction on this important natural resource. Management objectives are to protect and enhance the watershed resource, quality of wildlife habitat, variety of recreation opportunities, and scenic values.

Site Description

The Boise Front ACEC would encompass 12,000 acres in the hills and mountains lying immediately north and east of Boise, Idaho. The 12,000 acres are situated in a land ownership pattern with adjacent Forest Service, Idaho Fish and Game, State Department of Public Lands, and private lands. Elevations range from 3,200 feet at Lucky Peak reservoir to 5,680 feet near Lucky Peak. Topography is generally steep. A major portion of the land area contains slopes of 20 to 60 percent.

Soils in the area are formed in deeply weathered granite of the Idaho Batholith and are highly erosive and easily disturbed when dry or saturated.

Present vegetation includes cheatgrass and other annuals at the lower elevations, sagebrush and bitterbrush at mid elevations, and scattered stands of Douglas fir and ponderosa pine at higher elevations. Five major drainages usually provide streamflows throughout the year. Other stream courses are generally dry during the summer months with spring snowmelt and rainstorms contributing to seasonal streamflows. The major drainages and many smaller ones support riparian vegetation. Livestock use includes approximately 325 cattle in a rest/rotation grazing system managed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Several bands of sheep trail across the area in spring and fall.

In 1959 after a fire eliminated much of the vegetative cover, two separate storms caused serious flooding and sediment damage to the northeast portion of the City of Boise. Following a costly cleanup, extensive watershed rehabilitation work was done by several agencies in a joint effort to stabilize the vulnerable resource. The terraces constructed as part of that effort are still visible from the City of Boise and vicinity as a reminder of the areas sensitivity to disturbance and forces of nature.

Resource Values

The Boise Front functions as an important ground water recharge area. Snow melt and rain waters enter the soil and percolate down through the granitic soils, faults and fractures and eventually create groundwater reservoirs. These subsurface reservoirs release water at numerous springs and support the perennial streams and riparian vegetation. Much of the subsurface flows accumulate in groundwater reservoirs which are available for Boise Valley users. The City of Boise is a major user of this groundwater and operates several groundwater wells for municipal use including geothermal heating.

The Boise Front is a crucial winter range for approximately 4,000 mule deer. The Highland Valley and Shaw Mountain roads are currently closed to vehicles from December 15 to April 1 to protect this herd. Upland game birds (quail, dove, chukar and Gray partridge), numerous small mammals, reptiles and non game birds are also found in the area. Two candidate (Federal Category II) plants, Aaseae's onion (Allium aaseae) and Mulford milkvetch (Astragalus mulfordea) have been identified in the area.

Recreation use on the Boise Front includes ORV activities, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and interpretive uses along the Halls Gulch National Recreation Trail.

The Boise Front is a scenic backdrop for the City of Boise and surrounding area. Although there are several powerlines traversing the area, they are generally not noticeable from a distance. More noticeable are the roads and trails, many of which have been established through unrestricted ORV use. It is currently managed as a Class II visual resource.

Cause for Concern

The combination of steep slopes and highly erodible granitic soils make the area extremely sensitive to changes in the vegetative community through surface disturbing activities. Disturbance of the vegetative community can lead to rill and gully erosion which are now evident on the Boise Front. Much of the serious rill and gully erosion has been attributed to disturbance caused by off road vehicle use. This erosion can reduce the function and value of the area as a watershed and groundwater recharge area. Springs and riparian vegetation may also be reduced. The current erosion problems are increasing and the ability of the area to fully function in its capacity as a watershed is threatened.

Surface disturbing activities which can lead to undesirable vegetative changes and erosion include unrestricted motorized and nonmotorized vehicle use, road construction and maintenance, mineral extraction, certain rights-of-way, fire occurrence, and suppression activities.

The scars from severe erosion can also reduce the attractiveness of the area as a scenic backdrop for viewers from the Boise vicinity and can reduce the quality of recreation activities.

Vehicle use and human disturbance during the winter months can reduce the effectiveness of winter habitat for deer populations by adding stress during a critical time.

Management Guidelines

Resource Use Limitations

The following resource use limitations will apply to the Boise Front ACEC to protect resource values:

1. Motorized and nonmotorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

2. The Highland Valley and Shaw Mountain roads will be closed to motorized and nonmotorized vehicle use from December 15 to April 1.
3. The upper portion of the 8th Street Road will be closed to 4-wheeled vehicles during the wet winter months.
4. The area will be managed to conform to Class II Visual Resource Management Guidelines.
5. All lands within the ACEC will be retained in Federal ownership.

Management Emphasis

The following activities will receive management emphasis to further protect resource values:

1. Closure and rehabilitation of certain roads and trails.
2. Maintenance and reconstruction of existing roads and trails.
3. Restriction of future rights-of-way to insure minimal erosion and visual intrusion.
4. Full fire suppression.
5. Rehabilitation of burned areas.
6. Installation of water control structures to reduce erosion where needed.

Name: Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Purpose

The purpose for designating 4,200 acres as an ACEC is to intensify habitat management for one of the last remaining populations of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in western Idaho. The basic management objectives will be to improve, protect and enhance the quality of the habitat for this sensitive species.

Site Description

This ACEC would be located approximately 16 miles north of Weiser, Idaho on the south side of Hitt Mountain with USFS land, State land and private lands on the north, east and south.

It is bordered on the west by Mann Creek while Sage Creek and Deer Creek transect the area.

Topography is mostly rolling hills with some steep slopes adjacent to Mann and Sage Creeks. Elevation varies from 3,200 feet to 4,000 feet. Soils

are mixed and it is not uncommon to find pockets of loamy soil interspersed in shallow rocky soils.

The area presents a mosaic of vegetation types corresponding to the various soils. Vegetation associations include big sagebrush/grasses and mountain shrub patches with aspen, serviceberry, chokecherry, bittercherry and snowbrush shrubs, riparian zones with willow, rose and hawthorne shrubs with the northern areas of ponderosa pine with some Douglas-fir.

Resource Values

In addition to Columbian sharp-tailed grouse (Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus), the area contains important spring, fall and summer habitat for mule deer which are common in the area. Concentrations of migrating mule deer use the area during the spring and fall. It is also important spring and fall elk range. The area has a rich diversity of wildlife. It supports a variety of mammals from coyotes to deer mice. Approximately 180 different species of birds have been observed on the area.

Causes for Concern

Columbian sharp-tailed grouse were once abundant and widespread throughout the northwest. This species has disappeared from most of its former range and it is now extinct in California, Oregon and Nevada and reduced to remnant populations over the remainder of its range.

Currently, remaining populations in Idaho are small and disjunct. In western Idaho, populations are extremely rare and are limited to Washington and Adams Counties. The largest known population in western Idaho is found in the vicinity of this ACEC. There are four known dancing grounds in the area and the fluctuating population numbers approximately 200 birds.

The Columbian sharp-tailed grouse has been designated as a "Species of Special Concern" by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and as a "Sensitive Species" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BLM policy is to maintain or increase current population levels of sensitive species through habitat protection and enhancement.

Management Guidelines

Resource Use Limitations

1. Motorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails.
2. Livestock grazing will be adjusted to allow the range to reach and maintain optimal habitat condition.
3. Surface occupancy for all oil and gas, and geothermal leases will be determined on a site specific basis.
4. Seasonal occupancy stipulations will be applied on all oil and gas and geothermal leases.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

5. Rights-of-ways construction activities for transmission lines, pipelines and other major projects will not be allowed during the nesting and brood-rearing periods.
6. No permanent new roads will be allowed in the area.
7. All lands within the ACEC will be retained in Federal ownership.

Management Emphasis

1. Develop a fully comprehensive habitat management plan for the area.
2. Fire rehabilitation and vegetative manipulation will be conducted with native species emphasized.
3. Maintenance of the bordering fences to manage livestock movement will be conducted annually.
4. Pursue acquisition of key habitat areas on State and private lands.
5. Place high fire suppression priority on the area.

Name: Long-Billed Curlew Habitat Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Purpose

The purpose for designating approximately 61,000 acres as an ACEC is to identify the area as crucial nesting habitat for Long-billed Curlew (Numenius americanus), a federally protected migratory species. The main management objective will be to maintain nesting habitat for the 1,000 curlew pairs that nest and raise their young in the area.

Site Description

The area is a low, rolling upland lying between the Boise, Payette and Snake River valleys. The area is characterized by choppy rolling topography which supports a semi-desert type vegetative community. Average rainfall is approximately 11 inches per year with most of the moisture falling from November to June.

The native habitat has been highly modified over the years. Historically, the area was a sagebrush/bunchgrass vegetation community. Livestock grazing, frequent wildfire and the invasion of exotic annual grasses have largely eliminated the shrubs and reduced perennial grasses.

In general, there are four cover types: 1) annual rangeland, 2) sagebrush, 3) crested wheatgrass, and 4) irrigated agriculture. The annual rangeland type is the key habitat for nesting curlews.

This will include allowing vertebrate paleontologic specimen collecting through a permit procedure and reviewing all EA's and CER's to determine if actions impact paleontologic resources. A bibliographic research will be made to help in determining the importance of the various paleontologic sites within the resource area.

Visual Resource Management

The visual or scenic values of the public lands will be considered whenever any physical actions are proposed on BLM lands. The degree of alterations to the natural landscape will be guided by the criteria established for the four Visual Resource Management Classes as outlined in BLM 8400. VRM Classes will be managed as shown on Map 3-8.

Forest Management

The public lands in the district containing commercial timber or other forest products such as firewood, posts and poles, and Christmas trees will be considered for harvest except where expressly closed by law or regulation. Some areas may also be subject to special restrictions to protect resources. Harvesting methods utilizing clearcutting will be limited to a size of 40 acres or less and will be blended into the surrounding landscape.

Management guidelines for wildlife will be as follows:

No timber harvest access will be allowed prior to July 1 in elk calving areas.

All roads will be rehabilitated by outsloping, waterbarring, or seeding.

Roads will be closed in crucial wildlife areas.

Undergrowth will be left as intact as possible.

Stringers of trees of sufficient size and thickness to be used as sight barriers between cutting areas will be determined on a site specific basis.

The need to eliminate livestock grazing on cut areas for up to 3 years to allow shrub enhancement will be determined on a site specific basis.

Adequate hiding and thermal cover along major roads will be provided.

Maintain snag trees in timbered areas to the greatest extent practical to provide habitat for cavity nesting birds and other snag dependent species.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) are established through the planning process as provided in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act for "... areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to

Proposed Resource Management Plan

important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards." Management will be tailored to the specific needs of each ACEC.

Coordination With Other Agencies, State and Local Governments, and Indian Tribes

BLM will coordinate its review of detailed management plans (activity) and individual projects prepared in conjunction with the RMP to ensure consistency with officially adopted and approved plans, policies, and programs of other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes. Cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding will be developed, as necessary, to promote close cooperation between BLM and other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes.

Weeds (Control of Noxious)

BLM districts will work with respective County governments to monitor the location and spread of noxious weeds and to maintain up-to-date inventory records. BLM will control the spread of noxious weeds on public lands where possible, where economically feasible, and to the extent that funds are prioritized for that purpose.

Noxious weed control will be conducted in accordance with integrated weed management guidelines and design features identified in the Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program Final Environmental Impact Statement of December, 1985. The Idaho State Director issued a Record of Decision on April 7, 1986 for this program.

Public Utilities

Generally, public lands may be considered for the installation of public utilities, except where expressly closed by law or regulation. Project approval will be subject to preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. BLM will work closely with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, other state and federal agencies, local governments, utility companies, and other interested parties to determine appropriate locations and environmental safeguards for public utilities involving public lands.

Economic and Social Considerations

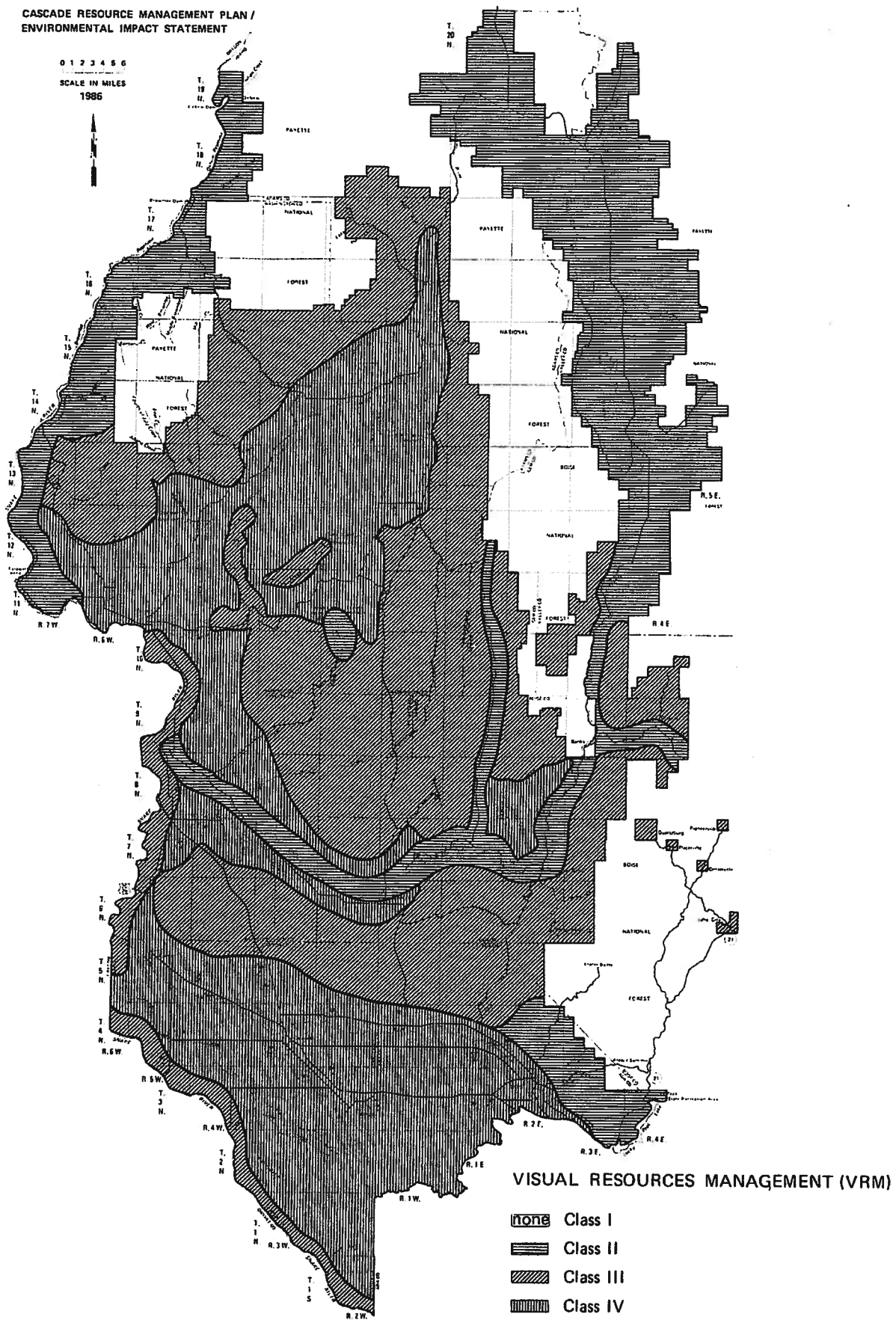
BLM will ensure that any management action undertaken in connection with this plan is cost-effective and takes into account local social and economic factors. Cost-effectiveness may be determined by any method deemed appropriate by the Bureau for the specific management action involved.

Detailed Management (Activity) Plans

The RMP provides general guidance for the resource area. More detailed management plans, called activity plans, will be prepared to deal with areas where a greater level of detail is required. Activity plans will indicate

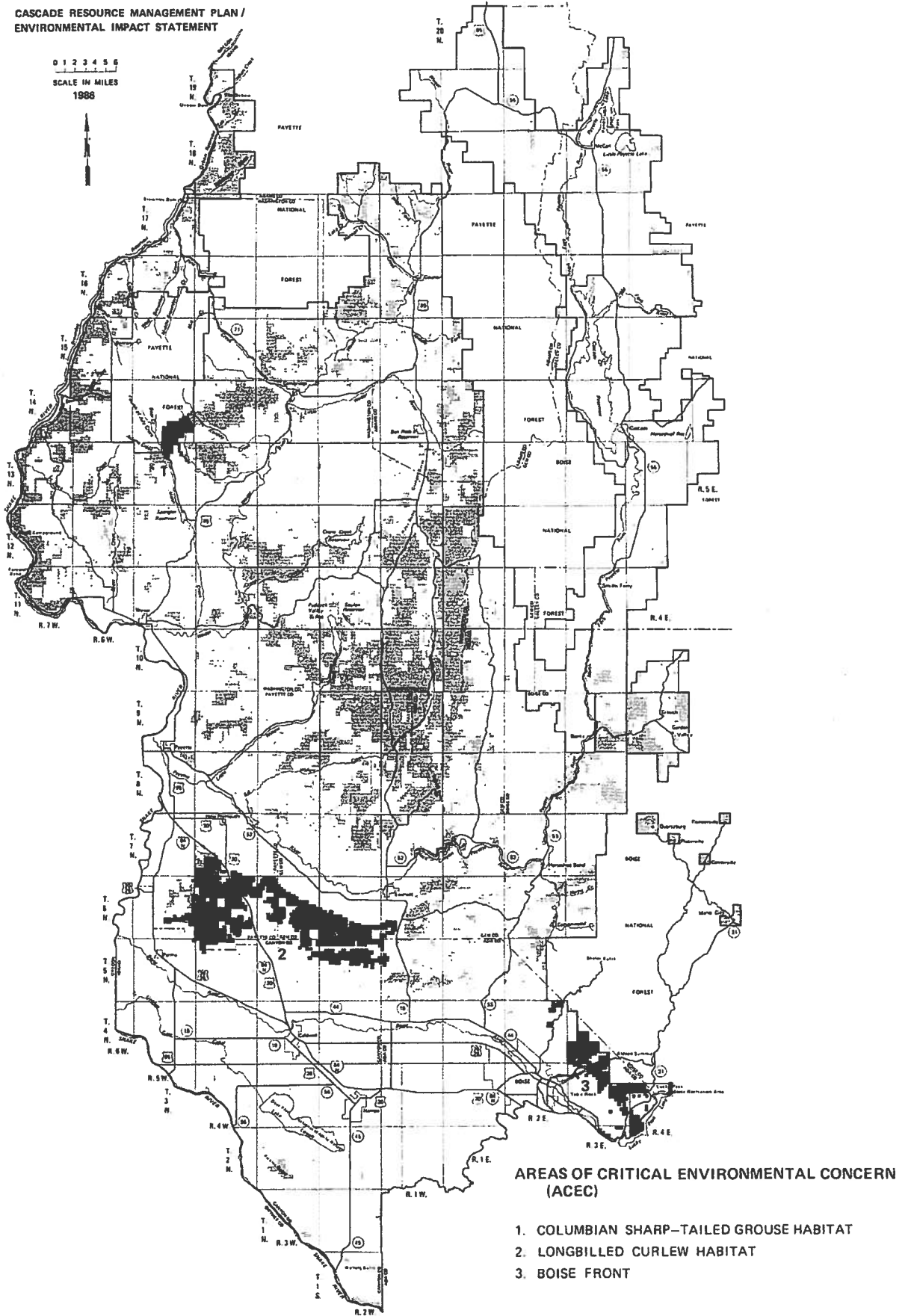
MAP 3-8

CASCADE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



MAP 2-3

CASCADE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



2.3.5 USFS Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1990) Excerpts

*St. Louis
Baker RD*

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Pacific
Northwest
Region

1990



Land and Resource Management Plan

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest



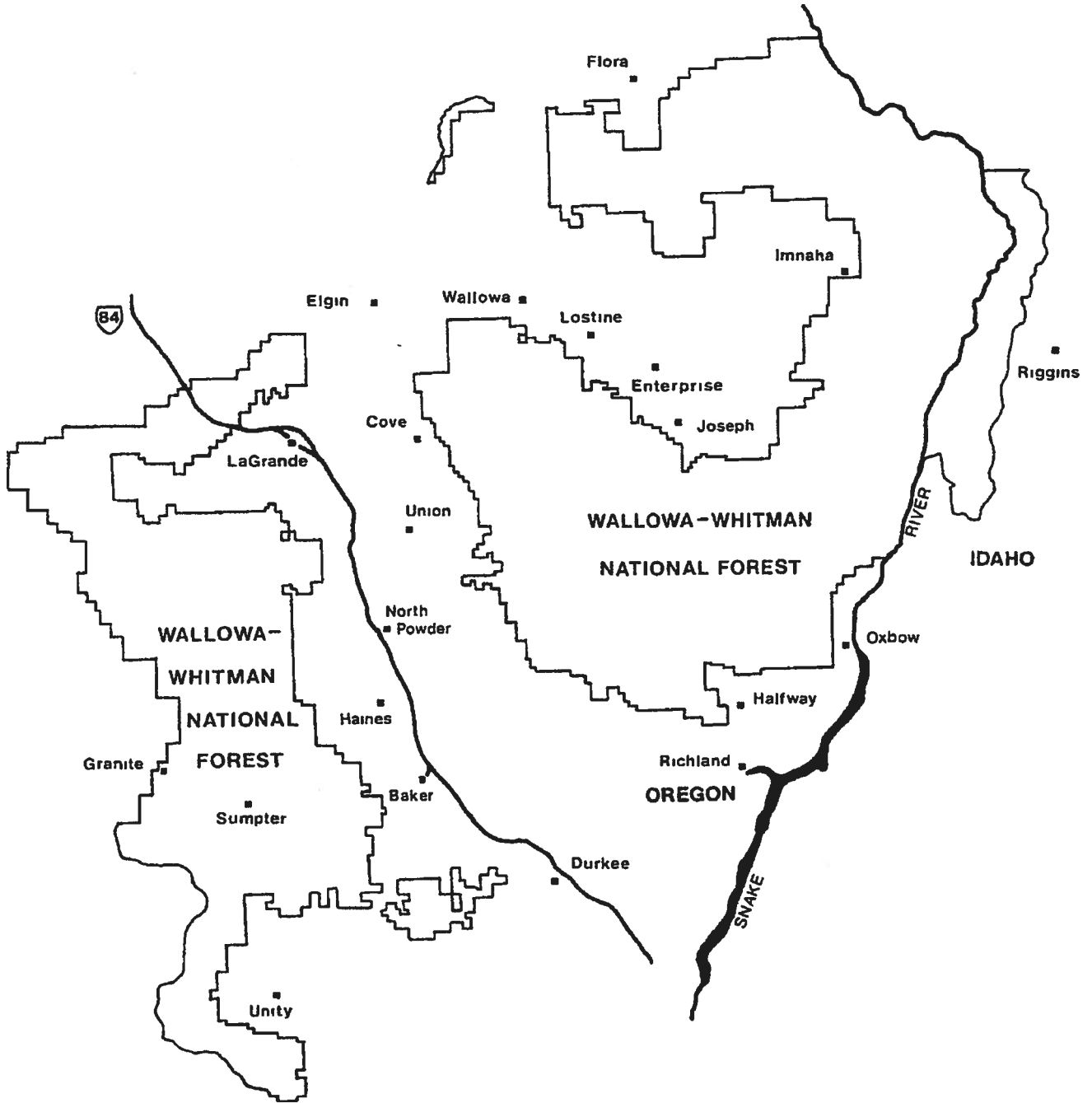


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Chapter 2

The Eagle Cap Wilderness was created in 1940. Subsequent legislation added to the original acreage in 1972 and most recently in 1984. The Hells Canyon Wilderness was established by the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area legislation. An addition was made in 1984. The Monument Rock and the North Fork John Day Wildernesses were established in 1984. The majority of each of these areas lies on the adjacent Malheur and Umatilla National Forests which have primary responsibility for their planning.

With the 1984 wilderness additions, virtually all of the primitive and about 40 percent of the semiprimitive acres on the Forest have been designated wilderness. If present trends continue, the primitive and the semiprimitive acreage outside wilderness will continue to shrink and those seeking the recreational experiences these areas provide will find them in short supply. Primitive wilderness recreation will also reach capacity sometime around the fourth decade of plan implementation. The Forest has no land fitting the category of trailless wilderness, though there are opportunities for off-trail recreation in the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

Due to its relatively low level of use, there are few conflicts between public use and maintenance of wilderness character. Some areas around lakes in the Eagle Cap Wilderness do receive intense use during July and August; popular hunting areas are heavily used during October and November.

Landscape Appearance

Much of the 2.3 million acre National Forest retains a near-natural appearance when viewed by the casual observer from its many broad valley viewsheds. The past management practices causing the most disturbance include the clearcutting of dead and dying lodgepole pine. Activities which resulted in modification to the landscape include roads, clearcuts and other harvests, utility corridors, mining dredge tailings, other mining operations, numerous rock quarries, and water impoundments. To date, approximately 132,000 acres have been physically altered. The timber harvest program can be expected to maintain or increase the incidence of clearcuts. This is the result of clearcut harvest systems and other harvest systems such as shelterwoods which remove the overwood some ten years after the shelterwood harvest. Likewise, utility corridors, mine tailings, and quarries will be long-term modifications.

Chapter 4

Rural	4	Site heavily modified. Some facilities designed strictly for comfort and convenience of users. Luxury facilities not provided. Facility design may incorporate synthetic materials. Extensive use of artificial surfacing of roads and trails. Vehicular traffic control usually obvious. Primary access usually over paved roads. Development density 3-5 family units per acre. Plant materials usually native. Interpretive services often formal or structured.
Urban	5	High degree of site modification. Facilities mostly designed for comfort and convenience of users and usually include flush toilets; may include showers, bathhouses, laundry facilities, and electrical hookups. Synthetic materials commonly used. Formal walks or surfaced trails. Regimentation of users is obvious. Access usually by high-speed highways. Development density 5 or more family units per acre. Plant materials may be foreign to the environment. Formal interpretive services usually available. Designs formalized and architecture may be contemporary. Mowed lawns and clipped shrubs not unusual.

-
- 13 **Outfitters and Guide.** Outfitter guide activities may be considered within any management area, although outfitter camps will not be located within research natural areas.
 - 14 **Special Areas.** Protect special places on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest; e.g., dispersed recreation sites, water features, rock or unique landform features, areas of unique vegetation, historic sites, or other places which are special to Forest users commensurate with other Forest management objectives.
 - 15 **Road, Trail, and Area Closures.** Road, trail, and area closures and off-road vehicle use will be in accordance with the Forest Travel Management Plan and 36 CFR 295. This plan will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary, considering management needs and public desires.

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Goal

To manage all National Forest lands to obtain the highest possible visual quality, commensurate with other appropriate public uses, costs and benefits.

Standards and Guidelines

- 1 **VQO's.** Meet visual quality objectives through management techniques described in National Forest Landscape Management, Volumes 1 and 2, and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Visual Management Plan - Desired Visual Model (maps showing visual objectives are available at the Forest Headquarters in Baker). See also maps of Level I and Level II viewsheds in the FEIS.

- 2 **Retention Foreground.** In retention foregrounds the area regenerated per decade should not exceed 7 percent* or be less than 3 percent* of the suitable forest land within the viewshed. Maximum seen area disturbed at any one time should not exceed 10 percent* within any viewshed. Limit regeneration unit size to that which meets retention and desired character including consideration of future entries and regrowth. The approximate range of sizes necessary to accomplish this is 1/2 to 2 acres in the immediate foreground (less than 500 feet) and 3 to 5 acres in the foreground greater than 500 feet from the road or trail. Units against road or trail edges should be shelterwoods or selection cuts rather than clearcuts. Target tree size is 36 inches where biologically feasible.

- 3 **Partial Retention Foreground and Retention Middleground.** In partial retention foreground and retention middleground, the area regenerated per decade should not exceed 9 percent* or be less than 5 percent* of the suitable forest land within any viewshed. The maximum seen area disturbed at any one time should not exceed 14 percent* of any viewshed. Limit regeneration unit size to that which meets partial retention and desired character including consideration of future entries and regrowth. The approximate range of sizes necessary to accomplish this is 1/2 to 2 acres in the immediate foreground (less than 500 feet) and 3 to 5 acres in the foreground greater than 500 feet from the road or trail. Target size tree in foreground is 26 inches, where biologically feasible.

**FIGURE 4-2
VISUAL QUALITY OBJECTIVES**

		Sensitivity Level						
		fg1	mg1	bg1	fg2	mg2	bg2	3
Variety Class	class A	R	R	R	PR	PR	PR	PR
	class B	R	PR	PR	PR	M	M	M ^{1/}
								MM
class C	PR	PR	M	M	M	MM	MM	

1/ If a 3B area is adjacent to RETENTION or PARTIAL RETENTION visual quality objective, select the MODIFICATION visual quality objective. If adjacent to MODIFICATION or MAXIMUM MODIFICATION objective areas, select MAXIMUM MODIFICATION.

* Applies to regeneration harvest. Not applicable to intermediate cuts, overstory removals, or individual tree selection harvest.

- 4 **Partial Retention Middleground.** In partial retention middlegrounds, the area regenerated per decade should range between 8 and 10 percent*. Limit maximum regeneration unit size to 10 acres. Maximum area disturbed at any one time should not exceed 20 percent*
5. **Created Openings.** Consider a created opening is to no longer be an opening, visually, when trees reach 20 feet in height. Rotation periods will be sufficient to grow large tree character in viewshed foregrounds
- 6 **Resolving Conflicts.** Where conflicts develop between visual quality objectives and timber or range management objectives, these conflicts will be resolved in favor of meeting the visual objectives. Where conflicts occur between old-growth objectives and visual objectives, old-growth will have priority.
7. **Viewshed Plans.** Plans will be prepared for all Level I viewsheds that will refine boundaries, establish project design criteria, identify opportunities for scenic enhancement, and set entry priorities and timing

WILDLIFE

Goal

To provide habitat for viable populations of all existing native and desired nonnative vertebrate wildlife species and to maintain or enhance the overall quality of wildlife habitat across the Forest

Standards and Guidelines

1. **Riparian.** Manage riparian habitat consistent with Forest Service Manuals 2500 and 2600. Where natural stream characteristics permit, the management (as described in Managing Riparian Ecosystem (Zones) for Fish and Wildlife in Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington 1/) will provide for 60-100 percent shade on live streams, 80 percent or more of the total lineal distance of streambank in a stable condition, limiting fine inorganic sediment covering stream substrate to 15 percent, and 80 percent or more of the potential grass-forb, shrub and tree cover.
2. Give preferential consideration to resources such as fish, certain wildlife and vegetation, and water which are dependent upon riparian areas over other resources in actions within or affecting riparian areas
3. Where timber is managed in riparian areas, and in other parts of the SMU directly affecting riparian conditions, harvest will generally be by selection or by group selection techniques. These areas will normally require a longer timber stand rotation than is used on areas managed more intensely for timber. In situations where even-aged silviculture will better meet riparian area objectives, its application is acceptable (Also see direction under Watershed Standards and Guidelines)

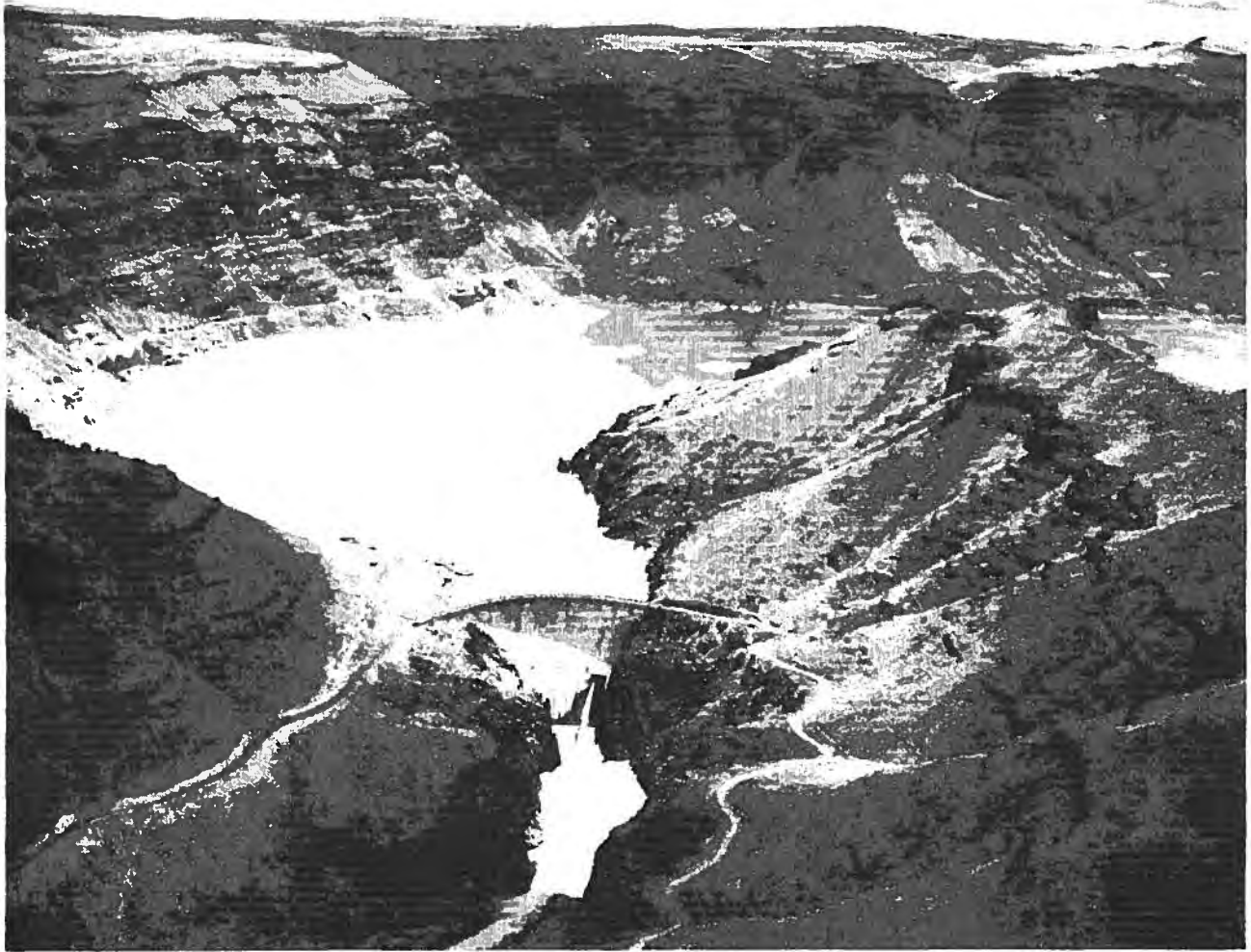
1/ Riparian habitat subcommittee of the Oregon/Washington Interagency Committee. Managing Riparian Ecosystems (Zones) for Fish and Wildlife in Eastern Oregon and Washington, March 1979

* Applies to regeneration harvest. Not applicable to intermediate cuts, overstory removals, or individual tree selection harvest

2.3.6 BOR Owyhee Reservoir Resource Management Plan (1994) Excerpts



Owyhee Reservoir Resource Management Plan



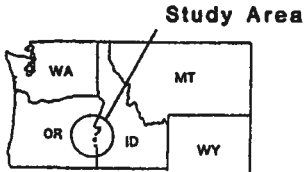
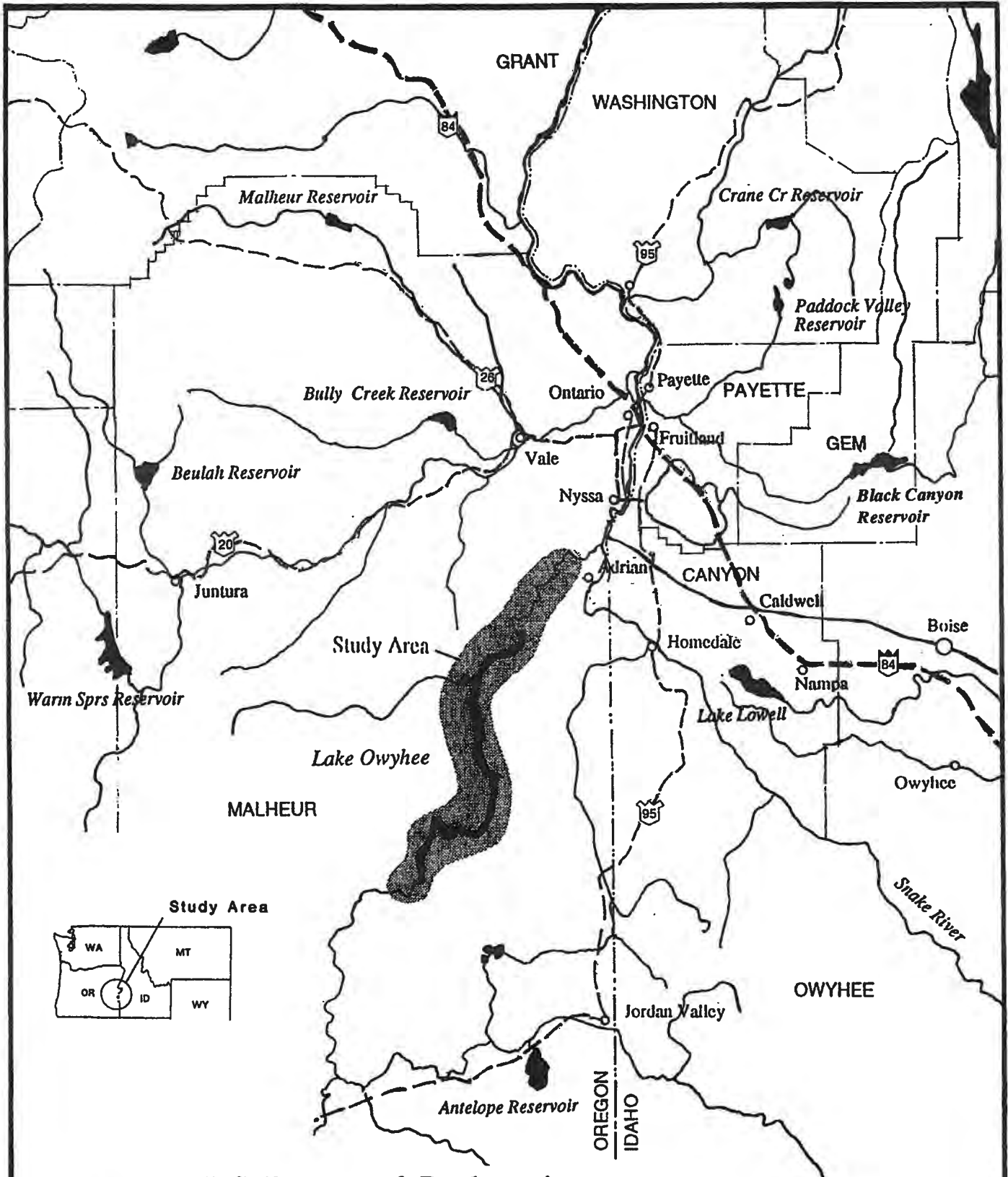
Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Region
Central Snake Projects Office
Boise, Idaho

April 1994

Owyhee Reservoir Resource Management Plan

**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Region
Central Snake Projects Office**

April 1994



U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
OWYHEE RESERVOIR RMP

VICINITY MAP



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and Grassy Mountain formations have yielded fossils from the Pliocene/Miocene Epoch including invertebrates, fish, and plant materials, and small mammals from the Grassy Mountain formation. The Deer Butte formation yields materials from the Blancan/Hemphillian land mammal age, and Grassy Mountain from the Hemphillian/Clarendonian age. The Owyhee Basalt also provide Barstovian age large mammal fossils.

No systematic survey of paleontological resources has been completed at Owyhee Reservoir. However, Thiessen indicates that all of the formations discussed above are exposed at or near the reservoir. In addition, Quaternary-age colluvium and alluvium, locally exposed on the shoreline, may contain fossil materials in lenses of fine-grained sediment. One paleontological locality (Owyhee Canal, BLM 22-45-2, UO2408) has been recorded on Reclamation lands below the dam. This yielded merychippus (horse) and oreodont remains from a vitric tuff interbed in the Owyhee Basalt formation (Rimal and Schaller, 1981). Also, Reclamation personnel have observed two unrecorded fossil flora deposits on the shoreline, one located on either side of the reservoir in the Pelican Point vicinity. They are exposed only at low water and are bedded in a grey, hard, shale-like rock.

2.4 VISUAL RESOURCES

The Study Area contains rugged and spectacular scenery characterized by steep rocky slopes, deep ravines, tall buttes, and fragmented canyons broken into spires and intricately eroded walls. The soils range in color from light brown to bright orange-brown. The varied nature of the landscape is further enhanced by a vegetative mosaic of open sagebrush, bunchgrass and riparian plant communities.

Although some roads, ways and trails, campsites, and other man-made developments are present, the overall visual quality of the area is very high. The area generally depicts a natural high desert wilderness setting highly suitable for primitive and unconfined wilderness recreation. The visual resource is considered an outstandingly remarkable and very pleasing resource by most observers.

Elevations in the Study Area range from about 2,300 feet along the lower Owyhee River to isolated peaks above 5,000 feet adjacent to Owyhee Reservoir. In general, elevations increase toward the west and south to the Mahogany and Spring Mountain areas. South of Mahogany Mountain, the elevation declines near Jordan Valley.

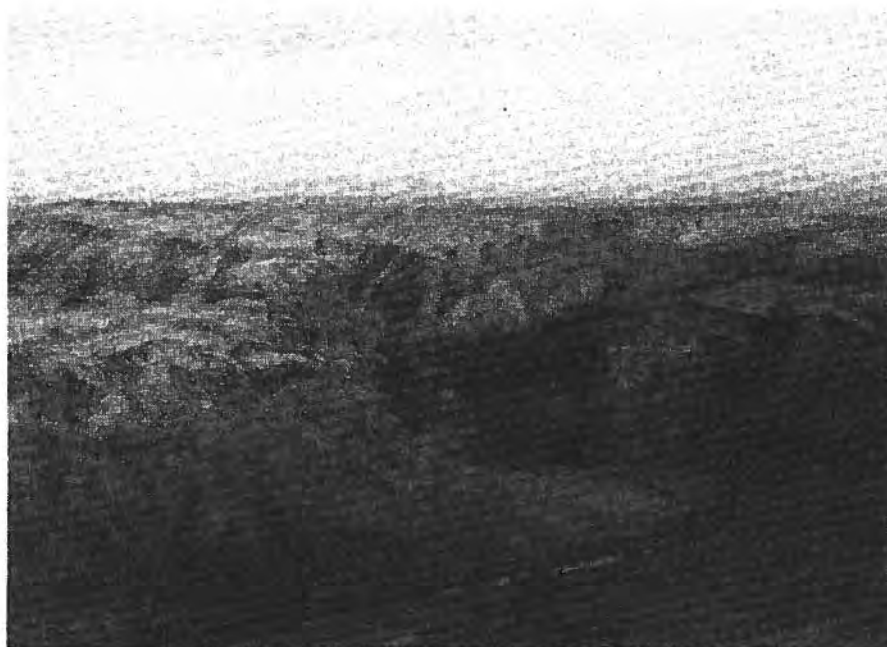
The BLM has classified the area as a Class II Visual Resource Management (VRM) Area. This classification requires that management activities be designed and located to blend into the natural landscape and not to be visually apparent to the casual visitor. According to BLM guidelines, the following actions should be discouraged within Class II areas: new roads and support needs (stockpiles and quarries); utility roads (power, gas, water, telephone); off-road vehicle use; and mining. Structures are to incorporate the lines, colors, and materials of the natural landscape. Required roads are to be concealed by vegetation, follow natural landforms, and be seeded as soon as possible following any construction. The BLM expects to administer lands adjacent to the Study Area to perpetuate landscape conditions as they currently exist.

Lower Owyhee River

The lower Owyhee River meanders through a canyon of striking visual quality comprised of steep mountains, cliffs, and gently sloping hillsides. The canyon features good quality riparian (streamside) habitats that support a wide range of plant and animal species. Upland habitats adjacent to the river are sagebrush dominated communities at the foot of sheer basaltic cliffs. These cliffs are dissected by numerous side canyons that lead to extensive higher elevation uplands beyond.

The canyon floor is characterized by a riparian corridor that follows the river. The riverbanks are predominantly well vegetated and stable, providing a sharp contrast to the surrounding arid and stark landscape. Uplands immediately above the river are typical of the arid sagebrush /grassland communities found throughout the region. Bends in the river are around flat alluvial terraces that immediately rise to the cliffs of the canyon walls.

The river is paralleled by Lake Owyhee Road, the primary access road leading to Owyhee Dam and Reservoir. Malheur County and the State of Oregon are currently evaluating whether Lake Owyhee Road should be designated a State Scenic By-Way.



*Photo 2-9: Aerial View of the Lower Owyhee River.
The lower Owyhee River meanders through steep canyons and rugged terrain.*

The northern boundary of the Study Area includes a partial view of the Owyhee Siphon. The siphon is an unpainted steel, cylindrical pipe (about 4 feet in diameter) that extends east-west under Lake Owyhee Road. The siphon transfers North Canal irrigation water across the lower Owyhee River canyon.

Visual impacts from dispersed recreational use, especially dispersed vehicle use, are readily apparent. Localized impacts in the form of braided, unauthorized "two-track" secondary roads are common; and damage due to wet season use is particularly evident. The use of four rock and gravel borrow sites within the floodplain (two on BLM lands and two on Reclamation lands) has adversely impacted the canyon's visual quality and infringed on sensitive riparian resources.

Increased beaver activity is becoming a significant factor in local tree damage and mortality. Several large cottonwoods near the Siphon Site have been lost as well as many others throughout the canyon area.

Past livestock operations have damaged streamside and upland vegetation. Long-term recovery is expected since most livestock grazing now occurs at higher elevations cut off from the river by rimrock or fences. Most livestock use is currently not within the canyon's viewshed (BLM, 1992).

There are numerous turnouts on Lake Owyhee Road which provide excellent opportunities for viewing the river's riparian habitat, wildlife, and surrounding landscape. Overall, the area's streambanks are well vegetated, a good riparian overstory is present, and very little streambank erosion or undercutting has occurred. Algae and turbidity problems due to poor instream flows during the nonirrigation season continue to affect the river's aesthetic appeal.

Private land holdings in the river corridor form a contrasting mosaic of farms and pastures, interspersed with idle or dryland areas. Large "shelterwood" trees grow near the various farmsteads.

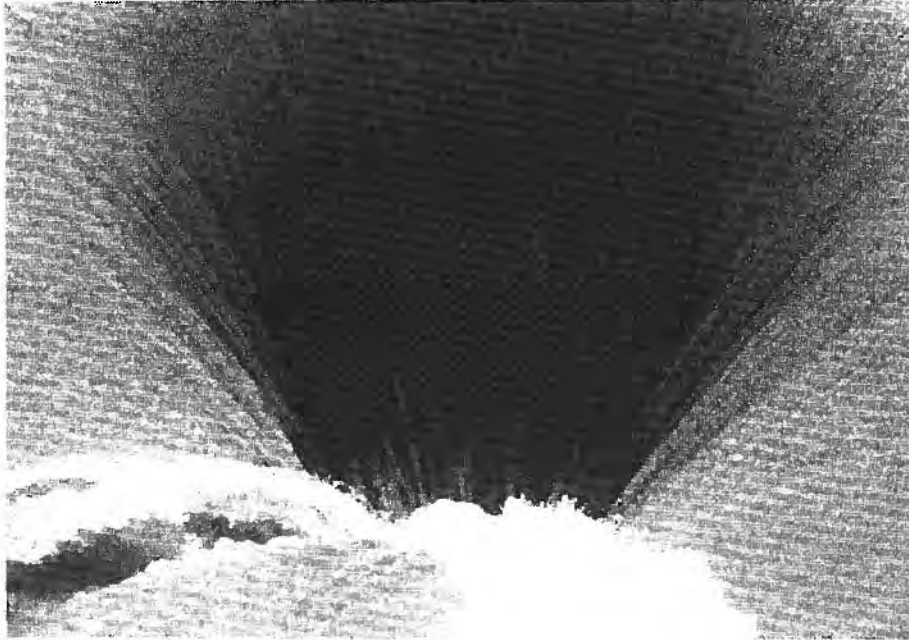
Near Owyhee Dam the landscape includes steep canyons, agricultural fields, and gently sloping open hillsides. At Owyhee Dam, the canyon becomes very narrow, and includes dramatic rock outcroppings. Lake Owyhee Road climbs steeply along the eastern side of the canyon up to the crest of Owyhee Dam.

Owyhee Dam is an immense and impressive structure, creating a dramatic division between the river and Owyhee Reservoir. The dam is a concrete-arch structure which, at the time of construction, was the highest dam in the world. The dam rises 417 feet and is 623 feet across. A road along the top of the dam provides pedestrians an excellent view of the reservoir and the river canyon below.

Owyhee Reservoir

Southeast of the dam, the "glory hole" spillway is controlled by a floating ring gate. During spill events, the "glory hole" provides a fascinating sight and sound for visitors. Many people visit the reservoir when the spillway is in operation to see and experience the huge whirlpool created by the spillway. A concrete walkway and high chain link fence extends out to an observation point almost directly above the glory hole. Visitors can stand above the huge intake pipe and feel the power of rushing water.

The Owyhee Reservoir viewshed consists largely of very steep, rugged terrain and open water. Broken plateaus, barren rocky ridges, cliffs, deep gulches and ravines dissect the stark landscape. Over time, erosion has left the hard basalt, rhyolitic rock, and



*Photo 2-10: The "Glory Hole."
During spill events, the "glory hole" provides a fascinating sight and sound for visitors.*

consolidated ash flows as colorful cliffs, spires, pinnacles and similar formations. Colorful rock outcrops and rimrock areas are prevalent throughout the reservoir area.

The highest concentration of pinnacles and rock outcrops occur on the east side of the reservoir between the Honeycombs and Leslie Gulch. Some of the most outstanding visual features include the Honeycombs, Leslie Gulch, Painted Canyon, Three Fingers Gulch, and Carlton Canyon.

A number of peaks and buttes are visually dominant from the water. These include Burnt Mountain, Nanny's Nipple, Saddle Butte, North Table Mountain, The Honeycombs, and Diamond and Red Buttes. There are also numerous canyons and gulches that extend away from the reservoir which provide a dramatic sense of depth and immense scale to the rugged topography.

One particularly outstanding visual resource is the Honeycombs located immediately east of Bensley Flat. The Honeycombs escarpment rises about 1,100 feet above Bensley Flat to produce one of the major scenic attractions on the reservoir. The Honeycombs geologic complex is a spectacular area of rugged canyons formed by the erosion of volcanic tuff. The cliffs and spires are due to the great thickness and uniformity of the volcanic tuff and its relative resistance to weathering. Multi-colored ridges, hills, pinnacles, and steep-walled canyons are intersected by intermittent streams and drainages. A number of rock faces are riddled by spherical cavities of various sizes, giving them a "honeycomb" or sponge-like appearance. Often these cavities widen to form caves and shelves which are overhung by fragile stone lips with smooth contours. Rock outcrops, rims, and pinnacles similar to those in the Honeycombs can also be found to the south in Painted and Carlton Canyons.

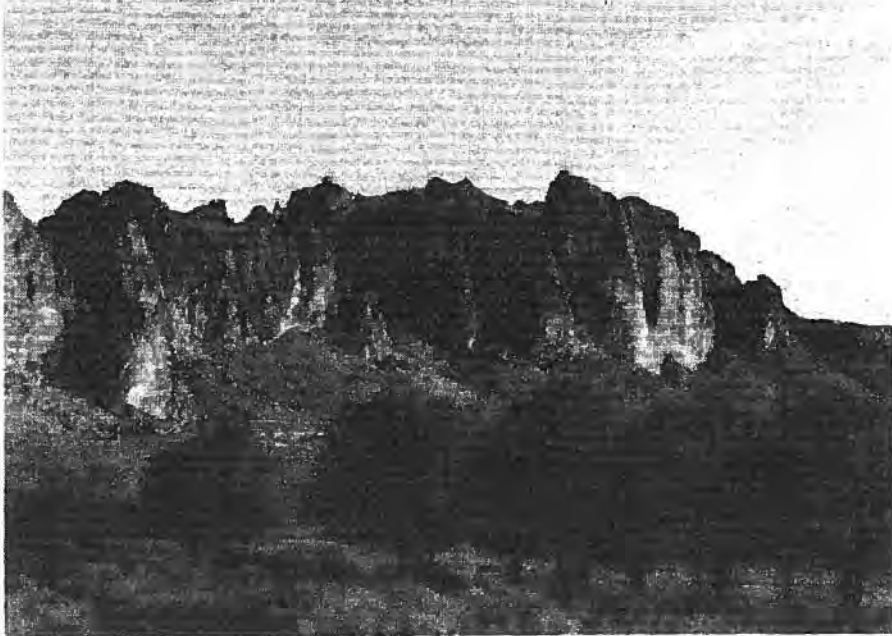


Photo 2-11: The Honeycombs.
The Honeycombs rise 1,100 feet above Bensley Flat to produce one of the major scenic attractions on the reservoir.

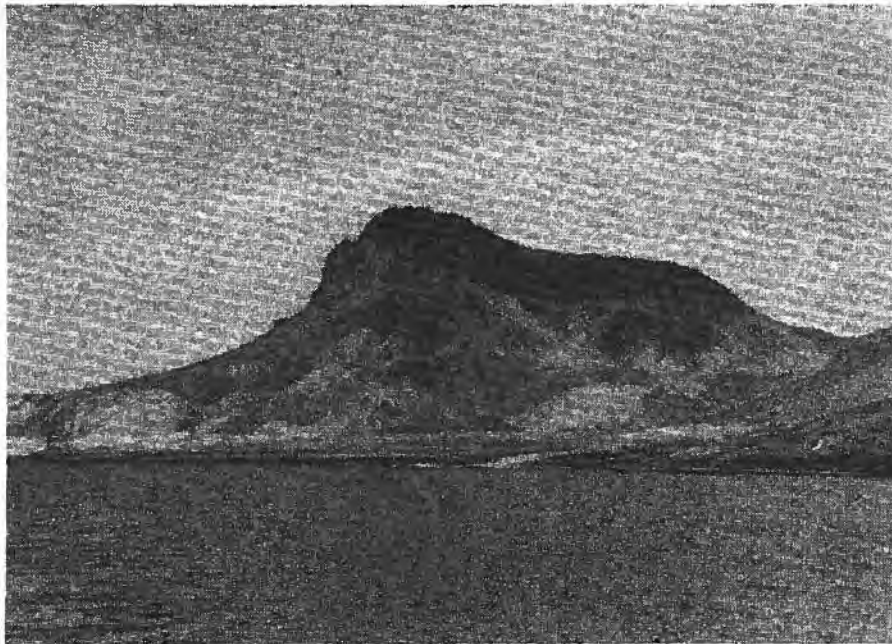


Photo 2-12: Nanny's Nipple.
Nanny's Nipple (4,053 ft.), south of the Dry Creek Arm, is a prominent visual element within the Study Area.

Further south the reservoir turns west. The profile of the surrounding viewscape becomes wider and less dramatic as the landscape changes from high mountains and steep canyons to rolling hills and more gentle slopes. Due to the low water elevation in recent years, wide expanses of flat open land were exposed.

Because of its remote location, there are very few signs of human use and development in the reservoir area. The most visually apparent uses include: cabins; a primitive airstrip at Pelican Point; a small resort; a camping and day use area at Lake Owyhee State Park; and four boat ramps with nearby parking. Except for the Leslie Gulch boat ramp, shoreline development is limited to the north half of the reservoir.

In an average water year, reservoir drawdowns average about 33 feet by late summer/early fall to meet project irrigation needs. At lower water elevations, extensive mud flats and bare earth are exposed particularly at the upper (south) end of the reservoir and in the Dry Creek Arm. During years of persistent drought (such as from 1986-1992), exposed bottom sediments below the high water line become heavily invaded by cockleburs and other noxious weeds and annuals.

A persistent high water line surrounds the reservoir. In some areas, the exposed soils and rock substrate below the high water line are lighter in color due to the settling of sediments previously suspended in the water column. Successive drops in reservoir levels produces a "staircase" effect in steep areas that contain significant amounts of gravel and loose rock.



Photo 2-13: View Southeast from Deadman Gulch toward Carlton Canyon. Successive drops in reservoir levels produce a "staircase" effect in steep areas.



*Photo 2-14: Aerial View of the Upper Owyhee Reservoir Area.
The landscape in the upper reservoir area changes to rolling hills and more gentle slopes.*

Upper Owyhee River

The upper Owyhee River reach extends from Birch Creek north to the reservoir and is included in the Owyhee Wild and Scenic River system. The viewshed consists largely of gently sloping hillsides with talus and bands of rimrock on many of the steeper slopes, isolated cliffs, and buttes. This portion of the Study Area is generally not as dramatic as the reservoir and lower Owyhee River areas.

The landscape along the river is relatively flat and supports a rich, well vegetated riparian area. At Birch Creek, the abandoned pastures and Morrison Ranch complex operated by the BLM is harmonious with the surrounding setting. Along both sides of the river are unmaintained primitive roads which lead to Birch Creek. These roads are a visual intrusion within the wild and scenic river corridor.