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Bureau of Land Management

Shoshone Field Office

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Environmental Assessment ID-230-2006-EA-1624

February – December 2008

PRE-DECISIONAL

Warm Springs Sale

(Disposal of 1.62 Acres of Public Land)

Location: City of Ketchum, Blaine County, Idaho

***Applicant/Address: Helios Development, LLC
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**Environmental Assessment
for Warm Springs Sale Proposal
NEPA # ID 230 2006 EA 1624, Serial # IDI35159**

INTRODUCTION

Background

Helios Development, LLC, (Applicant) has applied to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Shoshone Field Office, to acquire a 1.62 acre parcel of public land through a direct sale. The Applicant owns approximately 76.77 acres of private land that adjoins the subject parcel on three sides. The subject parcel of public land, located in T. 4 N., R. 17 E., Section 13, B.M., was thought to be private land within the Warm Springs Ranch property until 1994 when a U.S. Department of Interior (USDI) resurvey of the area was conducted. The corrective dependent survey moved the west 1/16 monument within the subject legal description approximately 145 feet to the east of the original survey. The results of the resurvey essentially divided the privately owned Warm Springs Ranch into two parcels with the subject parcel of public land splitting the two (see Map 1 in Appendices). The previous use of the subject parcel was primarily for pasture, hay storage, and horse corrals.

The resultant creation of the 1.62 acre subject parcel and the vicinity of Warm Springs Creek caused access to the eastern 18-acre parcel of private property to be restricted. Subsequently, BLM right-of-way (ROW) grant, IDI-31063, issued on October 2, 1997, authorized an access roadway approximately 40 feet in width and 150 feet long, for a period of 15 years. The option for renewal was not included within the ROW grant due to the fact that the landowner at the time had plans for an alternative access route. The death of that landowner, property sales, and development in the surrounding area have since hindered that alternative access route from coming to fruition; thus leaving the current landowner with no access to the eastern 18 acres other than across this 1.62 acre parcel of BLM-administered public land.

Property Definitions: See Map 1

Subject parcel – the 1.62 acre of BLM land for which the Applicant has applied to acquire.

Larger parcel – the Applicant’s 76.77 acres of private land (known as “Warm Springs Ranch”), which adjoins the *subject parcel*.

Project Area – that portion of the City of Ketchum and Blaine County referred to as Warm Springs, and ending in T. 4 N., R. 17 E, Section 31, which comprises the western edge of residential development referred to as the “Lower Board Ranch.” The area continuing west has a few “in-holdings” with cabins and homes but the majority is undeveloped USFS-administered land. This area is included in the following analyses due to the effects on resources as a result of the Castle Rock Fire in August – September 2007.

Ownership Background

In 1999-2000, Sun Valley Ventures, LLC (SVV), acquired Warm Springs Ranch with intentions of redeveloping the area as a residential resort community and nature preserve/parkland. This included submitting a proposal to the BLM to acquire in fee simple the 1.62 acre of public land that splits the ranch. Due to a high level of opposition and conflict surrounding the potential loss of developed recreation in the form of the Warm Springs Golf Course and tennis courts, the hotel developer associated with the project withdrew causing the project as planned to come to a halt.

In 2005, SVV split Warm Springs Ranch into two portions based on local governmental jurisdictions. The property which was within the City of Ketchum jurisdictional boundary was

retained by SVV, and the property just outside the City of Ketchum in Blaine County was held by Creekside I, LLC (Creekside) At the time in 2005, Creekside's redevelopment plan included continuing the pursuit to acquire the 1.62 acre of public land. The acquisition would provide access to the 18 acres, provide legal access to adjacent public lands in the area, and be developed along with adjacent private land.

In mid-2006 the Warm Springs Ranch, including both portions owned by SVV and Creekside, was sold to Whitetail, A Club for All Seasons, LLC (Whitetail). Whitetail chose to accept and continue with the portion of Creekside's redevelopment plan that affected the 1.62 acre of public land. However, the property was sold again to Helios Development LLC, the Applicant, in early 2007.

The subject parcel lacks legal public vehicular access which would require an easement across the Applicants adjacent private property, and currently the only foot access is by traversing the surrounding mountainside. Although available, this access to BLM administered land is severely restricted by steep terrain and thick vegetation. See Photo 1 on page 3.

Purpose of and Need for Proposed Action

The BLM is proposing to dispose of the parcel because an application has been filed due to an error discovered during a resurvey in 1994. The Authorization of the direct sale would allow the Applicant to gain ownership to the subject parcel of public land that currently splits Warm Springs Ranch, their private property, into two parcels.

The Proposed Action for property disposal would serve the public objective in resolving an inadvertent unauthorized use/occupancy that was discovered after a resurvey of the area in 1994 caused a survey monument to be moved.

Photo 1



Standing on the BLM's 1.62 acre parcel, looking east across Warm Springs Creek.

Conformance with Applicable Use Plan

The proposed action is in conformance with the Sun Valley Management Framework Plan (1982) as amended. The proposed action is specifically provided for in the *Amendments to Shoshone Field Office Land Use Plans for Land Tenure Adjustment and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern* (Amendment, 2003). The Amendment has identified the Wood River Valley as within land tenure adjustment zone 5. Zone 5 is generally described as an “Area of Influence of the Wood River Valley,” and includes those lands that are within the viewshed of the communities of Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley, Idaho. The Land Tenure decision specifically identified six acres in T. 4 N., R. 17 E., Section 13, for disposal; the subject parcel falls within these lands, see Map 6.

Disposal of public lands through sale actions is allowable on BLM administered lands per Title II of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 as amended (FLPMA) and the BLM regulations at 43 CFR 2700, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior or their delegated officer. Section 2711.3-3 allows for the use of a direct sale action when the public benefit would best be served by this type of disposal action. The Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) was passed by Congress in 2000 as Title II of Public Law 106-248. FLTFA allows the BLM to sell public lands which were identified for disposal through the land use planning process as of July 25, 2000. The subject parcel also qualifies for disposal via direct sale under FLTFA, as the legal description it falls within was identified for disposal under the *Sun Valley Management Framework Plan* (1982), *Sun Valley Analysis Unit*, as amended by the Land Tenure document previously referenced.

Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans

The Blaine County Comprehensive Plan identifies the following as part of Blaine County’s goals: “preserve and enhance the recreational opportunities available for residents and visitors of Blaine County; cooperate with the Blaine County Recreation District and other local, state and federal agencies to ensure recreation, parks and open space needs of residents are met. “

The City of Ketchum’s Comprehensive Plan contains similar language as the Blaine County Comprehensive Plan. Part 11, Goal 1, states the City should “protect private property rights when balancing development impacts on adjoining private properties and the general community.” Policy 4.12.17 states the City should “work in cooperation with landowners of the Warm Springs Golf Course to preserve the community’s recreational values.” Policy 4.12.5 states that the City should “ensure public access to trails, the river and public lands through neighborhoods within the Areas of City Impact.”

Environmental Analysis

This environmental assessment describes the affected environment on the 1.62 acre subject parcel, considers and analyzes the environmental consequences of the proposed action for disposal of the subject parcel, and recommends any mitigation measures that may be applicable.

Resource field studies and reports prepared by independent resource specialists for the Warm Springs Ranch Redevelopment proposal for the City of Ketchum have been utilized for impact assessment analyses. Additional information and analyses conducted during the preparation of the *Sun Valley Resort Bald Mountain 2005 Master Plan-Phase 1 Projects, Final Environmental Impact Statement, November 2007*, have been utilized, referenced, and cited where applicable.

This document was utilized due to the overlapping parcel boundaries of the USFS- and BLM-administered lands on the Bald Mountain lease which is adjacent to the subject and larger parcels. Additionally, this FEIS identifies resources and serves to “ground-truth” resource effects. The BLM Shoshone Field Office has provided data, information, and analyses, some of which was initially developed in 2006 for an environmental assessment for the proposed action.

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Proposed Action

In accordance with Section 203 and Section 209 of the FLPMA, and in response to an application submitted by Helios Development, LLC (the Applicant), the BLM is proposing to dispose of a parcel of public land through a direct sale. This disposal would include both the surface and subsurface estates for a 1.62 acre parcel of public land described as T. 4 N., R. 17 E., B.M., Section 13, Lot 5, B.M., or being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at an aluminum cap marking the W1/16 Corner common to Sections 12 and 13, said point being the REAL POINT OF BEGINNING;
thence S01°28'41"W along the easterly boundary of said NW1/4NW1/4, 451.06 feet to a point from which the brass cap marking the NW1/16 Corner of Section 13 bears S01°28'41"W a distance of 882.68 feet;
thence leaving said easterly boundary, N33°55'53"W a distance of 539.60 feet to a point on the northerly boundary of said NW1/4NW1/4 from which an aluminum cap marking the WW1/64 corner common to Sections 12 and 13 bears S89°24'51"W a distance of 340.51 feet;
thence N89°24'51"E a distance of 312.86 to the REAL POINT OF BEGINNING.

The subject parcel of public land is on the northwest edge of the City of Ketchum, in Blaine County, Idaho, on the south side of Warm Springs Creek. It is approximately one mile west of State Highway 75 and along Warm Springs Road.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, the subject parcel of public land would remain under federal ownership and be subject to all applicable land laws and regulations. The Applicant would no longer have legal access to the 18 acres of private property after the current right-of-way expires on October 1, 2012.

Alternatives Considered But Eliminated from Detailed Study

Competitive Bid Method Disposal: This alternative would consist of disposing of the subject parcel of public land through a competitive bidding method. This alternative was eliminated from detailed analysis because there is currently no access to this parcel of public land other than traversing Bald Mountain or crossing the Applicant’s private property. If a party other than the Applicant was the successful bidder and acquired the subject parcel, legal access to the subject parcel would need to be acquired across the Applicant’s private property which may or may not be approved. The Applicant is the only adjacent private landowner.

Exchange: This alternative would dispose of the 1.62 acre parcel via an exchange for a parcel of private property on the southeast side of Warm Springs Ranch. This alternative was dropped from detailed analysis based on the *Sun Valley Management Framework Plan*, as amended by

the Land Tenure document, which does not identify land acquisition for the BLM in this area.

Disposal under Recreation & Public Purposes Act: This alternative would allow disposal of the parcel of public land under the Recreation & Public Purposes Act to a qualifying applicant. Helios would not qualify under this Act because they are not a non-profit corporation or a local government entity. This alternative was dropped from further analysis due to the same reasons as stated above in the Competitive Bid Method Disposal.

Non-Disposal/Renewed Right-of-Way: This alternative would have the subject parcel remain in federal ownership with a renewable ROW grant being issued for continued access. This alternative was dropped from further analysis due to the fact that there is currently no legal access to the subject parcel other than traversing Bald Mountain.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Critical Elements of the Human Environment

Critical elements of the human environment as identified in Table 1 are subject to requirements specified in treaty, statute, regulation, or executive order and may need to be considered in an environmental assessment. Other important elements of the human environment as identified in Table 2 are not necessarily critical elements, but may be important to consider in assessing the effects of the proposal. Elements that are present and are likely to be affected are discussed under the “Affected Resources” section.

Table 1- Critical Elements of the Human Environment

CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT All of the following elements have been analyzed. Elements denoted by an ☒ are <i>not affected</i> by the proposed action or alternative and will receive no further evaluation.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Threatened/Endangered Plants; Sensitive Plants
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Threatened/Endangered Fish; Sensitive Fish
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Threatened/Endangered Animals; Sensitive Animals
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Justice (EO 12898)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Farm Lands (prime or unique)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Quality – Surface & Ground
<input type="checkbox"/> Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands/Riparian Zones
<input type="checkbox"/> Invasive, Non-native Species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wilderness and WSAs
<input type="checkbox"/> Migratory Bird Treaty Act Species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wild & Scenic rivers – eligible, suitable and designated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Religious Concerns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Treaty Rights

Table 2 - Other Important Elements of the Human Environment

OTHER IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT	
All of the following elements have been analyzed. Elements denoted by an <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> are <i>not affected</i> by the proposed action or alternative and will receive no further evaluation.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paleontological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Availability of Public and/or Administrative Access- Need to Reserve Access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wild Horse and Burro Designated Herd Management Areas
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Use, Existing and Potential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing and Potential Land Uses (permits, leases, sales)	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic & Social Values
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation Types/Communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other

Critical and important elements that are checked as “not affected” were considered during the environmental analysis process but were identified as such because they are not present within the subject parcel area being analyzed are not affected by the project, or effects were determined to be so small or negligible that meaningful analysis is not possible.

A cultural resources inventory was conducted in August 1995, and no cultural or historic resources were identified as eligible to the National Register of Historic Places in the subject parcel area. Neither the proposed action nor the alternative will affect environmental justice within the subject parcel area. There are no prime, unique or important state farmlands within the project area. There are no Native American Religious Concerns within the project area.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, which included the subject 1.62 acre parcel, of the Warm Springs Ranch property was conducted in 2001. No hazardous or solid wastes were located. In August 2005, a Mineral Potential Report was completed by Terry Maley, a private consultant, and accepted by the BLM on August 29, 2005, with a finding of no known mineral values for locatable, leasable, and salable minerals. For these reasons, the proposed action is not expected to affect these elements.

General Setting

The subject parcel of public land is located on the northwest edge of the city limits of Ketchum, Idaho, on the south side of Warm Springs Creek. This 1.62 acre parcel is located between Warm Springs Creek and the southern Valley margin formed by Bald Mountain, which is part of the Smoky Mountains. The City of Sun Valley and Sun Valley Company, a world-class destination resort, are located approximately 1.5 miles east of the subject parcel. Over the past 15 years, the City of Ketchum, along with the rest of Blaine County, has experienced an increased level of economic and population growth although the results of a stagnant economy have been experienced in the past two years. Consequently, with the influx of population and residential development in Blaine County, the recreational use within Blaine County has greatly increased. Though many of the recreational facilities have been developed by private enterprise and private-public partnership (YMCA in Ketchum), recreation on public lands surrounding the Wood River Valley and throughout Blaine County attracts many people to the area.

The neighborhood consists of public and private lands with tourist, residential and commercial uses. The subject parcel sits at the base of the northeast corner of Bald Mountain and is

surrounded on the east, north and west sides by private property owned by the applicant, Helios. One-quarter mile to the west is the Sawtooth National Forest and the Warm Springs side of Sun Valley's Ski Resort on Bald Mountain; with the City of Ketchum jurisdiction to the north and east. In the immediate vicinity are the locations of the currently closed Warm Springs Golf Course, restaurant, and various condominium projects and subdivisions, including the Sun Valley Subdivision First Addition. Most of the land involves single family residences or is devoted to lodging and commercial enterprises in support of the recreation tourist industry.

Affected Resources

A. Wildlife, including BLM Special Status Animals, Fish, and Migratory Birds

Due to the residential nature of the general vicinity and the lack of suitable habitat, resident wildlife populations are mostly confined to small mammals and birds. Large mammals such as deer, elk, and moose may traverse through the subject parcel and use the area south of the subject parcel as a small portion of their larger home range. Other mammals observed in the project area include red fox, mink, black bear, least chipmunk, ground squirrel, red squirrel, gopher, beaver and muskrat.

Bird counts conducted on the project area in 2004 and 2007 resulted in 59 bird species observed. Most of the birds were observed in the isolated fragments of natural habitat that remain on the larger parcel. (*Preliminary Environmental Report, Warm Springs Ranch Report, Ketchum, Idaho, February 4, 2008, Updated April 29, 2008*, by Will Miller, Rob Hazlewood, Kris Thoreson, pps 10-12.)

Prior to 2005/2006, a private elk feeding operation had occurred on the Warm Springs Golf Course over the past 20 years. In fact, winter tourists would ride horse-drawn sleighs to view the animals at the feed site. This operation resulted in a number of elk wintering on the north facing slopes adjacent to the project area. During the 2005/06 winter, Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG) and the former owners implemented a trapping program to relocate approximately 108 elk from the site. During the mild winter conditions of 2006/07, few elk were observed on the property. Elk have been observed in sparse numbers in the project area during the spring, summer and fall. These elk are most likely using the general area as they move to and from more suitable habitats or cross the property during fall and spring migrations. Elk may spend a limited time feeding and resting in suitable areas on the property; however, no portion of the property has been officially designated as an elk migration corridor or elk winter range by the IDFG.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Semi-annual Species List Update 1002.0000, 14420-2009-SL 0027 (dated December 1, 2008) identifies federally listed Threatened or Endangered Species known or suspected to occur in the Shoshone Field Office. The status of the gray wolf has changed under the Endangered Species Act. On July 18, 2008, a court injunction reinstated protections for gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains. All wolves in Idaho south of Interstate 90 (which runs east-west through Coeur d'Alene) will be managed under the Act's 2005 and 2008 experimental nonessential population regulations. There are no listed mammal, fish, or plant species which potentially occur in the subject parcel or the larger parcel. The yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) is a federal candidate species that potentially may occur in the project area.

Wildlife surveys were conducted by biologists with local and regional expertise during different seasons and at different times of the day; information gathered was then recorded. Additional

information and observation was obtained from the IDFG, area residents, and local wildlife enthusiasts with specific knowledge of wildlife species.

Two BLM Sensitive animal species, willow flycatcher and red-naped sapsucker, were observed during the wildlife surveys conducted in 2004 and 2007 (Miller et al. 2008). Both species are expected to use the habitat on the larger parcel for dispersed foraging activities.

Other BLM Sensitive Species that previously have been observed or may occur in the project area during all or a portion of the year are: black-backed woodpecker, Hammond's flycatcher, Cordilleran flycatcher, Townsend's big-eared bat, and fringed myotis. In addition, the following five BLM sensitive birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA): white-headed woodpecker, Lewis' woodpecker, Williamson's sapsucker, red-naped sapsucker, and Virginia's warbler. Many of these species could use the subject parcel for dispersed foraging activities. The five species of wood excavating birds (woodpeckers and sapsuckers) may use the mature aspen and cottonwood for nesting sites.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

In Idaho, the yellow-billed cuckoo is a rare visitor and local breeder that occur in scattered drainages primarily in the southern portion of the state. They are reported to occur most frequently and consistently in cottonwood forests with thick understory (www.fishandgame.idaho.gov, accessed December 2008).

Lewis' Woodpecker

This species is a medium-sized woodpecker that typically inhabits open coniferous forests comprised of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. They forage primarily by flycatching thus necessitating open canopies for flight. Forest stands with dense shrub understory is preferred. The project area contains potential habitat for the Lewis' woodpecker although there are no known occurrences (*Sun Valley FEIS, November 2007*).

Virginia's Warbler

A bird of the southwestern Rockies, the Virginia's Warbler is closely tied to dry pinon-juniper and oak woodlands during the breeding season. It winters in Mexico and may even breed there. The warbler nests in or near coniferous forests usually between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. The species needs dry landscapes with dense shrub cover for breeding (www.audubon2.org, accessed November 2008). Virginia's warbler has been observed at the City of Rocks National Preserve, 160 miles southeast, and at Salmon Falls Reservoir, approximately 115 miles south (www.fishandgame.idaho.gov, accessed November 2008).

Williamson's Sapsucker

Also called Williamson's Woodpecker, the species breed in dry, open conifer forests in mountainous regions, especially along streams and in areas of western larch (western tamarack). The Sapsucker appears to be most successful in conifer forest with many different species of trees (www.birdweb.org, accessed October 2008). None were observed in the project area during the wildlife surveys of 2004/05 and 2007 (Miller et al. 2008), although the species has been observed in the Sawtooth Valley near Alturas Lake, approximately 45 miles north of the subject parcel (www.fishandgame.idaho.gov, accessed October 2008).

Willow Flycatcher

This species breeds in moist, shrubby areas, often with standing or running water. The wildlife surveys conducted in 2004/05 and 2007 did observe the willow flycatcher within the larger parcel (Miller et al. 2008).

Hammond's Flycatcher

These aerial foragers inhabit cool, forested regions. During the breeding season, they use large stands of mature, wet conifer and mixed forests with closed canopy and sparse understories, (www.birdweb.org, accessed October 2008). None were observed within the larger parcel during the wildlife surveys of 2004/05 and 2007 (Miller et al. 2008), although the species has been observed at Galena Summit, approximately 38 miles north of the subject parcel (www.fishandgame.idaho.gov, accessed October 2008).

White-headed Woodpecker

This species is the only North American woodpecker with a black body and a white head so it is relatively easy to identify. Males have a red patch on the back of their crown. Habitat is restricted to relatively open Ponderosa forest at altitudes from 2,000 to 5,000 feet; they are seldom found in coniferous forests higher than Ponderosa pine zone. This bird is one of the most tree-specific of the woodpeckers as it eats the seed of the Ponderosa pine (www.birdweb.org, accessed November 2008). Populations in Idaho are decreasing and becoming increasingly fragmented as the forests are being logged and developed. Known populations occur in western Idaho north of the Snake River Plain near Payette Lake and the Salmon River by Riggins (www.fishandgame.idaho.gov, accessed November 2008). They lay only one brood of 4-5 eggs in May or June, and are intolerant of humans near the nest cavity, typically found no more than ten feet above the ground (www.audubon2.org, accessed November 2008).

Black-backed Woodpecker

These woodpeckers breed in mature and old-growth conifer forests, especially forests of spruce, larch, pine, and hemlock; they are strongly attracted to burns and typically arrive within a few months of fires. They can stay as long as prey (wood-boring beetle larvae) is abundant, often several years (www.birdweb.org, accessed November 2008). The species has been observed in the Sawtooth Valley near Alturas Lake, approximately 45 miles north of the subject parcel (www.fishandgame.idaho.gov, accessed November 2008). The 2007 Castle Rock Fire may well attract the species to the project area.

Red-naped Sapsucker

This species is the most common sapsucker in deciduous and streamside forests, especially in and around aspen, cottonwood, and willow. They will also breed in mixed coniferous forests and will use open- and closed-canopy forests, burns, and clear-cuts, if there are some remaining standing trees. One of the most strongly migratory woodpeckers, the Red-naped Sapsucker travels as far south as central Mexico for the winter. These sapsuckers are considered a keystone species, as many other species feed at the sap wells they drill (www.birdweb.org, accessed November 2008). The wildlife surveys conducted in 2004/05 and 2007 did observe the red-naped sapsucker within the larger parcel (Miller et al. 2008).

Cordilleran flycatcher

The species is found mostly east of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountain ranges in cool, shaded forests at mid-to high-elevations. Summer breeding could occur in the project area although this species is mostly observed in northern Idaho and near American Falls reservoir, located approximately 160 miles southeast of the subject parcel (www.fishandgame.idaho.gov, accessed November 2008).

Townsend's Big-eared Bat

Although suitable foraging habitat occurs within the greater project area, no surveys specific to Townsend's big-eared bat have been conducted, and none of the species have been observed; consequently, its presence within the project area is unknown. The species has been found

further west within the Warm Springs sub-watershed, which is outside of the project area (*Sun Valley FEIS, November 2007*).

Fringed myotis

The fringed myotis is uncommon in Idaho but has been collected or observed in Boise, Butte (at Craters of the Moon National Monument), Clearwater, Latah, Nez Perce, Owyee, and Shoshone counties. Habitat in Idaho is found in desert, oak, and pinion-juniper woodlands (where most common) and coniferous or mixed deciduous forest usually in mid-elevations (www.imnh.isu.edu/Bat-page, accessed November 2008). Recreational activities such as rock climbing and hiking may impact roosting bats in caves and rock crevices (www.sevilleta.unm.edu, accessed November 2008).

Aquatic Survey and Fish:

During 2004 an aquatic habitat assessment was conducted which revealed the presence of rainbow trout in Warm Springs Creek. Rainbow trout have been observed in Warm Springs Creek near the subject parcel; however, trout likely do not spawn in most of the project area due to a lack of spawning habitat. According to the *Burned Area Emergency Response Plan for Castle Rock Fire* prepared by the Ketchum Ranger District of the Sawtooth National Forest, native rainbow trout species in Warm Springs Creek consists of the interior redband subspecies *Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri*. This native trout has been hybridized by decades of stocking with the coastal subspecies of rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*). Today, on Red Warrior Creek (approximately 9 miles southwest of the subject parcel) in the Warm Springs Creek drainage appears to support native redband trout (Miller et al. 2008, pp. 10-18).

Wood River sculpin, a BLM sensitive species, is known to occur in Warm Springs Creek. On-site surveys conducted in 2004 and 2007 did not confirm the presence of this fish within the portion of Warm Springs Creek that flows through the larger parcel. On September 10, 2007, staff from the Ketchum Ranger District surveyed four sites upstream of the subject parcel. They found multi-year classes of Wood River sculpin. It is assumed that Wood River sculpin migrate through this area because they are known to occur both upstream and downstream (Miller et al. 2008). Wood River sculpin may make yearlong use of the reach of Warm Springs Creek adjacent to the subject parcel.

Other fish that may exist within the larger parcel include brook trout and mountain whitefish.

B. Vegetation, including Invasive, Non-native Species

There are no known populations of or suitable habitat for Threatened, Endangered, or BLM Sensitive plants. Correspondence with state and federal regulatory agencies along with field surveys conducted by Botanist Carol Blackburn in 2004 and 2007 indicates that no special status plant species or critical habitat exist on the property or within the study area.

The subject parcel has been disturbed over the years, including the removal of topsoil and the compaction of the mid-soil as a result of the horse corrals, and the storage of building materials, including chain link fencing and metal roofing. The subject parcel is sparsely covered by limited riparian plants, willows, Great Basin wild rye grass, and Smooth Brome grass. Invasive, non-native and noxious species present on the subject parcel include cheatgrass and spotted knapweed. The Shoshone Field Office has not treated noxious weeds on the subject parcel due to lack of legal access and higher priorities. Ground cover on the adjacent hillside includes Douglas-fir, mountain shrubs, and native grasses. The larger parcel contains similar vegetation.

Most of the cottonwood forest habitat has been degraded except for the stand that occurs on the extreme south end of the southern portion of the larger parcel, adjacent to the subject 1.62 acre parcel. Mature cottonwoods exist in other areas of the larger parcel but provide little overall value and function except where they occur with a multi-layered understory. Natural cottonwood regeneration is limited throughout the larger parcel and is threatened by the large number of beaver using the area.

C. Floodplains, including Riparian/Wetland Zones

The subject parcel contains no surface water. Warm Springs Creek, which is perennial, is located approximately 25-100 feet to the northeast of the subject parcel. There currently exists two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for Warm Springs Creek in the vicinity of the larger parcel. These maps are FIRM Panels 434B and 442B of 1950, for Blaine County, Idaho, Community Number 165167, as revised March 17, 1997. The areas of flood concern along Warm Springs Creek in both Blaine County and the City of Ketchum are shown on these maps. These maps show the maximum water elevation of the 100-year flood and the horizontal limits of the 100-year floodplain and floodway.

A portion of the subject parcel located near Warm Springs Creek is subject to the maximum water elevation of the 100-year flood and the horizontal limits of the 100-year floodplain and floodway.

To facilitate the general discussion of the Warm Springs creek, the length along the Creek on the larger parcel is described as two different stream reaches. These two reaches are defined as the Upstream Reach and Downstream Reach. See Map 5 in Appendices. The prominent rock outcrop across from the former tennis courts, and just west of the subject 1.62 acre parcel, constitutes the approximate breakpoint between these two reaches. The existing Warm Springs Golf Course is situated along the Upstream Reach of the creek. During the 1940s and 1950s, the Upstream Reach was straightened and the topsoil from the valley bottom along the Downstream Reach was excavated and placed on the floodplain along the Upstream Reach to create the existing golf course

The topography along the Downstream Reach is generally flatter across the valley floor. The stream along this reach is only moderately confined by the adjacent valley floor and contained within its bed by low earthen berms and riprap banks. During flood flows the low earthen berms overtop and inundate the valley floor immediately to the west. A historic stream meander east of the downstream end of the overall project site was cut off from the stream by the installation of a riprap levee.

A stream assessment of Warm Springs Creek was completed to provide information on channel geomorphology and in-stream habitat features (*Stream Design and Construction Report, July 27, 2005*, GeoEngineers, Inc., Mike Homza, P.E.). The assessment indicates that the sediment and river forms that support fish habitat are present to a limited degree at the upstream and downstream ends of the larger parcel, but are essentially absent throughout the middle portion of the site mostly due to stream channelization. The middle portion of the stream lacks gravel bars and pool/riffle habitat which translates into poor aquatic habitat lacking the complexity fish species require.

Warm Springs Creek is degraded because:

- The Upstream Reach was straightened and steepened.

- The historic floodplains along the Upper Reach were elevated and the stream banks were lined with riprap to confine the stream within a narrow channel that is isolated from its active floodplain and riparian habitat.
- Stream discharges are generally contained to the eastern valley wall along the Downstream Reach.
- Sediment is generally being flushed through this length of the creek resulting in a wide armored bed devoid of complex in-stream habitat that would otherwise include pools, runs, glides, riffles and gravel bars.
- There is little left of the original riparian community that was comprised of cottonwoods/willows.

Post-fire Floodplain Conditions:

The Castle Rock fire burned approximately one half of the 97-square mile Warm Springs Creek watershed in August and September 2007. Preliminary analyses suggest this fire will likely result in increased flood discharges over the next 5 to 10 years.

Wetlands:

The subject parcel does not contain any wetlands. On-site investigations and surveys were conducted during 2004 and 2005 to identify areas on the adjacent Warm Springs Ranch property that are considered “waters of the US” including jurisdictional wetlands. During the surveys the location of “potential jurisdictional wetlands” and other waters of the U.S. were noted and mapped. The report *Jurisdictional Wetland Delineation–Warm Springs Ranch Development, July 2004, Sawtooth Environmental Consulting*, was approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on December 13, 2004. The subject parcel was included within these surveys and delineations.

D. Recreation and Access

The subject parcel neighborhood lays in the Wood River Valley on the west city limits of Ketchum. The subject parcel is located at the base of the northeast corner of Bald Mountain, and is about one-quarter mile east of the Sawtooth National Forest and the Warm Springs side of the Sun Valley Resort. The Applicant owns the property on the east, north and west sides of the subject parcel. In the immediate vicinity are various condominium projects and the Sun Valley Subdivision First Addition. The eight tennis courts that existed on the north side of Warm Springs Creek were removed during the fall of 2005. Most of the land is comprised of single family residences or is devoted to lodging and commercial enterprises in support of the recreation tourist trade.

Recreation activities that occur on public land in this area include, but are not limited to hiking, hunting, horseback riding, fishing, photography, skiing, and sightseeing. With the increased population and influx of development within the City of Ketchum demand for recreation opportunities has and is increasing. Access to and through public lands is important for the continued recreational opportunities and experiences being demanded by residents and visitors of Blaine County.

E. Land Uses

The 120 acres to the northeast and east of the subject parcel was patented out of federal ownership in 1887, and the 80 acres to the northwest and west of the subject parcel patented in 1888; both without any U.S. reservations. Warm Springs Ranch currently comprises portions of

these two patents. There are no grazing allotments and no mining claims in this area.

The BLM records show the following use for the subject parcel:

- Right-of-Ways
IDI31063 –Helios, LLC
 - Access roadway
 - Issued 10/02/1997, Expires 10/01/2012 (non-renewable)
 - 40 feet wide, 150 feet long

F. Socio economics

Large tracts of land are a characterizing feature of the landscape in Blaine County, including both steep slopes and river washed plains; these areas are located on lands both in public and private ownership. The amount of open space in Blaine County is being threatened due to the influx of private development on tracts of privately owned lands. BLM lands in Blaine County make an important contribution to the open country and expansive vistas valued by many residents and visitors. Public lands are available to one form of recreation or another, including but not limited to hiking, hunting, fishing, mountain biking, motorized trail biking, four-wheeling, photography, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, paragliding, hang gliding, spelunking, boating and sightseeing.

The population of Blaine County grew from 18,991 in 2000 to 21,501 in 2006, an increase of 13.2% (www.idahoworks.com). As a result of the economic and population influx in Blaine County, the public lands as well as private lands are experiencing unauthorized road and trail construction due to the impacts and demand for public access and recreational opportunities. Though many of the recreational facilities have been developed by private enterprise and private-public partnership, public recreational lands surrounding the Wood River Valley play a key role in attracting people to the area. Access to public lands and to rivers and streams is critical to the continued recreational enjoyment and desirability of Blaine County and its local communities.

It is noted that of the 2,655 square miles, or 1,192,736 acres, comprising Blaine County's land area, 82% of the total is federal or state public lands. Millions of visitors travel to Idaho because of scenic and recreational opportunities in the mountains within Blaine County and Blaine County's recreation-based economy generates over \$35 million in sales tax revenue for the State of Idaho.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter describes the environmental consequences for the disposal of the subject 1.62-acre parcel (i.e., the proposed action) and the no action alternative. The topics are discussed by resource, in the same order as those described in Chapter 3, Affected Environment. For each resource topic, the impact analysis follows the same general approach. Effects were based on a review of relevant scientific literature, previously prepared environmental documents, resource field studies, and the best professional judgment of the respective resource specialists.

Information on the affected environment and potential environmental consequences is derived from detailed technical reports prepared by the Applicants' team of independent specialists during the period of 2004-2008, and from the *Sun Valley FEIS, November 2007*, SE Group,

Frisco, CO. Additional information and analyses were prepared by the BLM, Shoshone Field Office.

Knowledge is, and always will be, incomplete regarding many aspects of the terrestrial species, vegetative communities, the economy, and communities and their interrelationships. The ecology, inventory, and management of ecosystems are a complex and evolving discipline. However, basic ecological relationships are well established, and a substantial amount of credible information about ecosystems in the project study area is known. The alternatives were evaluated using the best available information about these ecosystems. While additional information may add precision to estimates or better specify relationships, new information would be unlikely to appreciably change the understanding of the relationships that form the basis for the evaluation of effects. The numbers generated and used for comparison of effects are for analysis purposes only.

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Effects are described and are qualified as short-term and long-term, as appropriate, and may also be described as direct or indirect. Direct effects are caused by an action and occur at the same time and place as the action. Indirect effects are caused by an action and occur later in time or farther removed from the area, but are reasonably foreseeable.

Cumulative Effects:

Cumulative effects are considered for each resource. Cumulative effects were determined by combining the effects of the alternatives with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Therefore, it is necessary to identify other past, ongoing, or reasonably foreseeable future actions in this area and in the surrounding landscape. Should the proposed action – the preferred alternative, the disposal of the 1.62 acre be selected - the proposed future development of the subject parcel would generate cumulative effects. If the No action alternative is selected, no cumulative effects would be expected to occur.

Direct/Indirect Effects of the Proposed Action

A. Wildlife, including BLM Special Status Animals, Fish, and Migratory Birds

The proposed land sale would not alter the existing habitat and would not reduce the amount of suitable habitat for dispersed foraging activities by the gray wolf that may utilize the project area. The suspected low, incidental use level of the project area by gray wolf is expected to result in “No Effect” to individuals or populations of the gray wolf.

The sale of the subject parcel would not contribute to the need to list the yellow-billed cuckoo as threatened or endangered. Yellow-billed cuckoo are not expected to use the subject parcel because of past activities that have altered habitat and nearby residential development. Dobkin (1994) reports that yellow-billed cuckoo are sensitive to habitat fragmentation and degradation of riparian woodlands due to residential development.

Foraging activities for the willow flycatcher and the red-naped sapsucker, the bird species observed within the larger parcel, would continue. Any of the BLM Sensitive wildlife species that may make use of the project area are expected to continue using the area for dispersed foraging activities.

B. Vegetation, including Invasive, Non-native Species

Due to the high level of past disturbance, including removal of topsoil, compaction of mid soil as a result of horse corrals, hay storage, and building materials storage, the sale of the subject 1.62 acre parcel would not result in loss of riparian or upland vegetation. The existing invasive, non-native plant species would continue to be present on the subject parcel.

C. Floodplains, including Riparian/Wetland Zones

It is anticipated that the proposed action would not increase any effects within the floodplain, as the access roadway to the southern lot is already authorized temporarily (expiration date of 10/01/2012) across the subject parcel via right-of-way, IDI31063. The subject parcel previously experienced a high level of disturbance within the floodplain due to the activities that took place prior to the 1994 USDI resurvey of the area.

D. Recreation and Access

Public land adjoining the existing easement is characterized by steep terrain and dense vegetation which restricts the amount and type of activities that may occur on public land. A legal access to the southern portion of the Applicant's larger parcel would be an effect of the land sale although the only Warm Springs Creek crossing occurs further west upstream on private property in the project area.

E. Land Uses

There is only one land use currently authorized within the subject parcel; a non-renewable right-of-way, IDI31063, for an access roadway to the blocked 18 acres on the southern portion of the larger parcel; which is held by the Applicant. The proposed action would allow for the use authorized by this right-of-way to be terminated as it would no longer be needed; however, the termination of the right-of-way would not result in the loss of the access to the blocked 18 acres.

The proposed action may increase the number of people and pets using the project site and adjacent public lands although there already exists a high degree of human and domestic pet use in the area.

F. Socio-economics

Implementation of the proposed action would allow the 1.62 acre parcel of land to become a part of the local tax base for the City of Ketchum, as well as allowing the City of Ketchum to control, manage, and regulate future uses of the parcel.

The monies received from the disposal of the parcel would be deposited into the Federal Land Disposal Account under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA). A portion of these funds could then be used by the BLM, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and Forest Service for acquisition of lands from willing landowners that are in-holdings within a certain Federally-designated area (such as National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, wilderness areas, National Parks, Fish & Wildlife Refuges and National Forests), or lands adjacent to Federally-designated areas and containing exceptional resources.

Direct/Indirect Effects of No Action Alternative

A. Wildlife, including BLM Special Status Animals, Fish and Migratory Birds

The No Action alternative is not anticipated to increase the level of effects to wildlife beyond that which currently exists. The current effects result primarily from disturbance, displacement and possibly predation of native wildlife species resulting from adjacent residential or commercial development. Dispersed recreational activities also cause disturbance, harassment and possibly predation of resident and migratory wildlife species. The foraging activities of the two BLM sensitive species observed within the larger parcel, willow flycatcher and red-naped sapsucker, are expected to continue. The No Action alternative would not contribute to the need to list the yellow-billed cuckoo as threatened or endangered. The suspected low, incidental use within the project area by the gray wolf would not be impeded or create any affect upon the species.

B. Vegetation, including Invasive, Non-native Species

There has already been disturbance on the subject parcel due to the activities that occurred while the parcel was thought to have been in private ownership. Implementation of No Action would have no further effect on vegetation beyond those from its current use other than there would remain a potential for the spread of the existing non-native invasive and noxious species in the area.

C. Floodplains, including Riparian/Wetland Zones

It is anticipated that No Action will not increase any of the effects within the floodplain, as the access roadway is already authorized across the subject parcel via right-of-way, IDI31063.

D. Recreation and Access

Implementation of No Action would not alter the existing amount of access and the level of recreation use within the project area and on the subject parcel.

E. Land Uses

The current use authorization, a non-renewable right-of-way grant IDI31063 for an access roadway, across the subject parcel would continue to provide Helios with access to their private property. The right-of-way would expire on October 1, 2012. Unless the applicant requests and receives a new ROW grant, access to the 18-acre parcel of private land would again be blocked. The subject parcel would remain open to potential uses authorized by the BLM.

F. Socio-economics

The subject parcel would remain in federal ownership, with the access right-of-way grant expiring in 2012. The future uses of the 18 acres on the eastern side of Warm Springs Creek would be restricted without access. There would be no monies deposited into the Federal Land Disposal Account under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA).

Cumulative Effects

Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects

The Applicant currently has plans to apply for annexation of the larger parcel, Warm Springs Ranch, into the City of Ketchum. If the Applicant acquires the subject parcel, it would also be included in the annexation. Although this document addresses the subject 1.62 acre parcel, the larger project contributes to the cumulative effects identified. A public access easement on the

subject parcel would be granted by the Applicant during the annexation and Planned Unit Development (PUD) approval process. This public access easement would be incorporated into the Applicant's planned extensive trail system which would include a streamside trail, a cross country ski trail, and mountain trail linkage to public lands. The planned trail system would allow public access to adjacent public lands.

The Applicant and the City of Ketchum have been working together to develop a PUD that is amicable to all parties. The Applicant has filed Consent to Annexation for the portion of Warm Springs Ranch that is currently outside the city limits, but within the area of impact (65.5 acres) and the 1.62 acre BLM parcel (if acquired by the Applicant) with the City of Ketchum. The Applicant's future intentions for the subject 1.62-acre parcel are to provide legal access in perpetuity to the 18 acre parcel on the southeast side of the larger parcel and to provide a public access easement to adjacent public land. The applicant also intends to redevelop an executive (par 3) nine-hole golf course, a minor portion of which would be located on the subject property. The Applicant is proposing to re-vegetate portions of the subject parcel and larger area with native vegetation to harmonize with the natural surroundings, to restore Warm Springs Creek and the riparian habitat to a more self-sustaining condition, and to aid in the control of non-native invasive and noxious weeds from spreading. The goals of the enhancement of Warm Springs Creek would improve fish habitat and passage, lower flood hazards, and create riparian wildlife habitat.

Although there may be some fugitive dust associated with the removal of the obsolete facilities, e.g., the old tennis courts, old restaurant building, etc., and the construction of the proposed new development and ancillary facilities, the condition would have a short-term effect on air quality and would be minimal.

In addition to the Warm Springs Ranch Redevelopment Project, as proposed by the Applicant to the City of Ketchum, the following projects have the potential to cumulatively affect the wildlife habitat:

Phases 1 of the Sun Valley 2005 Master Development Plan for Bald Mountain
Bald Mountain Connector Trail, as envisioned

Cumulative Effects of the Proposed Action

A. Wildlife, including BLM Special Status Animals, Fish and Migratory Birds

The urban sprawl of development in the project area is expected to continue, thus putting pressures on the wildlife and habitat. Wildlife habitat fragmentation is becoming more apparent as development on patented historic mining claims increases, and as development expands up gulleys and gulches. Development activities on the subject parcel and adjacent private lands will likely result in increased human activity in or adjacent to wildlife habitat located within the project area. Over time, this increased human activity may reduce the attractiveness of the area to the wildlife, resulting in reduced populations due to loss of current habitat.

The conversion of the existing habitat on the 1.62 acre parcel to include a recreational trail and golf course greens would alter the existing habitat to such an extent that is unlikely that native animal species would continue to use the area. Alteration of native habitat by conversion to manicured golf greens would add to the fragmentation of the existing habitat at the local scale and alter the type and level of disturbance to wildlife. Habitat fragmentation alters normal travel lanes, migration routes and habitat use. Native wildlife species vary in their level of tolerance to

habitat fragmentation and disturbance. Wildlife species that are able to use a diverse range of habitat conditions would experience less effects from the development than species that require more specific habitat conditions. The subject parcel of BLM land is located near private lands that have been developed for residential and other uses. The private land adjacent to the subject parcel on two sides is also planned for development.

Wildlife species like house sparrows, starlings, skunks, red fox, raccoons, mice are attracted to urban settings and will increase with development. An increase in urban wildlife can have a corresponding reduction in native wildlife populations. Because the subject property is already close to developed areas and is not considered high quality habitat for wildlife, these effects are not considered consequential.

Effects to wildlife from the proposed development would result in a number of disturbance factors. The permanent loss of habitat during all seasons of the year would be detrimental to wildlife populations that may use the subject parcel as well as those wildlife species that utilize habitat adjacent to the proposed project. Currently, domestic animals associated with private residences as well as those that accompany recreational users roam the adjacent public land resulting in harassment and predation of wildlife on those lands. The increased presence of humans and their pets during the spring and summer months would increase mortality of nesting birds and their young and may result in eventual abandonment of the habitat. The expected increase in disturbance of wintering wildlife populations by either humans or their domestic pets would likely result in avoidance or abandonment of the area by many native wildlife species. Revegetation in those areas of ground disturbance may provide a limited amount of suitable habitat for some of the more common wildlife species known to utilize habitat conditions associated with residential landscape.

The expected future development of the subject parcel would reduce the foraging and nesting values for any BLM Sensitive species expected to use the area. The transitory use of the area by wide ranging sensitive species would be reduced or eliminated by the planned development on the larger parcel. The level of effect to Wood River sculpin as a result of the proposed development is expected to be inconsequential to survival of the population. In fact with the proposed stream restoration project, it may be improved.

Although no known willow flycatcher or red-naped sapsucker nest sites have been documented in or near the subject parcel, this species was observed on the larger parcel, (Miller, W. 2008). Potential direct effects to any active nest sites during construction should be prevented by conducting nest clearance surveys and avoiding breeding areas until the young had fledged. Foraging flycatchers and red-naped sapsuckers would avoid project construction activities, resulting in potential indirect effects to individual birds; however, these effects would be minor and short term in duration.

In summary, the future development of the larger parcel may affect individual willow flycatchers or red-naped sapsuckers, but would not likely cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability. This determination is based on: 1) the low numbers of willow flycatchers and red-naped sapsuckers observed in the project region; 2) the commitment to protect active willow flycatcher or red-naped sapsuckers nests, if present; 3) the project size and location. No population-level effects would be anticipated.

An unimproved trail would be constructed in the Douglas-fir conifer forest to provide access to the ridgeline for observation and access to federal lands. It is anticipated that the trail will eventually connect to the Bald Mountain Trail connector between River Run and Warm Springs Creek. The design for the trail will follow natural contours and limit the removal of native

vegetation to minimize erosion. There is no critical habitat for any wildlife species or any known cultural resources along the proposed trail alignment.

Increased Lighting and Glare:

Although there is no lighting proposed for the subject 1.62 acre parcel, other than low wattage solar path lights along the recreational trail, the proposed development project will increase artificial light and glare over current levels on the larger parcel. Artificial night lighting can disturb wildlife and have an effect on how animals use areas, including animal displacement and change in patterns of use. Wildlife are generally more active during dusk, dawn and evening hours, which is also when outdoor human use is less active. The conceptual lighting plan for the development project may affect wildlife use due to the extent of lighting across many locations on the larger parcel. The lighting will be designed to preserve the dark, nighttime sky in compliance with the City of Ketchum dark sky ordinance. Exterior night lighting will be kept to a minimum except as required for safety, address identification, and accent lighting on architectural elements in high use areas. Mitigation measures will include motion detectors lighting in some areas, recessed, shielded and downward facing light fixtures. In addition, lighting in riparian areas, wetlands, wildlife corridors, and remote areas, such as the subject 1.62 acre parcel, will be eliminated or kept to an absolute minimum for security purposes. In these areas, motion-detector light fixtures would be utilized as appropriate.

Increased Noise

Increased noise levels during construction of the proposed development on the larger parcel often result in some animal displacement (e.g., resident birds, medium sized mammals) in both the short and long term. Typically, animals either avoid noise sources or become accustomed to the increased noise levels. Abrupt and intermittent noises would be more likely to disturb individuals than the more continuous noises (e.g., traffic, equipment operation). The severity of the potential effects from increased noise levels would depend on factors such as the species' sensitivity, seasonal use patterns, the type and timing of project actions, noise sources and duration, and physical parameters (e.g., buffering capacity of area topography, cover, forage, other environmental factors).

Other Effects from Future Project Construction

In addition to habitat fragmentation and some temporary displacement, potential effects to locally breeding birds or their offspring from project construction on the larger parcel could occur, if construction were to occur during the breeding season in close proximity to nest sites. As discussed for displacement effects, different bird species exhibit varying tolerances to human related disturbances (e.g., increased human presence, noise, equipment operation), with some being more susceptible to disturbances and may more readily abandon nest sites in the proximity to project activities

Potential effects to other nesting birds (e.g., songbirds) could include the loss of bird eggs or young from nest abandonment, if in close proximity to construction activities on the larger parcel. This effect would typically result in the loss of production for that breeding pair for that season; however, no population level effects would be anticipated, given the songbird species that have been identified as commonly nesting in and near the larger parcel, (Miller, W., 2008).

B. Vegetation, including Invasive, Non-native Species

Past development and recreational use of the Warm Springs project area has resulted in severe fragmentation of nearly all floodplain plant communities as well as upland vegetation on adjacent private and public lands, (Miller, W, 2008). With the increase in development and use in the project area, it's expected that the opportunity for non-native invasive and noxious species

to spread will increase. The revegetation and construction intentions of the Applicant will in the long-term aid in the increased level of vegetation present in the project area, and will also aid in the control of the opportunity for the spread of invasive, non-native and noxious species.

Construction of the recreational/cart trail and golf course greens would occur in the already disturbed area that was once used for horse corrals and hay storage. Due to the increased construction and planned revegetation in the area the potential for the spread of the invasive and noxious non-native species already established in the area could increase in the short-term, but would be reduced in the long-term due to the implementation of a noxious weed eradication program. On the private parcel directly adjacent to the subject 1.62 acre parcel, ground disturbance and development would occur in an area where vegetation has been previously disturbed by past owners. The proposed building envelope on adjacent southern parcel does contain cottonwood vegetation, is adjacent to the broader cottonwood riparian forest and wetland/complex, and is located in the floodplain. The proposed building envelope will require a new driveway to the south portion of the property that will cross the cottonwood riparian forest. The building envelope will be setback 75 feet from the edge of wetlands and 50 feet from Warm Springs Creek to protect native vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat and water quality. The cottonwood riparian forest will be protected and enhanced to restore its function and values and only native landscaping will be allowed within the building envelope. The south portion of the property currently has low human use and no permanent human presence and is used by big game for cover and by songbirds for nesting and feeding. An increase in human presence as well as the indirect effects of lighting, pets, and urban wildlife will affect how wildlife uses the area. The area surrounding the southern lot will be re-planted with native vegetation to enhance the cottonwood riparian forest and reduce the overall effect of the lot. On the larger parcel, many of the large conifer trees being removed will be salvaged and replanted on the property to help preserve the large tree component on the site.

Restoration efforts will be directed towards protecting and enhancing the existing functioning stand of trees in the southern part of the property, creating new stands and creating an environment for natural regeneration throughout the property. These efforts will be accomplished by restoring the hydrology, planting riparian vegetation, and limiting human use and development to enhance functions and values while creating substrates for natural regeneration.

Forest Stewardship Program

Authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, the Forest Stewardship Program provides technical assistance, through State forestry agency partners, to nonindustrial private forest owners to encourage and enable active long-term forest management. A primary focus of the Program is the development of comprehensive, multi-resource management plans that provide landowners with the information they need to manage their forests for a variety of products and services. Forest Stewardship plans increase the likelihood that these forests will remain intact, productive and healthy, and that the social, economic and environmental benefits of these lands will be sustained for future generations.

With this objective in mind, the landowner proposes to restore and improve the health of the forest, maintain scenic and visual quality along the Warm Springs viewshed, enhance recreation and wildlife habitat, reduce fire hazard, utilize forest products in a sustainable manner for cabin logs and restore the degraded riparian area. This forest stewardship plan will focus on the 20 acre forested portion of the 77 acre property.

The 20 acre forested portion of the property is dominated by a dense stand of Douglas-fir

(Pseudotsuga menziesii) trees located on north and east aspects of Bald Mountain. The habitat type is Douglas-fir/ninebark and is common in central Idaho, often occurring on relatively steep slopes that have northerly aspects. Douglas-fir is the naturally occurring dominant tree in this habitat type. Stand collection data shows the average diameter is 11 inches and close to 300 trees per acre. Basal area per acre averages between 180 – 190 sq. ft/acre. Slopes average 30-40% with timber growth and productivity classified as moderate. Tree age varies from 40 years in the understory and 120 + years in the overstory. A few very large trees found on the property are estimated to be 300 + years old. Tree crowns are touching with little light reaching the forest floor. Trees of all size classes are showing signs of stress due to overcrowded stand conditions.

Some of the larger trees on the property have been attacked and killed by the Douglas-fir bark beetle. There is also evidence of some mortality on adjacent Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands. No active bark beetle hit trees were observed from a recent walk through on the property in October 2008. However, due to the dense stand conditions there is always the possibility of future attacks of trees that are larger than 14 inches. Also, the recent Castle Rock fire in 2007 killed and partially scorched many Douglas-fir trees on surrounding federal lands. These damaged and weakened trees are more susceptible to bark beetle attacks and may increase bark beetle populations in the area. Douglas-fir beetles are more likely to attack large, old trees in dense stands with a high Douglas-fir component. Prevention measures such as deploying anti-aggregation pheromone (MCH) would be needed to protect the larger high value trees.

Historically, these stands were more open grown and had mixed severity fire intervals every 20-25 years that would naturally thin the forest by removing smaller trees, shrubs and ladder fuels. As a result, stand densities were less dense, were in a healthier condition and typically had larger trees. The larger Douglas-fir trees have thick bark and are more fire resistant to low intensity ground fires. Fire exclusion has prevented this naturally occurring thinning process to occur and the result is a dense stand of trees that are more prone to intense wildfires and damage to the resource.

The desired condition would reduce the basal area (or stand density) from 180 to 120 sq. ft/acre by a combination of treatments including thinning from below and free thinning. Thinning from below removes trees in the lower canopy that have been suppressed by the dominate larger trees. Free thinning is used to control stand spacing and typically favors the larger, healthy trees by removing unwanted co-dominant trees. Sanitizing and salvaging dead and dying trees are also important to achieve forest health objectives. This treatment will provide more light, nutrients, and moisture to the existing desirable trees and move the stand to a more historical condition that will be more resilient from insects, disease and catastrophic fire.

In the proposed thinning treatment area, large dead trees would be retained for cavity nesting birds. The Sawtooth National Forest recommends at least 2-3 snags per acre that are 10-20 inches in diameter and 1-2 snags per acre for 20 inch plus trees.

Organic debris (needles, branches and logs) left on the ground provide nutrient recycling and enhances forest growth. Scattered logs left on the ground also provide habitat for a variety of forest organisms, fungi and wildlife. Fuel reduction needs can still be met while retaining some woody debris in the forest for long-term productivity.

Thinning treatments will increase sunlight on the forest floor which should increase the grass and shrub component by a small amount. Foraging may increase for wildlife and these areas will still provide adequate hiding cover.

C. Floodplains, including Riparian/Wetland Zones

The proposed development of a golf course and recreational trail system on the subject parcel would promote the stabilization of soil loss and sediment delivery from the parcel; however, the proposed development would likely increase the level of plant fertilizer in surface water runoff entering Warm Springs Creek from the parcel and from the adjacent proposed private residential development. The expected surface and subsurface movement of sediment and fertilizer could degrade the aquatic habitat quality for Wood River sculpin that may utilize the reach of Warm Springs Creek adjacent to the planned development.

The proposed restoration of Warm Springs Creek and its floodplain would have improve habitat for fisheries and provide future habitat and connectivity to populations up and downstream of the proposed project.

The influx in development in the Wood River Valley has intensified the pressure to protect the floodplains from development. Local governments have promulgated setback requirements in local regulations and policies to ensure that floodplain protection is adequate. It is expected that with the increase in development and population in the cities of Ketchum, Hailey, and Bellevue, that proposals with floodplain development will receive a higher level of scrutiny. However, some uses are considered compatible within a floodplain. The 16-foot access roadway proposed for a portion of the subject parcel falls within this category of use.

Any proposed golf course greens' vegetation and revegetation on the subject parcel will help in protecting the floodplain by increasing the level of vegetation in the area.

The area proposed for the nine-hole golf course development generally overlays the footprint of the former golf course and the horse pasture located on the south portion of the property, which is the location of the subject 1.62 acre parcel. These areas have limited native vegetation and the proposed project actions will not adversely affect fish and wildlife. Kentucky bluegrass golf turf on the former course provides some value to wildlife such as squirrels, mice, voles, and fox and serves as open space for wildlife. The golf course on the south portion of the property, a portion of which is the subject 1.62 acre parcel, is located in the floodplain. Construction on the south portion of the larger parcel will affect some cottonwood riparian forest and human activity may affect natural patterns of use by wildlife through this area.

Areas of conifer forest, cottonwoods and native vegetation will be removed to construct new golf holes and recreational/cart paths. The landscape design for the course will maximize the use of native vegetation outside the turf lines. New tees, greens and fairways will be setback 75 feet from wetlands and 50 feet from Warm Springs Creek, and will be oriented to drain away from the creek for water quality protection. Golf course irrigation will be designed and managed for water conservation. The 16-foot wide golf cart path system will be mostly located in areas that are previously disturbed but some cart paths will be located in the conifer forest and within the riparian setback. Paths in these sensitive areas will be designed, constructed, and managed to minimize disturbance. No consequential direct effects will occur from golf course construction although temporary, short term effects from ground disturbance, noise, and removal of vegetation will occur. All areas disturbed by construction will be revegetated in appropriate vegetation according to the landscape and open space plans for the larger parcel development.

A foot-trail for passive recreation will be constructed of pavers and boardwalk along the south side of Warm Springs Creek. The trail will meander in and out of the riparian setback and may be directly adjacent to the Creek although no specific plan for the trail has yet been developed.

Location of the trail within the riparian setback may have a direct effect on riparian vegetation and habitat functions and values. All areas disturbed by construction will be revegetated in appropriate vegetation according to the landscape plan and direct effects will be minimal. An increase in human use along the trail may affect how animals use the area, but animals will generally be more active at dawn and dusk, and the evening when human use is low. The trail would be located to avoid existing native trees and shrubs to the greatest extent possible.

Restoration and enhancement options for Warm Springs Creek and the overall riparian corridor are being proposed. These actions would result in temporary effects from ground disturbance for bed and bank work, short term dewatering of stream reaches, and the planting of native vegetation within the restoration and enhancement area. A mitigation plan to address these activities will be prepared and reviewed by appropriate state and Federal agencies and local authorities. Restoration and enhancement will result in positive benefits to vegetation, water quality, and fish and wildlife.

It is anticipated that historic activities, including the August/September 2007 Castle Rock Fire (see boundaries of the Fire on Map 5 in the Appendices), which burned 48,520 acres about two miles west of the project area, along with the proposed future development in the area would affect the soils and water quality; however, these effects would not reach a level justifying further analysis. The soils in the area were disturbed when past transportation, commercial, residential and recreational development occurred in the Warm Springs drainage. As a result of the Castle Rock Fire, erosion and sediment delivery rates in the Warm Springs drainage are elevated from pre-fire levels. The U.S Forest Service in association with the BLM and other state and regulatory agencies, have revegetated/rehabilitated the areas affected by the fire.

D. Recreation and Access

Situated on the Forest Service- and BLM-administered federal land on the mountainside directly above the subject parcel, lies the location of the proposed Bald Mountain Connector Trail (BMCT). This trail is the effort by local citizens and agencies to establish a non-motorized trail from the ski lift at River Run to the Warm Springs Ski Lift along the lower slopes of Bald Mountain. The BMCT would cross Forest Service, BLM, and Helios LLC properties. The trail would start at the old road bed at Frenchman's Gulch and would cross BLM to Helios properties, to BLM, back to Helios, and finally to Forest Service land. The trail length for the proposed design would traverse approximately 10,000 linear feet on public lands and approximately 1,400 linear feet on Helios private lands. The 18"-24" non-motorized foot trail would be cut in by hand or machine. This trail would not be located in any critical habitat for Threatened/Endangered/Sensitive species nor would it affect any cultural resources. The proposed trail would be in conformance with the USFS' Visual Quality Objectives. As proposed, the trail would have seasonal use and would not be affected by potential avalanche conditions. The Applicant indicates they would be willing to grant an easement across their properties specifically for the proposed BMCT. Several issues associated with the proposed trail include its proximate location to the avalanche red and blue zones, to other private land owners below the trail, the cost of construction and maintenance of the trail, and the requirement for NEPA compliance to construct the trail, i.e., Special Use Permit from the Forest Service and Grant of Right of Way from the BLM.

Recreational use in the form of hiking and mountain biking through the easement and along the trail corridor would increase. However, if annexation of Warm Springs Ranch and the subject parcel (if acquired by the Applicant) does not occur there would be no public access easement across the Applicant's private property to adjacent public land; thus, not adjoining the proposed

connector trail between River Run Lodge and Warm Springs Lodge.

Since 2005, Blaine County and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have been working collaboratively in developing a recreation and travel plan to guide summer and winter recreational opportunities within the Wood River Valley. On January 29, 2008 the Blaine County Commissioners provided the BLM with a recommendation to adopt the outcome of this planning effort to create quality trails and recreational areas for all users, manage motorized vehicles on designated routes and give special management attention to wintering wildlife. BLM is currently considering Blaine County's recommendation, however, a land use plan amendment and environmental analysis is required prior to acceptance and/or adoption. BLM anticipates a proposed decision on these actions in the fall of 2009. For the details, please see the following link to the Blaine County Recreation and Travel Plan:

http://www.co.blaine.id.us/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={B544CE2E-346A-4269-AC5F-7F7810FD0733}

A public easement would be granted by the Applicant during the annexation and PUD approval process with the City of Ketchum that would allow public access across the Applicant's private property to adjacent public land. Although parking would not be provided specifically for this easement, parking is available in the general area and the amount of recreational use on public land would increase. The project will create permanent human presence and higher use in an area that currently lacks housing development. Effects by human and domestic animal presence on trails can be mitigated by locating trails away from sensitive lands, restricting use, proper trail maintenance and signage.

E. Land Uses

Actions that may occur within the project area include recreational activities (*i.e.*, hunting, hiking, sightseeing, etc.), recreational development (trails), and residential/commercial development on adjacent private property. There has been an exponential increase in development experienced in the recent past that has occurred in the floodplain and expanded into the adjacent large drainages. These activities are anticipated to continue with or without the implementation of the proposed action.

The past uses of the subject parcel included hay storage and horse corrals, these uses occurred on the property for approximately 30 years or so before the USDI resurvey of the area was conducted in 1994. If annexation of the larger parcel, Warm Springs Ranch, and the 1.62 acre parcel (if acquired by the Applicant) does not occur it is anticipated that the future use of the parcel would primarily be for a temporary access to the 18 acres on the eastern side of Warm Springs Ranch currently owned by the Applicant. The access constraints on the 18-acre portion of the larger parcel limit its potential development uses.

The proposed use of the subject parcel includes a recreational access trail and golf course greens which would conform to the City of Ketchum's Comprehensive Plan. The level of legal public access to adjacent public lands would increase with the recreational trail and access easement and would comply with the goals of the adjacent property owners, the BLM and the Forest Service, to provide public access to public lands.

F. Socio-economics

Cumulative effects of the proposed development of the larger parcel are considered in the context of growth and development in the Wood River Valley. This area has experienced

considerable population growth and community expansion over the past several decades. These trends continue today and are expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Growth and development has resulted in an increase in the number of commercial facilities and residential homes present in the project area. The few land parcels that are currently undeveloped retain a limited open space character; however, continued growth and demand for land will result in diminished open space values. Pressures for both open space and developable land are expected to increase in the future.

The proposed development of the larger parcel and the acquisition of the subject parcel would allow for the continued recreational opportunities within the Warm Springs area, and a public access easement to adjacent public lands as development continues to spread. The demand for public access in the area continues to be a main issue as growth and development continue to spread within Blaine County, and the communities of Ketchum, Hailey, and Bellevue.

Cumulative Effects of No Action

A. Wildlife, including BLM Special Status Animals, Fish, and Migratory Birds

The cumulative effects to wildlife for the No Action Alternative would for the most part be the same as the proposed action. The subject parcel and the larger parcel and the wildlife it supports would continue to be affected by increased levels of physical and recreational development. The public would continue to utilize the area and allow their pets, mainly dogs, to roam without restriction.

B. Vegetation, including Invasive, Non-native Species

Cumulative effects with regards to vegetation would resemble those for the proposed action and would continue to contribute to the spread of non-native invasive and noxious species.

C. Floodplains, including Riparian/Wetland Zones

The overall effects to the floodplain are anticipated to remain the same for the proposed action and No Action Alternative. However, the overall project for the larger parcel would enhance the riparian area and wetlands.

D. Recreation and Access

The No Action Alternative is anticipated to affect recreational access to the proposed connector trail between the River Run Lodge and the Warm Springs Lodge by not offering a potential mid-point access at the subject parcel. There would remain no other legal access to the subject parcel other than traversing Bald Mountain.

E. Land Uses

Recreational activities and development, and residential/commercial development are still anticipated to occur within the area. Development on the adjacent private property is anticipated to continue with or without implementation of the No Action Alternative although access would continue to be an issue.

F. Socio-economics

Socio-economic cumulative effects for the No Action alternative are expected to be driven by the influx in development and population in Blaine County. The pressures on open space would continue to increase as development expands. Pressures on the City of Ketchum will increase with regards to achieving the goals set forth in their Comprehensive Plan; active recreation and increased public access in the Warm Springs area. It is noted that currently the anticipated effects of the No Action Alternative would continue to contribute to the decline of tourism in the area.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Bureau of Land Management, Interdisciplinary and NEPA Staff / Reviewers:

Name	Title	Initials	Date
Lisa Cresswell	Aerchologist/NEPA Coordinator	LC	7/21/2008
Katherine Farrell	District Planning & Environmental Coordinator	KF	12/31/2008
Dave Freiberg	Outdoor Recreation Planner	DF	8/14/2008
Tim Fuller	Environmental Protection Specialist	TF	7/18/2008
John Garth	Gelologist	JSG	7/20/2008
Tara Hagen	Realty Specialist	TH	8/14/2008
Julie Hilty	Botanist	JH	7/29/2008
Lisa Lyda	Natural Resource Specialist	LL	8/14/2008
Kasey Prestwich	Forester	Kp	8/14/2008
Joe Russell	Fire Use Specialist	JR	8/19/2008
Gary Wright	Wildlife Biologist	GW	8/14/2008

NEPA Third-Party Contractors:

MPE, Inc.

Name	Title
Mary Ann Mix	Senior Environmental Planner
Shelly Scott	Mapping / Administrative Coordinator
M.J. Oresik	Regulatory Specialist

Subcontractors:

Will Miller Consulting, LLC

Name	Title
William Miller	Environmental Consultant
Rob Hazlewood	Senior Biologist, Fish & Wildlife
Kris Thoreson	Fish & Wildlife
Carol Blackburn	Botanist

Sawtooth Environmental Consulting – Wetlands and Riparian Resources

Name	Title
Trent Stumph	Environmental Consultant

Geo Engineers, Inc.

Name	Title
David A. O'Day	Professional Engineer
Mike Homza	Professional Engineer
Brad Hayes	Professional Engineer

Interested Parties:

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination
Blaine County Commissioners	Local Government
Blaine County Planning & Zoning	Local Government
Helios Development, LLC	Applicant/Adjacent Landowner
Idaho Fish & Game	State Government
Ketchum City Council	Local Government
Ketchum City Planning & Zoning	Local Government
United States Forest Service Ketchum Ranger District	Federal Government

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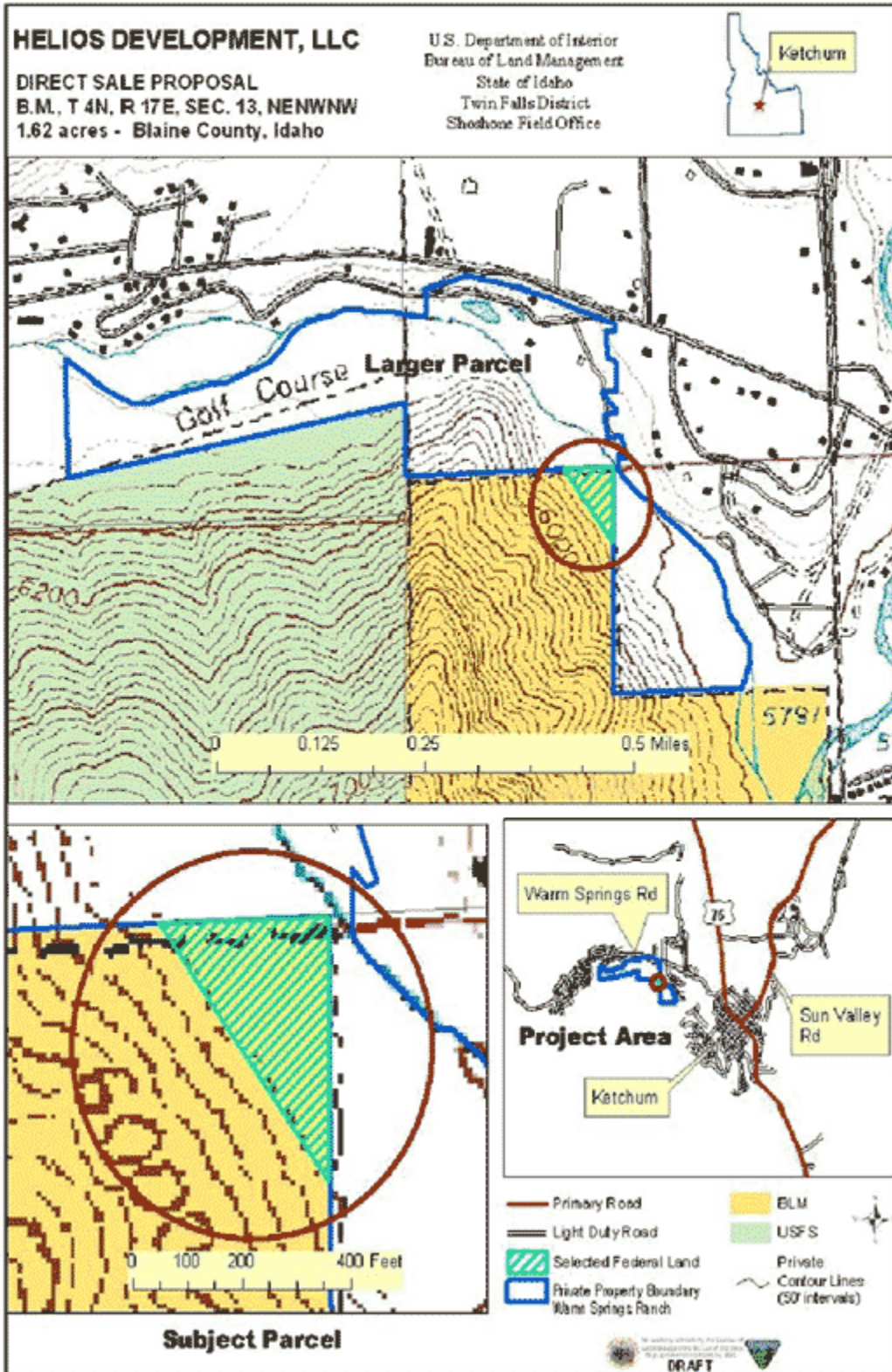
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APPENDICES

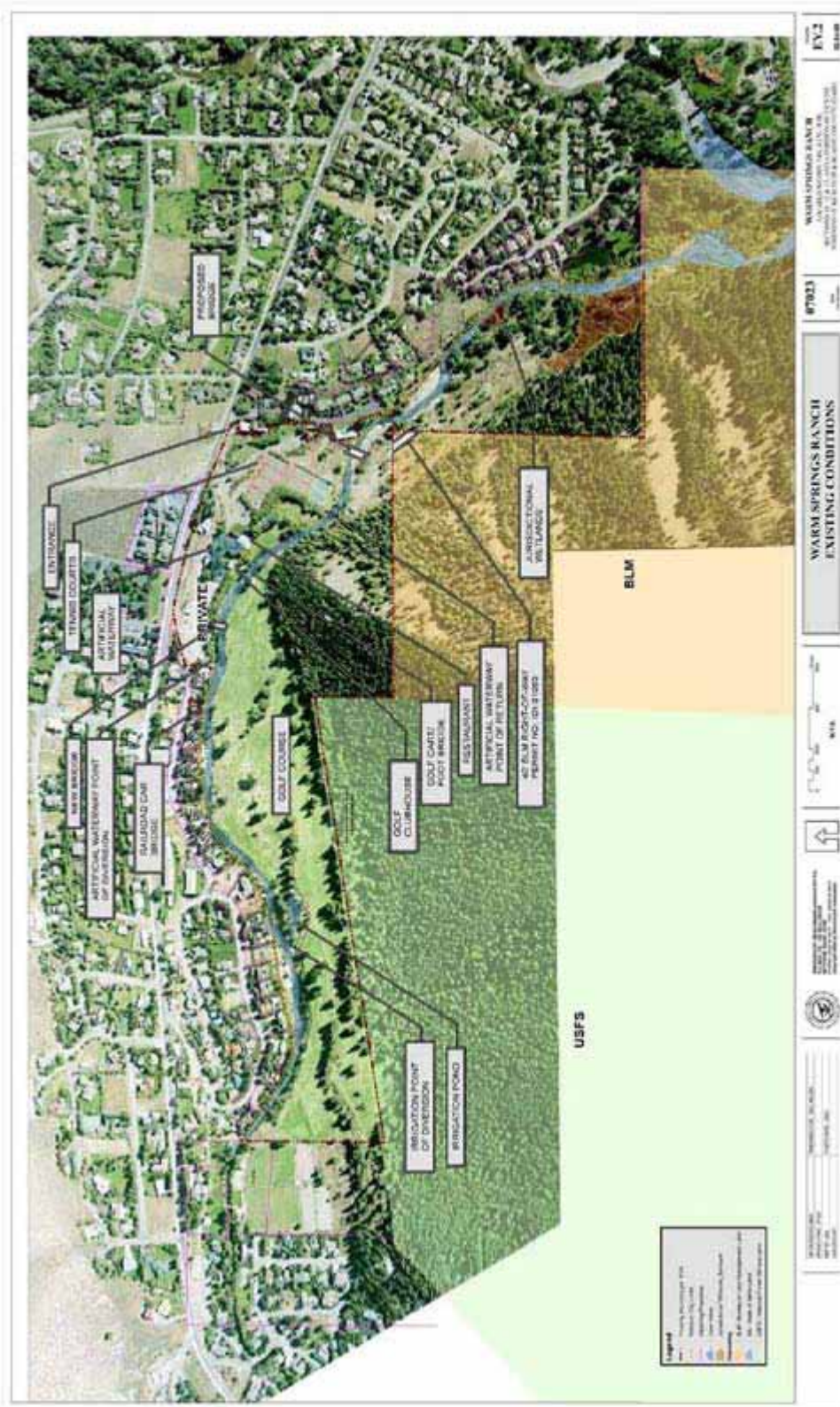
- Map 1 Direct Sale (BLM)
- Map 2 Warm Springs Ranch – Existing Conditions
- Map 3 Warm Springs Ranch Site – 2003 Aerial Photo
- Map 4 Warm Springs Ranch Resort PUD – Large Block Plat
- Map 5 Warm Springs Ranch Jurisdictional Map
- Map 6 BLM Parcel, T4N, R17E, S 13, Lot 5
- Map 7 Castle Rock Fire Boundaries

- Figure 1 BLM Memo – Semi-Annual Species List Update (Page 1), dated 12/01/08
- Figure 1.1 BLM Memo – Semi-Annual Species List Update (Page 2)
- Figure 2 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Snake River Office – Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species & Designated and Proposed Critical Habitat in Idaho
- Figure 2.1 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Delisted Species: Idaho

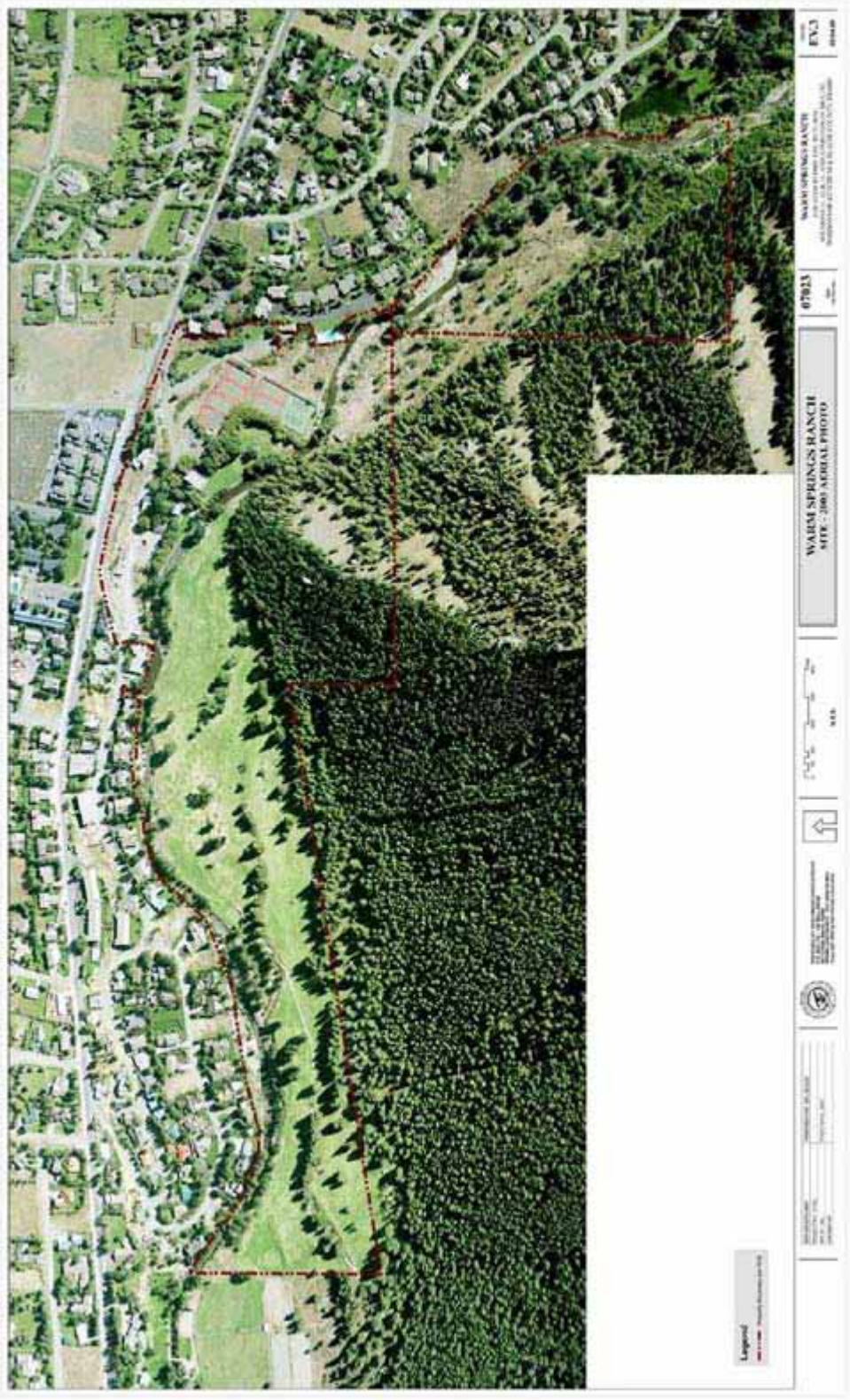
Map 1 Direct Sale (BLM)

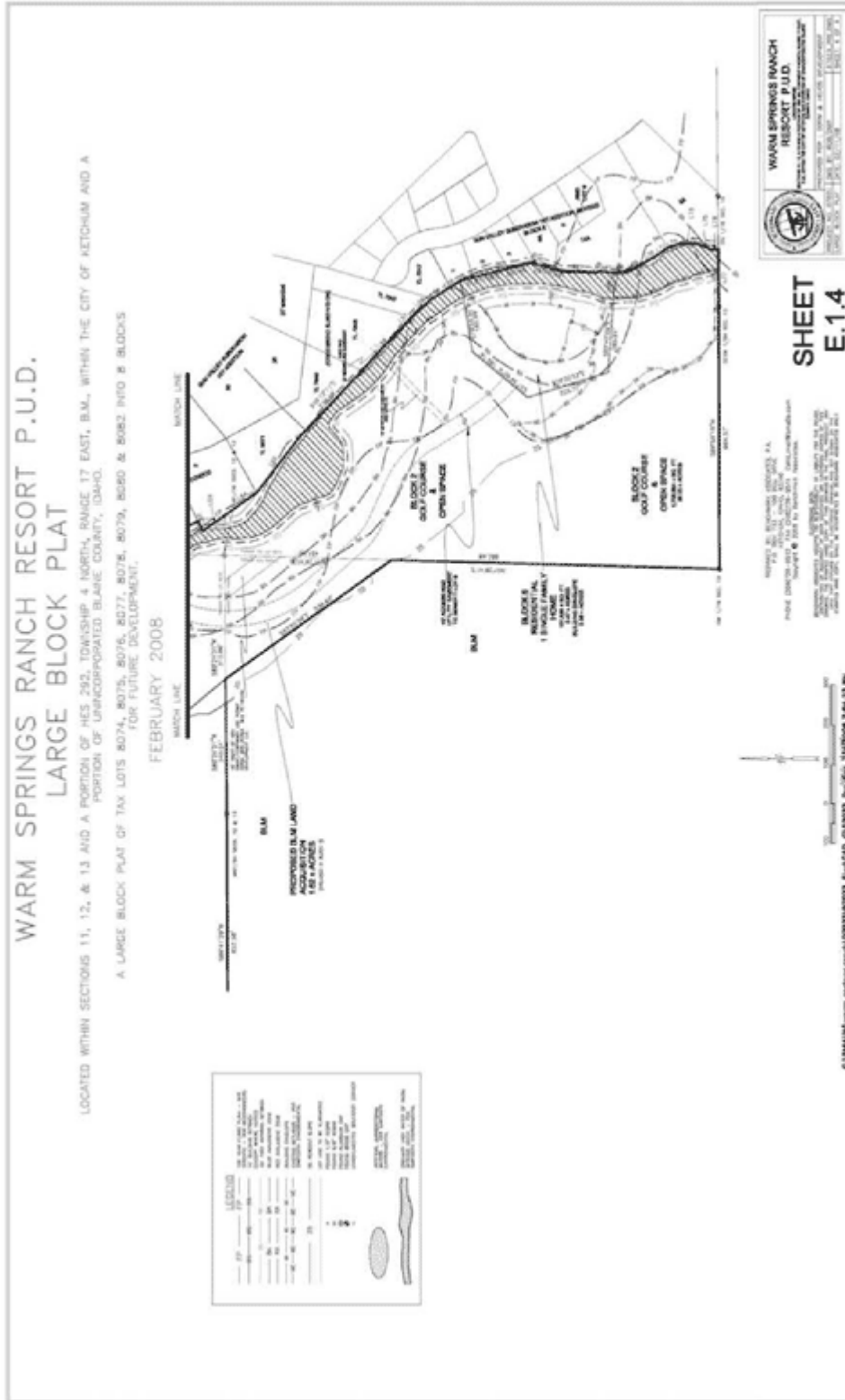


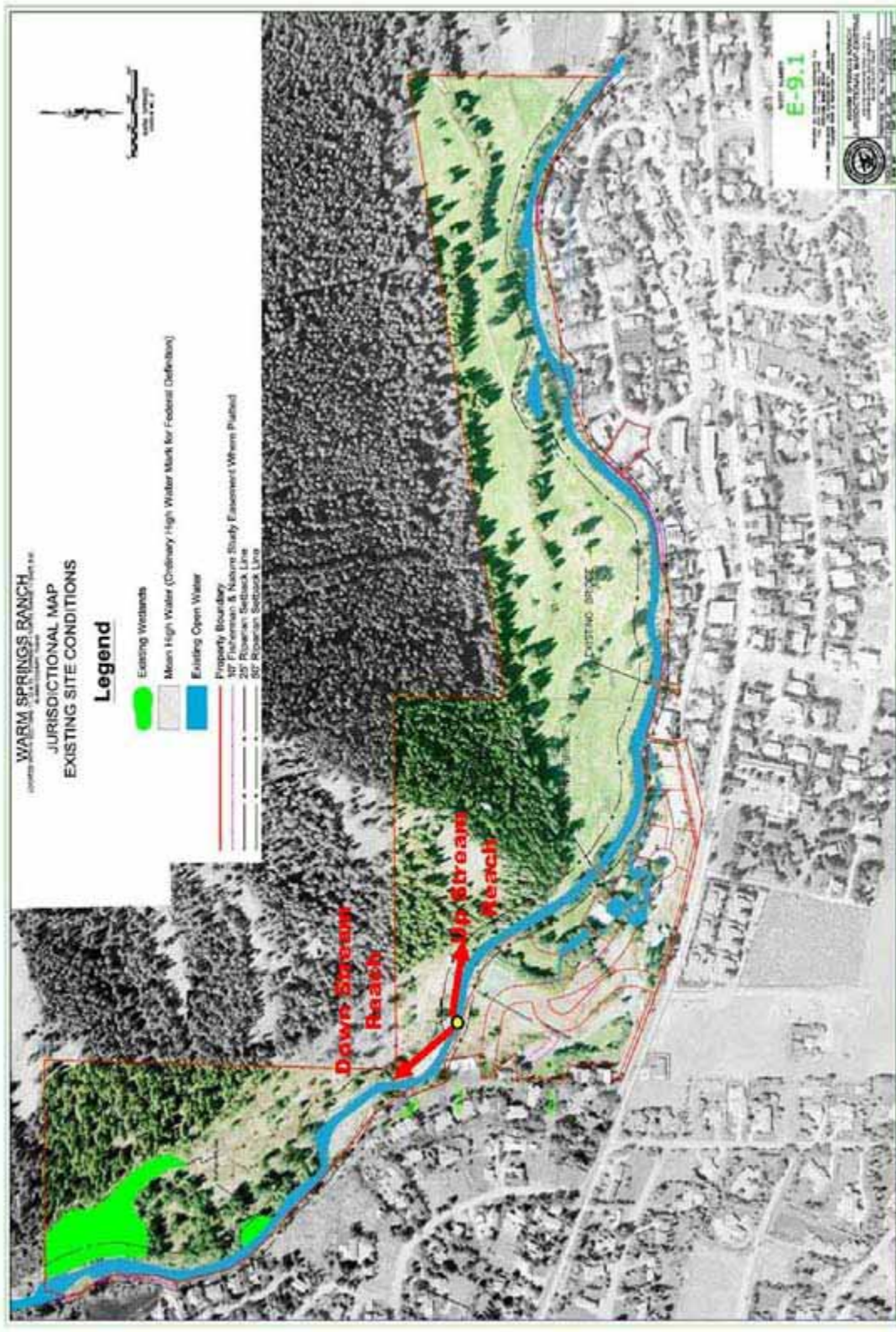
Map 2 Warm Springs Ranch – Existing Conditions



Map 3 Warm Springs Ranch Site – 2003 Aerial Photo







Map 6 BLM Parcel, T4N, R17E, S 13, Lot 5



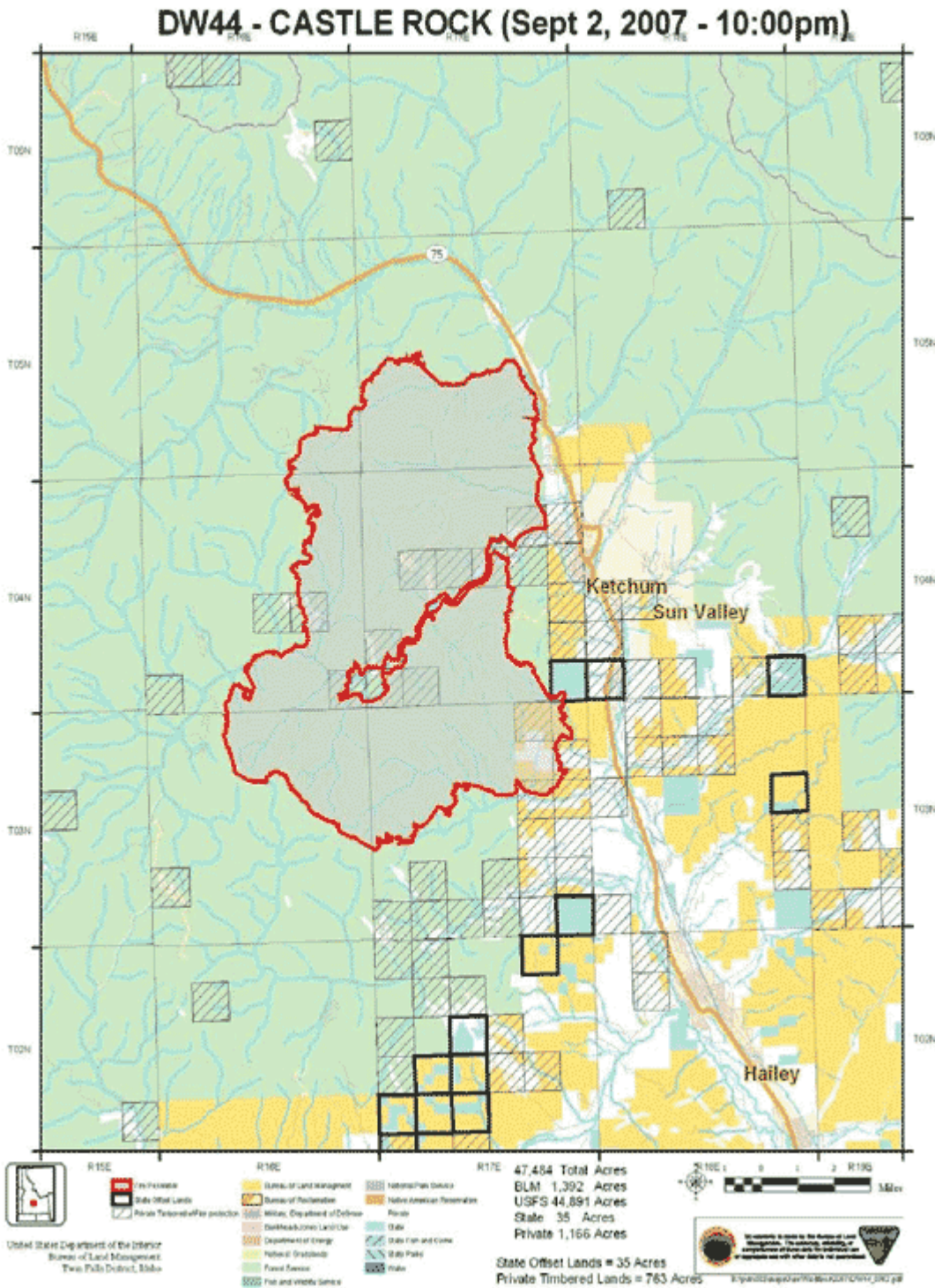




Figure 1 BLM Memo – Semi-Annual Species List Update (Page 1), dated 12/01/08



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office
1387 S. Vinnett Way, Room 368
Boise, Idaho 83709
Telephone (208) 378-5243
<http://www.fws.gov/idaho>

DEC 01 2008

Memorandum

To: Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Boise, Idaho
(Attention: Jon Foster)

From: ^{Action} Field Supervisor, Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Boise, Idaho *Mary L Burton*

Subject: Semi-annual Species List Update
1002.0000 14420-2009-SL-0027

The Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is providing you with a list of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species that occur on Bureau of Land Management lands in Idaho. This memorandum updates species list 2008-SL-0348 and species list addendums 2008-SL-0442 and 2008-SL-0519, and provides you with a new number, 14420-2009-SL-0027. Please refer to this number in correspondence and documentation. This memorandum and list are being provided to your agency via electronic mail.

In a decision published in the July 9, 2007 Federal Register, the Service concluded that protections for the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended, were no longer warranted. Effective August 8, 2007, the bald eagle was no longer included on the list of threatened and endangered species in the lower 48 states pursuant to the Act, and has been removed from all Idaho species lists. The bald eagle continues to be Federally protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Service has developed National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (Guidelines) to advise project proponents when and under what circumstances the protective provisions of these Acts may apply to their activities to help avoid violations of the law. The Guidelines and additional information on protection for the bald eagle are available on the Service's web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/baldeagle.htm> (last accessed November 7, 2008). The Service is also available to provide technical assistance regarding bald eagle conservation.


TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 

Figure 1.1 BLM Memo – Semi-Annual Species List Update (Page 2)

Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management
Semi-annual Species List Update

Information about Federal agency obligations under section 7 of the Act has been provided to you in the past. If you would like us to send you any of this information again, or if you have questions, please contact Barbara Chaney at the Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office at (208) 378-5259 or Damien Miller at our Eastern Idaho Field Office at (208) 237-6975. If you have questions regarding species under the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) jurisdiction, please call (208) 378-5696. Additional information on the section 7 process is also available on the Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office website at <http://www.fws.gov/idaho/agenices.htm> (last accessed November 7, 2008). Thank you for your continued interest in the conservation of threatened and endangered species.

Enclosures (2)

Figure 2 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Snake River Office – Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species & Designated and Proposed Critical Habitat in Idaho

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office		Bureau of Land Management, Idaho																																	
		Mammals					Fish					Plants					Invertebrates					Candidate Species ²													
Species List Update 1/1/2010, 2009, SL-0027		Gray Wolf	Selkirk Mountains	Woodland Caribou	Catclaw Bear	Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel	Canada Lynx	Kootenai River White Sturgeon	Bull Trout	Sokeycy Salmon	Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon	Fall Chinook Salmon	Steelhead Trout	MacFarlane's Four-O'Clock	Slickspot	Pappgrass	Water Howellia	Tie Ladies'-Tresses	Spading's Cactidly	Tiah Valvata Snail	Snake River Phya Snail	Biss Rapids Snail	Banbury Springs	Brunum Hot Springsnail	Christ's Palmbrush	Columbia Spotted Frog	Southern Idaho Ground Squirrel	Yellow billed Cuckoo							
Boise District	Bureau Field Office								✓																		✓								
	Four Rivers Field Office	✓				✓			✓ ³							✓										✓	✓								
	Owyhee Field Office																									✓									
Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area															✓																				
Twin Falls District																																			
	Burley Field Office																			✓						✓									
	Jarbridge Field Office								✓											✓						✓									
	Shoshone Field Office	✓																		✓															
Idaho Falls District																																			
	Challis Field Office	✓							✓																										
	Pocatello Field Office	✓																		✓															
	Salmon Field Office	✓							✓																										
	Upper Snake Field Office	✓							✓											✓															
Coeur d'Alene District																																			
	Cottonwood Field Office	✓							✓																										
	Coeur d'Alene Field Office																																		

1. These are selected Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species summary for species specific information.
 2. Candidate species have no protection under the Act, but are included for your early planning consideration. Candidate species could be proposed as listed during the project planning period. The Service will use an evaluation of potential effects on candidate species that may occur in the project area, but may require consultation with the A.C. about the effect of project action on them.
 3. Designated Critical Habitat in addition to species presence.

Figure 2.1 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Delisted Species: Idaho



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Delisted Species: Idaho



MAMMALS

- Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*):
North of I-90 endangered
- Selkirk Mountains woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*): endangered
- Grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*):
All areas except Yellowstone: threatened
Yellowstone population: delisted
- Northern Idaho ground squirrel (*Spermophilus brunneus brunneus*): threatened
- Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*): threatened

FISH

- Kootenai River white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*): endangered
- Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*): threatened
coterminous listing
- Under NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction:
Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*):
endangered
- Spring/Summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): threatened
- Fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): threatened
- Steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*):
threatened

PLANTS

- MacFarlane's four-o'clock (*Mirabilis macfarlanei*): threatened
- Water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*): threatened
- Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*):
threatened
- Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*): threatened

INVERTEBRATES

- Utah valvata snail (*Valvata utahensis*):
endangered
- Snake River physa snail (*Haitia (Physa) natricina*):
endangered
- Bliss Rapids snail (*Taylorconcha serpenticola*):
threatened
- Banbury Springs lanx (*Lanx* sp.): endangered
- Bruneau hot springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis*): endangered

BIRDS

None listed currently in Idaho

DELISTED SPECIES	CANDIDATE SPECIES
Bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	Christ's paintbrush (<i>Castilleja christii</i>)
Idaho springsnail (<i>Pyrgulopsis idahoensis</i>)	Columbia spotted frog (<i>Rana luteiventris</i>) Great Basin population
Grizzly bear (<i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i>) Yellowstone population	Southern Idaho ground squirrel (<i>Spermophilus brunneus endemicus</i>)
	Yellow-billed cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>)
	Proposed Listing: Slickspot peppergrass (<i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>)