Draft Environmental Assessment

Harriman State Park Fire Mitigation

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

FEMA-LPDM-PJ-10-ID-2008-006

September 10, 2009

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Contract No. HSFEHQ-06-D-0162
Task Order HSFEHQ-08-J-0050

15300497.00300

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Area of Potential Effect – the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist. The area of potential effects is influenced by the scale and nature of the undertaking.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) – innovative environmental protection practices applied to help ensure that projects are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.

Fuels (Ladder) – understory branches or shrubs that can allow a fire to ascend into the canopy.

Fuels Reduction – removal of excess fuels through thinning, limbing, or other methods, to reduce the potential for severe wildfires.

Graminoid – any plant, such as a grass, sedge or rush.

Limbing – removal of large tree limbs to reduce fuel load and the potential for crown fires.

Suppression – a response to wildland fire that results in curtailment of fire spread and elimination of all identified threats from the fire.

Thinning – partial removal of trees, branches, or shrubs from a stand to reduce fuel loads.

Wildfire – an unwanted wildland fire.

Wildland Fire – any non-structure fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in the wildland. This term encompasses fires previously referred to as both wildfires and natural fires.

Wildland/Urban Interface – line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with vegetative fuels in wildlands.

AMNH	American Museum of Natural History
APE	area of potential effect
BCR	Bird Conservation Regions
BHS	Bureau of Homeland Security
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
cfs	cubic feet per second
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DBH	diameter at breast height
EA	environmental assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
ICDC	Idaho Conservation Data Center
IDC	Idaho Department of Commerce
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDPR	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
IDVMD	Idaho Vertebrate Modeling Database
L-PDM	Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OSU	Oregon State University
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDI	U.S. Department of the Interior
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

SECTION ONE INTRODUCTION

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) applied to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation (L-PDM) program for funding assistance with a wildfire fuel load reduction project in eastern Idaho. The Harriman State Park Fire Mitigation project would reduce risk from fire to people and property on 113 acres of public land located in Fremont County, Idaho.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 1500 through 1508) direct FEMA and other federal agencies to fully understand and take into consideration the environmental consequences of proposed federally funded projects. Under NEPA, Congress authorizes and directs federal agencies to carry out their regulations, policies, and programs as fully as possible in accordance with the statute's policies on environmental protection. NEPA requires federal agencies to make a series of evaluations and decisions that anticipate significant effects on environmental resources. This requirement must be fulfilled whenever a federal agency proposes an action, grants a permit, or agrees to fund or otherwise authorize any other entity to undertake an action that could possibly affect the human environment. In compliance with NEPA and its implementing regulations, FEMA prepared this draft environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the project alternatives. Scoping was conducted between March and April 2009 by FEMA to determine if other issues exist. Preliminary issues included cultural properties, vegetation removal, and biological resources. No comments were received.

SECTION TWO PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

The purpose of the FEMA L-PDM program is to provide funding to assist states and local governments (including Indian Tribal governments) in implementing cost-effective hazard mitigation activities that complement comprehensive mitigation programs and reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property. The purpose of this action is to provide L-PDM funding to IDPR for wildfire mitigation activities as mandated by Congress in the reauthorization legislation for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program.

IDPR identified Harriman State Park as a high priority area for funding under the LPDM. The forest within and around Harriman State Park has been devastated by past insect and disease epidemics and a disruption of the natural wildland fire frequency through decades of fire suppression. These two factors have resulted in a significant buildup of combustible forest fuels far beyond natural levels, causing the forests within the park to be at risk for a severe wildfire event similar to what Yellowstone National Park experienced in 1988. The Yellowstone fire in 1988 was caused by extremely dry weather and high winds, and ultimately burned over 100,000 acres (Turner et al. 2003).

Moreover, hotter, drier weather anticipated from climate change could increase the frequency and intensity of wildfires; thereby further threatening both property and forests. Drier conditions would reduce the range and health of lodgepole forests, and increase their susceptibility to fire. Milder winters could increase the likelihood of insect outbreaks and of subsequent wildfires in the dead fuel left after such an outbreak (USEPA 1998).

Harriman State Park is heavily used during the high fire risk summer months, with between 75,000 to 80,000 visitors each year, and a peak summer month average of 700 visitors per day. The park is also touted as one of the best fly fishing locations in the United States. Ingress and egress to the park is limited, so that an orderly and rapid evacuation would be difficult in the event of a wildfire. The geographic areas targeted for wildfire vegetation management under the proposed action were identified as high-risk in the *State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan*. On a list of counties in Idaho at risk for wildland fire, Fremont County is listed as 9th for existing risk and 15th for potential risk, out of 44 total counties (BHS 2007).

In the forest, the damage from the past insect and disease infestations is evident. There are large areas of dead and dying trees. Wildfires that occur in these areas during periods of high fire risk, typically July and August, burn with extreme intensity. Wetlands and riparian areas have also become high-risk due to intrusions of less fire-resistant trees, grasses, and shrubs, which increases the potential for wildfires to spread with greater speed and burn with greater than normal intensity. Given the current unnatural fuel loading throughout Harriman State Park, all structures are at risk of being destroyed and lives could be lost. When a large fire does occur, ground suppression efforts would be greatly hampered by the limited access to and throughout the park.

The need for this action is to reduce the risk to people and property from wildfires in Harriman State Park. From this need, IDPR identified the preferred alternative (vegetative fuel management and removal) as a high priority in the *State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan* (BHS 2007).

SECTION THREE ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

This section discusses the two alternatives considered in this EA: (1) the No Action Alternative and (2) the Proposed Action Alternative, to which FEMA funding would contribute; and other Alternatives that were considered but dismissed.

3.1 ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION

Under the No Action Alternative, FEMA would not provide funding to reduce wildfire fuel loads in the target areas of Harriman State Park. People and nearby structures would continue to be at risk from catastrophic fire events. Current and ongoing activities to protect the buildings and visitors would continue, but not to the degree needed if wildfires occur. This alternative would not sufficiently meet the project purpose and need, nor the goals and objectives listed in the *State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan*.

3.2 ALTERNATIVE 2 – PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action would remove excessive vegetation (mostly Lodgepole pines) with light mechanized equipment, such as a small tracked vehicle with a harvesting head, chainsaws, weed cutters; and hand-held tools such as pulaskis and saws for pruning and limbing. Work will be completed either by private contractors or park staff on approximately 113 acres of publicly owned land (Appendix A – Figure 1). The geographic areas targeted for wildfire vegetation management include 50 acres near the historic ranch complex and 63 acres near the administrative area. These treatment areas were selected to create defensible space around the existing historic structures and the roadway. The 20 historic structures on the property and the roadway itself would not be altered. The work would be conducted in late summer or early fall. Lodgepole pines are the only tree species to be removed. Removal of shrubs and/or grasses is not planned.

A wildland fire fuels management specialist would assess and document the nature of the current fire fuels situation around the structures and along the park road within the 113 acre project area. This assessment would be followed by a comprehensive fuel analysis and preparation of a Fuels Management Plan. Park staff would assess and determine the health of the trees.

Treatments to remove vegetation, including existing downed trees, vary depending on the site, including proximity of vegetation to structures, the road, or trails, and the density of the stand. Most dead or dying trees would be felled by hand. Some dead trees, or snags, would be left for raptor nesting if they are not within falling distance of a structure, trail, or road. Park staff would work with wildlife biologists with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to determine which trees should be left as snags. Trees less than 10 feet tall would be thinned to create openings, and remaining trees would be limbed to a height of approximately 8 feet. Small trees between 3-4 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) would also be removed. Removal of shrubs and grasses is not planned. Piling of debris would be by hand or mechanical means using a small, tracked excavator with a harvester head to mechanically cut the trees. This excavator/harvester can process the trees fencing material, replacement logs for buildings, sign posts, snow pole markers, fire wood and wood chips. An excavator operator can process the same amount of materials as 10 skilled chainsaw operators.

Piled debris would be sorted by size at several locations to minimize the need to haul debris through the project areas. Larger debris would be hauled through a trailer on the excavator, and small debris would be pulled in a trailer using a small, rubber-tired all-terrain vehicle. Debris 5 inches or greater in diameter would be used as firewood, debris 3-5 inches in diameter would be used as fencing, and debris smaller than 3 inches in diameter would be chipped and used on-site as mulch or sold to the public. Other materials deemed impractical for use would be burned at the park's permitted and approved burn site, located approximately 2 miles away.

Lodgepole pines less than 10 feet tall encroaching wetland areas would be cut by hand 6 inches above ground, with no ground disturbance. No manual or mechanical vegetation removal would occur within 200 feet of streams or lakes. BMPs for erosion control would be used if necessary. Chemical vegetation removal is not proposed.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would also use grant funds and State of Idaho Parks and Recreation funding to accomplish the following activities over a 28-month period:

1. reduce risk from wildfire to historic buildings and along the roadway by establishing defensible space
2. provide safer and more consistent access and egress from the park by removing trees 3-4 inches DBH within 30 feet of roads and turnouts

The proposed tasks are consistent with the *Fremont County Wildland Fire Hazard Mitigation Plan* and the *State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan*.

3.3 OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Widening the road and turnouts would improve ingress and egress and give firefighters a better base to access the area in the event of a wildfire. However, this would not resolve the fuel buildup and extreme fire hazard issues. Doubling or tripling the park staff with trained firefighters and purchasing numerous wildland and structural fire engines and fire fighting equipment is not feasible due to the increased cost. Currently, the park does not have funds to adequately create fuel breaks around the structures and road. The Proposed Action is the only feasible alternative that would meet the purpose and need by effectively reducing or removing the risks of wildfire.

SECTION FOUR AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section discusses the existing conditions, by resource and the potential effects, of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives.

For each resource category, the impact analysis follows the same general approach. When possible, quantitative information is provided to establish impacts. Qualitatively, these impacts will be measured based on small, moderate, or large impacts as outlined in the chart below.

Impact Scale	Criteria
Small	Environmental effects would not be detectable or would be so minor that they would neither destabilize nor noticeably alter any important attribute of the resource.
Moderate	Environmental effects would be sufficient to alter noticeably, but not to destabilize, important attributes of the resource.
Large	Environmental effects would be clearly noticeable and would be sufficient to destabilize important attributes of the resource.

Impacts are disclosed based on the amount of change or loss of the resource from the baseline conditions. Impacts may be direct or indirect. Direct impacts are caused by an action and occur at the same time and place as the action. Indirect impacts are caused by the action and occur later in time or are farther removed from the area, but are still reasonably foreseeable (40 CFR Part 1508). Cumulative impacts are discussed in Section Five.

Resources that were not analyzed in detail include air quality and visual resources. No prescribed fire would be used for fuel reduction in this project, so no effect to air quality is expected beyond small amounts of dust and exhaust from short-term mechanical removal operations. No visual impacts are anticipated due to the thinning of small (3-4 inches DBH) trees and small amounts of ground disturbance. These resources will not be analyzed to any further extent in this document.

4.1 CLIMATE, GEOLOGY, AND SOILS

4.1.1 Climate

Generally, the climate in Fremont County can be described as moderately wet and cold during the winter and dry and warm during the summer. Temperature averages range from 2°F to 30°F during the winter and 37°F to 78°F during summer (North Wind 2004). Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning, hail, and strong winds are common during the summer season.

Average yearly precipitation (rain) is 21 inches, with limited precipitation during the summer months. Harriman State Park receives substantial snowfall in the winter, more so than other areas of the county. Typical snowfall is approximately 207 inches. Humidity is generally greatest in winter months (60-80 percent) and lower during the summer (20-40 percent).

Over the next century, climate in Idaho may experience additional changes. By 2100 temperatures in Idaho could increase by 5°F (with a range of 2-9°F) in winter and summer and 4°F (with a range of 2-7°F) in spring and fall. Precipitation is estimated to change little in

summer, to increase by 10 percent in spring and fall (with a range of 5-20 percent), and to increase by 20 percent in winter (with a range of 10-40 percent). The amount of precipitation on extreme wet or snowy days in winter is likely to increase. The frequency of extreme hot days in summer would increase. An increase in the frequency and intensity of winter storms is possible (USEPA 1998).

4.1.2 Geology and Soils

Fremont County is dominated by volcanic features which are a result of the earth's crust passing over the hot spot that now lies beneath Yellowstone National Park (Hackett and Bonnichsen 1994). Harriman State Park is located within the Island Park Caldera, a giant craterlike depression created 1.3 million years ago by a volcanic explosion. This explosion generated 280 cubic kilometers of material and created a 256-square-kilometer caldera (AMNH 2009). There are no faults within 25 miles of Harriman State Park. The closest faults are the Madison fault (26 miles away) and the Centennial fault (28 miles away), both located in Montana. These faults have the potential for a 6.5 to 7.5 magnitude earthquake (USGS 2008).

The topography of Fremont County ranges in elevation from 4,850 feet above sea level along the Henrys Fork of the Snake River to 10,240 feet at the summit of Targhee Peak on the extreme north end of the county (North Wind 2004). The project area is relatively flat with small topographic changes of approximately 10-20 feet.

Soils in the project area are predominantly volcanic in origin. The soils are moderately to well-drained, and consist of loess, volcanic ash, and alluvium. The soil profile of the historic ranch complex consists of 1 to 2 inches of slightly decomposed plant material over fine sandy loam and gravelly loam. The soil profile of the administration area is silt loam, with small areas of cobbly and extremely stony loam (USDA 2009). This type of soil is vulnerable to accelerated erosion caused by disturbance of natural conditions through burning, weathering, and man made disturbances of excessive grazing or tillage. These disturbances increase the potential for erosion by wind and water, the most common forms of erosion in the project areas. There is no prime farmland or soils of statewide importance within or adjacent to the project areas (Fremont County 2008).

4.1.3 Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 – No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, FEMA would not provide funding to reduce wildland fuel loads in Harriman State Park. No impacts to climate or geology would occur. No impacts to soil resources within the project area would be expected, except for impacts associated with a catastrophic fire and current park activities. These impacts may include loss of vegetation caused by uncontrolled fire and subsequent soil erosion and soil alteration. The impact scale would range from small to large, depending on the size of the wildfire.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action

No effect on climate and geology would be expected based on the small scale of the project and minor ground-disturbing activities. Future natural fires of varying intensities that may occur in the project area may alter the physical, chemical, and biological properties of the soil as a result

of vegetation removal. However, the lack of fire due to the project activities may allow soil properties alteration as a result of limited nutrient cycling in fire-maintained habitat areas.

The impact scale would be small, resulting in no environmental consequences to soils. Mechanical removal activities would be limited to the use of chainsaws, weed cutters, pulaskis, and an excavator and would not include heavy equipment. Additionally, no fuels reduction by burning is planned for this project. While individual trees would be removed, vegetation removal in overly large areas at a given time would be avoided and best management practices (BMPs) for erosion control would be employed. Limited soil would be removed as a result of individual tree removal. The proposed action would not require leveling or re-grading the ground. Due to the flat terrain and subsequent inability of soils to migrate, the impacts would be small for erosion.

Direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to soil productivity, fertility, stability, or infiltration capacity would be at or below the level of detection. The soils would remain at the same stability level as no soil disturbance is planned. Any effects on soil productivity or fertility would be slight, and no long-term effects to soils would occur. No impacts to prime farmlands or soils of statewide importance would occur, as none are present within or adjacent to the project areas. With changes in climate, soils could become drier. However, the extent of this is unknown (USEPA 1998). Due to the small scale of the project, it would not measurably exacerbate climate change.

4.2 FLOODPLAINS

Project areas in Harriman State Park are adjacent to the Henrys Fork of the Snake River, Silver Lake, and Thurmon Creek floodplains (Appendix A – Figure 2). However, vegetation removal activities would not occur within the adjacent floodplains.

While many of the park's facilities and structures are located in close proximity to the Henrys Fork, the flood hazard in this area is minimal due to the Island Park Reservoir Dam. This dam regulates flows within the river basin.

The potential for flooding from surface runoff is also remote due to the raised elevation of the ranch complex and the distance to major drainages in the area.

Alternative 1 – No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, FEMA would not provide funding to reduce wildland fuel loads within Harriman State Park. No impacts to floodplains adjacent to the project area would be expected, except for impacts associated with a catastrophic fire. The impact scale would range from small to large. These impacts may include loss of vegetation caused by uncontrolled fire and subsequent soil erosion.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action

No environmental consequences related to floodplains are expected from fuels reduction activities because the activities do not require soil-leveling or large-scale removal of vegetation that would result in changes to the adjacent floodplain contours or elevations. The actions would not occur within designated floodplains or riparian areas. No direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to floodplains are anticipated. The impact scale would be small.

4.3 WETLANDS AND WATER RESOURCES

4.3.1 Wetlands

According to Harriman State Park, there are two wetlands mapped within the project areas totaling approximately 5 to 6 acres (Appendix A – Figure 3). These wetlands are classified as depressional wetlands. Typically, each wetland captures snowmelt during the spring months and loses standing water by the end of summer. In rare, very wet years, these wetlands may retain water year-round.

4.3.2 Water Resources

There are two major streams flowing through Harriman State Park: Henrys Fork of the Snake River and Thurmon Creek. Both are located within or adjacent to the project areas.

The Henrys Fork of the Snake River was named for Andrew Henry, a fur trader who discovered it in 1810. Considered one of the best trout fishing streams in the United States, it begins at Big Springs, winds for 8 miles through Harriman State Park, and joins the Snake River in Ashton, approximately 16 miles south of the park (IDC 2009). The Henrys Fork is a major recreation draw for the region and also provides irrigation for agriculture within the county. Streamflows along Henry's Fork range from 200 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 2,000 cfs. Flows are generally highest during the spring and lowest during the fall (USGS 2009).

Thurmon Creek flows from springs located along Thurmon Ridge. Thurmon Creek is the primary water source for Golden and Silver Lakes, as well as most of the wetland areas found along the west side of Railroad Ranch (Shapin 2002).

Throughout Harriman State Park there are dozens of lakes and ponds. Many of the larger lakes are manmade, including the four largest within the park: Island Park Reservoir, Golden Lake, Silver Lake, and Fish Pond. Silver Lake is located adjacent to the project areas. Silver Lake was constructed for private fishing. This lake is fed by the springs and drainages that flow to Thurmon Creek (Shapin 2002).

4.3.3 Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 – No Action

No impacts to wetlands and water resources within the project area would be expected, except for impacts resulting from a catastrophic fire. These impacts may include a loss of vegetation due to uncontrolled fire and subsequent soil erosion, both of which would affect the water quality of wetlands and riparian habitats along water features in the project area. The impact scale would range from small to large, depending on the size of the wildfire.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action

Integrating thinning and manual/mechanical vegetative treatment could result in a small to moderate impact to wetlands. Various disturbances from the work crews and removal of individual trees would result in localized, indirect, small effects to wetlands.

No environmental consequences are expected to occur to water resources within or adjacent to the project area. The impact scale would be small. Manual vegetation removal only would occur within wetland areas. Lodgepole pines encroaching on wetland areas and less than 10 feet tall would be cut by hand 6 inches above ground, with no ground disturbance. No manual, mechanical, or chemical vegetation removal would occur within 200 feet of streams or lakes. BMPs for erosion control may be used if deemed necessary during implementation of the project. Impacts on water quality would be considered negligible based on the types of vegetation removal proposed, which requires little to no ground disturbance.

4.4 VEGETATION

While vegetation can vary somewhat from one specific location to the next, the region generally features a mixture of conifer forests, shrubs, and grasses.

Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) is the most common conifer in the Yellowstone caldera. During the late 1980s, the mountain pine beetle epidemic infiltrated lodgepole pines throughout the Yellowstone area (including Harriman State Park), creating vast stands of dead trees. This demonstrates that a forest dominated by one tree type is often more susceptible to stress and disease, leaving trees in optimal burning condition. Within Harriman State Park, the damage from the past insect and disease infestations is very evident. There are large areas of dead and dying trees. The dead tree downfall is so substantial in some areas that it is not possible to walk through the forest without climbing over the downfall. Wildfires that occur in these areas during periods of high fire severity, typically July and August, burn with extreme intensity.

There are scattered stands of deciduous trees throughout the park, mainly aspens (*Populus tremuloides*) and willows (*Salix spp.*). The most common grasses and shrubs are wheatgrass (*Agropyron spp*.), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus spp*.), needlegrass (*Stipa spp*.), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), service berry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*), and big sagebrush (*Artemesia tridentata*). Sedges (*Carex spp.*) and willows are commonly found within wetland areas (Shapin 2002). See Appendix A – Figure 4a and 4b for photos of the site.

Similar to the forested areas, the wetlands and riparian areas within the park have also become more susceptible to fire due to intrusions of smaller (3-4 inches DBH), less fire-resistant trees. This increases the potential for wildfires to spread with greater speed and burn with greater than normal intensity.

Hotter, drier weather resulting from climate change could increase the frequency and intensity of wildfires, threatening both property and forests. Drier conditions would reduce the range and health of lodgepole forests, and increase their susceptibility to fire. Milder winters could increase the likelihood of insect outbreaks and of subsequent wildfires in the dead fuel left after such an outbreak (USEPA 1998).

Alternative 1 – No Action

Without vegetation removal activities, the high risk of vegetation loss from wildfires would continue. Factors contributing to the highest fire risk include combinations of limited access, past insect and disease epidemics, a disruption of the natural wildland fire frequency through decades of fire suppression, and buildings lacking defensible space (clearings between wildland

vegetation and structures). Increased levels of diseased and invasive species creating a greater fuel load would be expected. The impact scale would range from small to large, depending on the size of the wildfire.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action

Integrating thinning and manual/mechanical vegetative treatment could result in a small loss of individual native plants. Various disturbances as a result of the work crews, removal of individual trees, and hand pruning/limbing would reduce the native plant community in the project areas. However, in these habitat types thinning is generally desirable and promotes reduction of overstocked understory trees. Use of the excavator is not expected to disturb vegetation as its tracks would not tear at the groundcover.

Changes in the size or viability of the vegetative community would be minor, with small and localized effects to a relatively minor proportion of any native species population. Many of these species are ecologically dependent on fire and fire cycles, and the effects are considered small in the short term and beneficial in the long term.

Some dead lodgepole pines, or snags, would be left for raptor nesting if they are not within falling distance of a structure, trail, or road. Park staff would work with wildlife biologists with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to determine which trees should be left as snags. Lodgepole pines less than 10 feet tall would be thinned to create openings, and remaining trees would be limbed to a height of approximately 8 feet. Lodgepole pines approximately 3-4 inches DBH would be removed from the project areas around wetlands, historic structures, and within 30 feet of the road. Removal of other tree species, shrubs and grasses is not planned. The impact scale would be moderate.

4.5 FISH AND WILDLIFE

Data from the Idaho Conservation Data Center (ICDC) was requested for known special-status species at and near Harriman State Park (ICDC 2009). The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) was consulted for potential Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species in Fremont County (IDFG 2009b).

Large portions of the park are located within the 16,000-acre wildlife refuge. Common mammals found within Harriman State Park include moose (*Alces alces*), elk (*Cervus elaphus*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*), coyotes (*Canis latrans*), porcupines (*Erethizon dorsatum*), badgers (*Taxidea taxus*), weasels (*Mustela frenata*), snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), marmots (*Marmota flaviventris*), chipmunks (*Tamias*), muskrats (*Ondatra zibethicus*), skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*), and occasionally mink (*Mustela vison*). Fish species include Yellowstone cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii bouvieri*), redband rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*).

4.5.1 Federally Listed Species and Critical Habitat

Two listed species under the ESA are known to occur in Fremont County: Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) and Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*). Harriman is located within the Ashton/Island Park Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. This Ranger

District is not required to survey or plan for Ute ladies'-tresses as they do not occur within the area, therefore this document will not analyze this species (USDI 2008).

The Yellowstone distinct population segment of grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) was delisted in 2007.

4.5.1.1 Canada Lynx

The Canada lynx is a Federal and Idaho State listed species. The Canada lynx is listed as Threatened under the ESA and is considered Critically Imperiled by Idaho State. In Idaho, critical habitat for lynx has only been designated in the extreme northeast corner of the state.

The Canada lynx occurs throughout Canada and Alaska, in the extreme northeastern and north-central United States, and in the northern and central Rocky Mountains. Within Idaho, populations exist north of the Salmon River in the west and north of the Caribou Range in the east. The total population size in Idaho is unknown, but it is thought to be less than 100 individuals (IDFG 2005).

In Idaho, the Canada lynx inhabits montane and subalpine coniferous forests typically above 4,000 feet. Habitat used during foraging is usually early successional forest. Dens are usually in mature forests. Individuals are wide-ranging and require large tracts of forest. The Canada lynx preys on the snowshoe hare, particularly during the winter, as well as variety of birds and other small mammals (IDFG 2005).

Gap analysis originated in Idaho in the late 1980s as a system for assessing the distribution of native plant and animal distributions in relation to land stewardship. The Gap analysis data was assessed for the predicted distribution of both Canada lynx and snowshoe hare in the vicinity of the project site (IDVMD 2009). This information was cross-referenced with species observations from the Idaho Conservation Data Center (IDFG 2005).

In addition, the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction project was reviewed (USDA 2007). This document shows occupied lynx habitat as well as core areas, secondary areas, and peripheral areas. Core areas have persistent, verified records of lynx occurrence over time, and recent evidence of reproduction. Secondary areas have historical records of lynx presence with no record of reproduction, or with historical records and no recent population surveys. These areas may contribute to lynx persistency by providing habitat to support lynx during dispersal movements or other periods, allowing them to return to core areas. Peripheral areas have no evidence of long-term presence or reproduction, but may contain habitat that enables the sufficient dispersal of lynx between populations or subpopulations. Linkage areas are areas of movement opportunities. They are not "corridors," which imply only a travel route; instead, they are broad areas of habitat where animals can find food, shelter, and security (USDI 2005).

The project site occurs within the predicted habitat of Canada lynx and snowshoe hare. According to the Final EIS for the Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction, the project site occurs within a secondary area and within 20 miles of an important Canada lynx core area: Yellowstone National Park. However, no Canada lynx have been observed within Harriman State Park and the ICDC shows that the nearest lynx sighting is over 5 miles away. Since the project site is within the predicted range of the lynx and within 20 miles of a core habitat, lynx

may pass through the project areas. However, it is unlikely that any reside in or use the project areas on a regular basis.

4.5.2 Migratory Birds

The project areas provide habitat for a variety of migratory birds, including songbirds and birds of prey. The USFWS Office of Migratory Bird Management maintains a list of migratory birds (50 CFR 10.13). The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended, provides federal protections for migratory birds, their nests, eggs, and body parts from harm, sale, or other injurious actions. The act includes a "no take" provision.

To determine the potential for occurrence of migratory birds within the project areas, a remote habitat analysis was performed. Geographic information systems (GIS) data, aerial photos, and species descriptions were used to identify potential migratory bird occurrence. Migratory birds included here are those that are known to breed within Idaho and those that are included within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern (USFWS 2008) and the Idaho Bird Conservation Plan (Ritter 2000).

In the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern, species are associated with Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs). BCRs are endorsed by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative as the basic units within which all-bird conservation efforts will be planned and evaluated (USFWS 2008). Harriman State Park lies within BCR 10. Idaho breeding bird species listed in BCR 10 (USDI 2008) are considered in this analysis.

In the Idaho Bird Conservation Plan, North America is divided into planning units based on physiographic areas, which in turn were based on biotic communities. Harriman State Park is located within physiographic area 64, the Central Rocky Mountains. High priority breeding bird species that occur in Idaho (Ritter 2000) within physiographic area 64 are considered in this analysis.

The project areas are comprised of lodgepole pine forests, montane sagebrush steppe, mixed conifer and aspen stands, and meadows as identified by the ReGAP dataset (OSU 2007). The project areas also contain numerous riparian features. See Appendix B for specific ReGAP habitat classifications. The migratory bird species of conservation concern were evaluated for their habitat usages and determined whether or not to potentially occur within the project areas. The predicted distribution of each species as modeled by the Idaho Vertebrate Modeling Database (IDVMD 2009) was also used in species consideration. Avian species listed in Appendix B have the potential to either nest or forage within the project areas.

4.5.3 Special Status Species

No special status plant species have been recorded in the action area. However, several special status bird species have been observed in the vicinity. These include black tern (*Chlidonias niger*), trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*), common loon (*Gavia immer*), Forster's tern (*Sterna forsteri*), Franklin's gull (*Larus pipixcan*), and bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). These species have either been observed on or on the shores of Silver Lake and Henrys River (ICDC 2009). Some of these species breed in the area. In addition, a wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*) has been observed within 0.5 mile of the project areas, and grizzly bears are known to occur throughout the area.

4.5.4 Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 – No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, no vegetation management activities would be conducted. As a result, no direct effects to wildlife, including ESA federally listed species, state-listed species, or special status species in the project areas are expected. However, the potential for losses of wildlife, including protected species, due to wildfire would remain. The impact scale would range from small to large, depending on the size of the wildfire. Future uncontrolled wildfires could result in adverse impacts to wildlife, including protected species, through the loss of habitat or the mortality of individuals, albeit native species are likely adapted to the wildfire dependent ecosystems.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, wildfire fuel reduction activities would not significantly affect wildlife, including federal and state listed species or special status species. The impact scale would be small.

Since the project site within the predicted range of the lynx and within 20 miles of a core habitat, the project areas may be used as a movement corridor by lynx. The temporary increase in noise levels and human presence associated with the proposed fuels reduction project may result in short-term lynx avoidance of the project site and local vicinity. However, suitable habitat exists around Harriman State Park and lynx mobility would not be affected. Because lynx do not reside in the project areas on a regular basis, any potential impacts resulting from the proposed action are considered small.

Impacts to non-listed wildlife, including migratory birds and special status species, could occur through habitat modification. The impact scale to non-listed wildlife would be small. These impacts would dissipate as displaced individuals either establish new home ranges or are outcompeted. However, these effects would not be expected to exceed the natural range of variability or have long-term effects on the natural processes sustaining these populations. The proposed work would occur in late summer or early fall, after birds have finished nesting. In addition, some dead trees, or snags (to be determined by park staff and IDFG), would be left for migratory bird and raptor nesting if they are not within falling distance of a structure, trail, or road. The removal of fuels in these areas should not affect wolverine or grizzly bear as they are animals with large territories and likely only pass through Harriman State Park.

4.6 HISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources consist of locations of human activity, occupation, or use identified through field inventory, historic documentation, or oral evidence. The term includes archaeological, historic, and architectural properties and sites or places of traditional cultural or religious importance to Native American tribes or other social or cultural groups. Management of Idaho's cultural resources falls under the jurisdiction and control of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) according to their relative importance. Management objectives include protecting against impairment, destruction, inadvertent loss, and accommodating uses determined appropriate through consultation and planning.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires that activities occurring on federal lands, or those that require federal permits or use federal funds, undergo a review process to consider cultural resources that are or may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for archaeological and cultural resources includes approximately 15 acres around the main historic Railroad Ranch Complex, as well as two separate areas south of the main Railroad Ranch complex encompassing the 50-acre and 63-acre project areas. See the Section 106 documentation for more details (Appendix C).

The region in which Harriman State Park is located is known to have been historically inhabited and used by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The Shoshonean Nation geographically existed from Mexico to Canada. They were hunters and gathers who moved with the seasons to gather various foods and products. Some of the tribes composed of the nation are tribes known today as the Shoshones, Bannock, Paiute, Comanche, Hopi, Ute, Cahuilla, Mission, and other linguistic Uto Aztecan speaking groups (Shoshone-Bannock Tribes 2006). Copies of the draft EA and Historical Survey Report (Appendix C) were sent to the Idaho SHPO and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes for review and comment.

4.6.1 Historic Resources

The Island Park Land and Cattle Company Home Ranch (Railroad Ranch) is a historic district listed in the National Register in 1996. Most the resources in the Railroad Ranch date from 1902 to 1955. A dormitory, the administrative buildings, and interpretative site were built in 1980-81. The district nomination includes 3,000 acres. There are 28 historic resources in the main ranch complex including houses, cottages, barns, a dining hall, barns and sheds, corrals, a granary, a shop, a creamery, an equipment storage shed, a cookhouse, garages, a wood shed, a meat smoker house, a water tank, an office, a laundry, an ice house, a hotel, and a dormitory (SHPO 1997). Buildings and structures outside the complex include two dams, a bull barn, and a bridge (Appendix C).

Three other historic resources are north of the ranch buildings, including a bridge, the Golden Lake Dam, and the Bull Barn. The Silver Lake Dam is south of the ranch complex. No other documented historic resources are within the project areas. There are newer park amenities such as picnic tables, seating, viewing platforms, and restrooms on site (SHPO 1997).

4.6.2 Archaeological and Cultural Resources

Prehistorically, lithic scatters and associated lithic artifacts are the most common type of site found in close proximity to the project area. The lithic debitage, or processed stone flakes, represent activity areas of past peoples. These sites can also contain stone tools, projectile points, or solely lithic debitage waste flakes produced during the manufacture or maintenance of stone tools. The evidence left behind in the archaeological context is indicative of specific types of activities or sites. Examples include short-term hunting camps; butchering sites; and tool quarry, manufacturing, or repair locations. Other site types can include a variety of habitation or campsites, fishing locations, hunting blinds, rock alignments, cairns, ceremonial and rock art sites, and burials. As both the ethnographic and the archaeological record of the region conclude, although dependent on environmental variability, prehistoric lifeways saw a relatively high

resource abundance of both vegetative plants and game for subsistence (Plew 2008, Steward 1938).

According to data received from the Idaho SHPO, 10 surveys have been conducted since 1985, when the Class III intensive survey regulations were standardized. As a result of those 10 surveys, one archaeological site and one isolate have been discovered and are located outside the APE. However, in 1966 E. Roland Harriman commissioned the Idaho State University Museum to conduct an archaeological reconnaissance of the Railroad Ranch prior to its eventual contribution to the State of Idaho for the development of a state park. Of the 10 archaeological sites located within 1 mile of the project area, 8 of those were discovered from the 1966 survey, and 1 (10-FM-36) is located within the project APE. According to the site record, the lithic material was found eroding out of the road bed with no known site boundary or context in relation to surrounding sites. Site 10-FM-36 did not produce any diagnostic material and was previously disturbed by the creation of the access road. No other archaeological properties exist in the project area (Swanson and Sneed 1967). Based on prior survey work, no archeologically sensitive areas have been delineated in the Park.

4.6.3 Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 – No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, FEMA would not provide funding to reduce wildland fuel loads in Harriman State Park. There are limited threats to the buildings and structures at the Railroad Ranch other than natural disasters, including deterioration by vandalism, natural weathering, and impacts by park visitors. The greatest threats to the historic ranch complex are wildfires. If the historic properties were burned as a result of a wildfire, the cost to replace these structures could exceed $17 million (Hobbs 2008). There would be no potential for effects to archeological resources if no vegetative fuels reduction program is implemented, these resources would continue to be affected by wildfires in as much as they have been since deposited. The impact scale would range from small to large, depending on the size and amount of destruction from a wildfire. Because no federal activity would occur, no requirement for compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA exists under the No Action Alternative.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action

The Proposed Action includes selective removal of vegetation from approximately 113 acres of public lands. Funding from FEMA would be provided to IDPR for the purposes of hiring contractors to conduct vegetation removal. FEMA has determined that the fuel reduction project would have no effect on the buildings or structures in the main historic Railroad Ranch complex within the APE because the two areas delineated for fuel reduction work are on land south of the main historic ranch complex, and vegetation removal would have no affect to the character-defining features of Railroad Ranch as the trees scheduled for removal are young or dead trees. The potential for archaeological resource impacts is limited as ground disturbance will be minimally invasive given fuels reduction methodologies. As described in Section Three, only small trees will be selective removed; using hand-held tools; and with light mechanical equipment limited to a small tracked vehicle with a harvesting head, pick-up trucks, trailers, and chainsaws. The project is not a logging operation. Moreover, no archeologically sensitive areas have been determined in the Park.

FEMA has also determined that the fuel reduction project would have no effect on the buildings or structures noted below outside the main historic Railroad Ranch complex and outside the APE.

1. The Bull Barn (c. 1940s, non-contributing)
2. Harriman Bridge (1942, contributing)
3. Golden Lake Dam (1921/1950s, contributing)
4. Silver Lake Dam (1907-08/1978-80, contributing)

No additional investigations are recommended. The impact scale would be small. The project would be conditioned that in the event of an unanticipated discovery, and in compliance with various state and federal laws protecting cultural resources, including Section 106 of the NHPA, all work shall cease in the immediate vicinity of the find until appropriate parties (including the SHPO) are consulted and an appropriate plan is established.

4.7 SOCIOECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EO 12898)

Executive Order (EO) 12898, Environmental Justice, directs federal agencies to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations in the United States resulting from federal programs, policies, and activities. Socioeconomic and demographic data (including race, ethnic groups, and household income) for residents in the project vicinity was reviewed to determine if a disproportionate number (defined as greater than 50 percent) of minority or low-income persons have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Action. Because the proposed project site is a public recreational facility, park visitors are considered for action affects.

Alternative 1 – No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, FEMA would not provide funding to reduce wildland fuel loads within Harriman State Park. The Park is fully open to the public. If a wildfire were to occur, all user groups would be equally affected by damage to the park and its facilities, regardless of their demographics. Because no federal activity would occur, no requirement for compliance with EO 12898 exists.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action

Maintenance activities of any sort within the project areas are unlikely to affect either the local population or a disproportionate number of minority or low-income persons. There are no residents located within or adjacent to the project areas, with the exception of limited park staff, and the park is fully open for public use. The park was selected as high-priority based solely on the need for fuel reduction. The Proposed Action would not cause adverse economic impacts, and would comply with EO 12898. The project would ensure a higher level of safety to both visitors and staff during the fire season. This would be a social and economic beneficial effect for local and state tourism.

SECTION FIVE CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA require an assessment of cumulative effects during the decisionmaking process for federal projects. Cumulative effects are defined as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions” (40 CFR 1508.7). Cumulative effects were determined by combining the effects of the alternative with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

The forest within the park, as well as the general geographic area, have been devastated by both past insect and disease epidemics and a disruption of the natural wildland fire frequency through decades of fire suppression. These two items interact and have resulted in a significant buildup of combustible forest fuels far beyond natural levels.

This action and other wildland/urban interface activities that are planned in the fire management plans by the county are not expected to have adverse cumulative impacts to climate, geology, and soils; floodplains; water resources; vegetation; historic, archeological, and cultural resources; or socioeconomics and environmental justice, as no project impacts are anticipated. Cumulative impacts to wetlands are anticipated to be small to moderate because lodgepole pines encroaching on wetland areas and less than 10 feet tall would be cut by hand 6 inches above ground, with no ground disturbance. Impacts to non-listed wildlife, including migratory birds and special status species, could occur through habitat modification. However, the proposed work would occur in late summer or early fall, after birds have finished nesting. In addition, some dead trees, or snags, would be left for raptor nesting if they are not within falling distance of a structure, trail, or road.

Within the action area, it is anticipated that the cumulative effects to the ecosystem would be beneficial due to continued activities to maintain the reduced catastrophic fire risk, which would simulate a more natural fire regime for the area, assuming the same method of management would be utilized. Implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in additional areas to be managed. Maintenance activities would preserve the defensible space around the historic structures and the road.

SECTION SIX PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

FEMA is the lead federal agency for conducting the NEPA compliance process for the proposed vegetation management project. As the lead agency, FEMA expedites the preparation and review of NEPA documents, responds to the needs of residents surrounding the treated lands, meets the spirit and intent of NEPA, and complies with all NEPA provisions.

Scoping was conducted between March and April 2009 by FEMA to determine if other issues exist. Preliminary issues included cultural properties, vegetation removal, and biological resources. No comments were received.

A public notice is required for this draft EA. The public and agencies will have the opportunity to comment on the EA for 30 days after the publication of this notice. The notice identifies the action, location of the proposed site, participants, location of the draft EA, and who to write to provide comments. FEMA will review all written comments submitted for identification of any significant issues that need to be addressed, and will incorporate them into the final EA, as appropriate. Copies of the draft EA were sent to Harriman State Park, Fremont County, Idaho SHPO, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes for review and comment.

Public involvement is ongoing and had begun before the initiation of this EA. Many public agencies in Idaho organized or increased their public education efforts to reduce hazardous fuels on public lands by making plans in accordance with the *State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan*.

The following plans are relevant to public involvement efforts supporting this EA.

6.1 STATE OF IDAHO HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The *State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan* was prepared by the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) to reduce disaster assistance costs and preserve disaster assistance eligibility for the state and the local governments. The plan is the comprehensive, statewide mitigation planning effort conducted in Idaho. It identifies hazards and associated vulnerabilities within the state and provides a comprehensive statewide strategy to reduce future disaster losses through sound mitigation projects.

The plan has the following goals and objectives:

- Reduce fuels on state-owned lands within wildland/urban interface areas and vicinities to state facilities
- Reduce fuels, develop and maintain fuel breaks, and make facilities fire-resistant and defensible in state parks
- Install cisterns and dry hydrants as appropriate in state parks and recreation areas
- Retrofit facilities in state parks and recreation areas to improve their fire resistance

6.2 FREMONT COUNTY WILDFIRE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

A group of Fremont County residents formed the Wildland Fire Interagency Group to prepare this plan. This group consisted of members from the Idaho Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Idaho Department of Lands, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), BHS, and various Fremont County

departments. Several public meetings were held with local fire chiefs; local, state, and federal employees; as well as members of the public.

The goal of this plan is to reduce the hazard of wildland fire within three fire districts. Treatment of hazardous fuels on public lands is listed as a high priority in the *Fremont County Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Plan*.

6.3 HARRIMAN STATE PARK OF IDAHO MASTER PLAN

The *Harriman State Park of Idaho Master Plan* was created in 2002 by members of various agencies and communities. Public involvement throughout the course of the master plan process was pursued in an open manner, utilizing processes and techniques outlined in the IDPR *Public Involvement Guide*. The Harriman Park of Idaho Citizen Advisory Committee was an integral component of the planning process.

Numerous public meetings, workshops, and open houses were held. Issues of concern identified during public workshops and open houses included preservation of natural and cultural resources and forest management.

SECTION SEVEN REQUIRED PERMITS AND COMPLIANCE

Activities at the Proposed Action Alternative project areas shall comply with the project's scope of work. Given the nature of the wildfire mitigation activities, no permits are required; however IDPR is required to confirm this and if any federal, state, or local permits are needed, must comply with them.

SECTION EIGHT CONCLUSION

The draft EA evaluated potentially significant resources that could be affected by the No Action and the Proposed Action. The evaluation did not identify any significant impacts associated with the resources of climate, geology, and soils; floodplains; wetlands and water resources; vegetation; fish and wildlife (ESA); historic, archaeological, and cultural resources; or with socioeconomic and environmental justice concerns. Implementing the proposed action, along with any conditions associated with permits or approvals will avoid or minimize any effects associated with the action. It is recommended that a Finding of No Significant Impact to the human or natural environment be issued for the Proposed Action Alternative.

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Appendix A

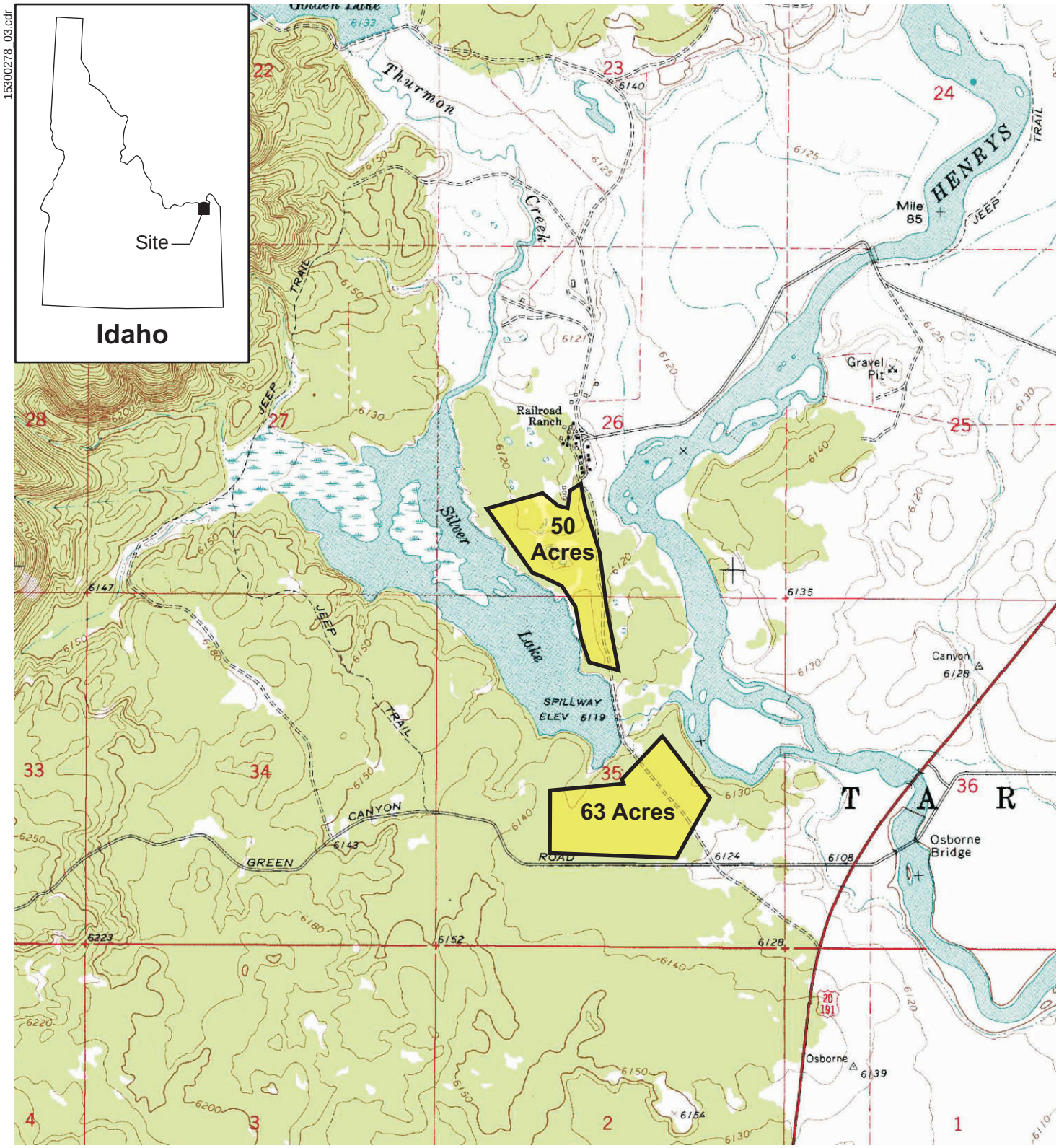
Figures

Figure 1 – Proposed Project

Figure 2 – FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map

Figure 3 – Wetlands

Figures 4a and 4b – Site Photos



Source: USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map
Last Chance, Idaho dated 1964.

0 0.5 1

Approximate Scale in Miles

Job No. 15300278

Figure 1
Proposed Project

Harriman State Park
Fremont County, Idaho

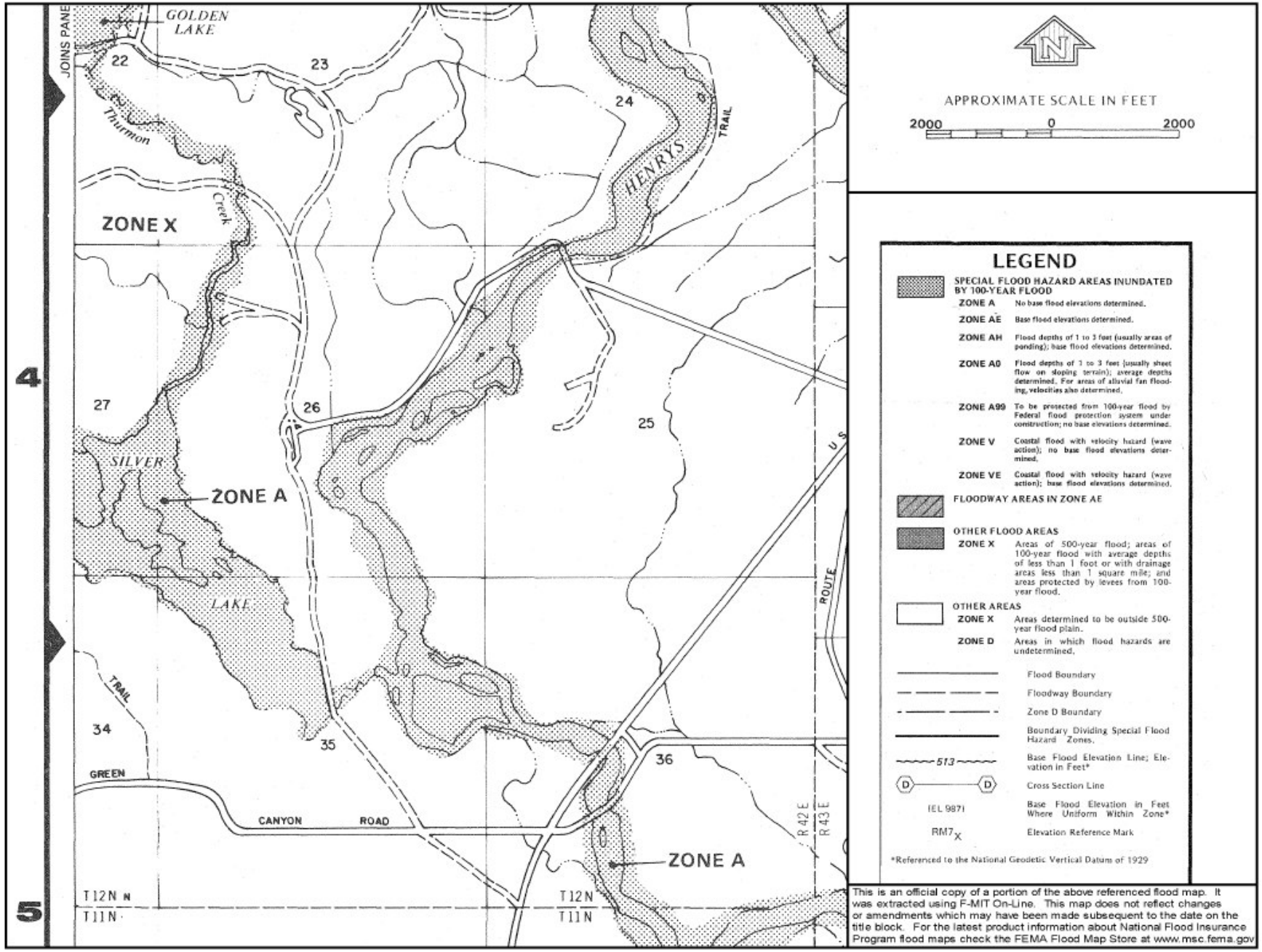


Figure 2
FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map

Job No. 15300278

Harriman State Park
Fremont County, Idaho

Source: Harriman State Park

Figure 3
Wetlands

Job No. 15300278

Harriman State Park
Fremont County, Idaho

15707350_14.cdr

Photo 1: Lodgepole pines encroaching on a wetland.

Photo 2: One of 27 historic log buildings.

Job No. 15707350

Figure 4a
Site Photographs

URS

Harriman State Park
Fremont County, Idaho

15707350_14.cdr

Photo 1: Pines next to the road, not yet overgrown.

Photo 2: Park uses for harvested materials: building repair, rail fence fabrication and repair (background), firewood for staff and guests.

Job No. 15707350

Figure 4b
Site Photographs

URS

Harriman State Park
Fremont County, Idaho

Appendix B

Migratory Bird Species Lists

ReGAP Environmental Classifications

Project Site	Re-GAP Ecological System
Harriman State Park	Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest
	Rocky Mountain Lower Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland
	Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe
	Inter-Mountain Basins Aspen-Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland
	Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland
	North American Arid West Emergent Marsh
	Middle Rocky Mountain Montane Douglas fir Forest and Woodland
	Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Mesic Meadow

Migratory Birds with the Potential to Occur Within the Project Areas

Common name (*Scientific name*)	Habitat Associations	Species Consideration[1]
American Dipper ***(Cinclus mexicanus)***	Fast-moving, clear streams with cascades and waterfalls. Can be found less frequently along lakes and ponds.	**Considered.** Suitable wetland features occur within or adjacent to the project area.
Bald Eagle ***(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)***	Bald eagles utilize rivers and lakes during the breeding and wintering seasons. Snags and trees near open bodies of water are used as winter daytime roost sites.	**Considered.** Project areas are adjacent to open bodies of water including Henrys Fork of the Snake River, Thurmon Creek, and Silver Lake.
Barrow's Goldeneye ***(Bucephala islandica)***	Rivers and large lakes, freshwater wetlands in forested regions.	**Considered.** Project area contains freshwater wetlands and forested areas for nesting.
Black Swift ***(Cypseloides niger)***	Typically found in mountainous terrain. Nests on canyon walls near water and sheltered by overhanging rock or moss, preferably near waterfalls.	**Not Considered.** Project area is outside of the predicted distribution of this species.
Black-backed Woodpecker ***(Picoides arcticus)***	Preference for lodgepole pine. Also ponderosa pine, spruce-fir, and aspen.	**Considered.** Lodgepole pine is the dominant habitat type within the project area.
Black-billed Magpie ***(Pica hudsonia)***	Valley bottoms, riparian zones, agricultural areas, sagebrush foothills and coniferous forests.	**Considered.** This widespread species can utilize a wide variety of habitats and can be expected to occur throughout the state of Idaho.
Blue Grouse ***(Dendragapus obscurus)***	Edges of montane forest communities from ponderosa pine up to the alpine timberline. Will extend into sagebrush and mountain mahogany in the summer.	**Considered.** Montane coniferous forests exist within the project area.
Brewer's Sparrow ***(Spizella breweri breweri)***	Brewer's Sparrow's breed primarily in shrubsteppe habitats. However, they may be found in high desert scrub near shrubsteppe habitat as well as in large sagebrush openings in Pinyon-Juniper or conifer forests. Breeding habitats are usually dominated by Big Sagebrush.	**Considered.** The project area contains suitable habitat in sagebrush and juniper habitats.
Brown Creeper ***(Certhia Americana)***	Montane pine forests, mixed cedar/hemlock, and other coniferous forests. Also prefers lodgepole pine and Douglas fir.	**Considered.** Project area contains montane woodlands and lodgepole pine habitats.
Calliope Hummingbird ***(Stellula calliope)***	Prefers mountain areas and open montane forests near water. Alpine and subalpine meadows are used for foraging.	**Considered.** The project area contains montane forests and meadow habitats near water.

Common name (*Scientific name*)	Habitat Associations	Species Consideration[1]
Cassin's Finch ***(Carpodacus cassinii)***	Inhabit dry, open coniferous forests east of the Cascade crest. They are most common in mid-elevation Ponderosa pine forests but can also be found in Douglas fir, spruce, or fir forests. Also known to inhabit sagebrush and juniper communities.	**Considered.** Project area contains ponderosa pine forests, sagebrush, and juniper.
Dusky Flycatcher ***(Empidonax oberholseri)***	Scrub, brushy areas, thickets, aspen groves, and open coniferous forests. Montane shrub/steppe.	**Considered.** Montane sagebrush-steppe, aspen, and conifer forests exist within the project area.
Ferruginous Hawk ***(Buteo regalis)***	Grassland and sagebrush country, saltbrush, greasewood. Flat rolling terrain in grassland or shrub/steppe regions. Avoids high elevations, forest interior and narrow canyons.	**Considered.** Project area contains some sagebrush components and open areas that may be suitable for ferruginous hawks.
Flammulated Owl ***(Otus flammeolus)***	Open forests with a ponderosa pine component.	**Considered.** Project area contains ponderosa pine.
Grasshopper Sparrow ***(Ammodramus savannarum)***	Moderately open grasslands and prairies.	**Not Considered.** Suitable habitat does not occur within the project area.
Greater Sage Grouse ***(Centrocercus urophasianus)***	Sage-grouse occur only in the sagebrush and sagebrush steppe ecosystems of western North America. Critical habitat is primarily big sagebrush along with wet meadows, forb-dominated meadows, and south and west-facing ridges and slopes where grouse are known to winter.	**Not Considered.** Although sagebrush habitats are found in the project area, the likelihood of sage-grouse presence is rare. State monitoring programs show no occurrences within or near the project area.
Hammond's Flycatcher ***(Empidonax hammondii)***	Cool forests and woodlands. Ponderosa, mixed conifer, riparian woodland, and aspen.	**Considered.** Riparian woodlands and ponderosa pine communities provide suitable habitat.
Hooded Merganser ***(Lophodytes cucullatus)***	Emergent marshes, lakes, ponds, forested wetlands, and wooded river areas supporting good fish populations.	**Considered.** Project area contains riparian habitats utilized by this species.
Killdeer ***(Charadrius vociferous)***	Inhabits open landscapes from urban, agricultural, meadows, freshwater margin lawns, sandy beaches, and lake shores.	**Considered.** Suitable habitat occurs within the project area.
Lewis's Woodpecker ***(Melanerpes lewis)***	Open forests, often at lower elevations, white oak woodlands, ponderosa pine woodlands, mixed oak-pine woodlands and cottonwood riparian woodlands.	**Considered.** Potential habitat exists in ponderosa pine woodlands.
Loggerhead Shrike ***(Lanius ludovicianus)***	Includes sagebrush, bitterbrush, greasewood and juniper woodlands, also very open pine or oak woodlands and mountain shrub communities.	**Considered.** Suitable habitat occurs within the project area in sagebrush and juniper communities.

Common name (*Scientific name*)	Habitat Associations	Species Consideration[1]
Long-billed Curlew ***(Numenius americanus)***	Dry grasslands and shrub savannahs are the traditional breeding habitats of Long-billed Curlews. They also nest in grain fields and pastures.	**Not Considered.** Typical habitat does not occur or is not common within the project area.
MacGillivray's Warbler ***(Oporornis tolmiei)***	Coniferous clearcuts, riparian thickets, and brushy hillsides. Prefers dry, tall willow areas with grasses and forbes.	**Considered.** Coniferous forests and clearings and riparian thickets exist within the project areas.
Northern Goshawk ***(Accipiter gentilis)***	Prefer to nest within ¼ km of water in large blocks of coniferous and mixed forests (including aspen) of mature to old growth. Occasionally found in second growth or lodgepole pine.	**Considered.** Suitable habitat exists in coniferous forests and aspen-mixed conifer forests within ¼ km of water.
Olive-sided Flycatcher ***(Contopus cooperi)***	Prefers higher elevation montane coniferous forests such as Douglas fir and lodgepole pine. Found below alpine zone and above ponderosa pine zones.	**Not Considered.** Project area is not within the elevation range this species typically inhabits.
Peregrine Falcon ***(Falco peregrinus)***	Peregrine falcons can be found in a wide variety of habitats in the Intermountain West. They prefer to nest on high cliffs in mountainous areas or deep canyons.	**Not Considered.** Cliff and canyon habitats are not within the project area. The large foraging area utilized by peregrines could result in incidental occurrences at the project area.
Plumbeous Vireo ***(Vireo plumbeus)***	Mixed conifer forests, montane woodlands and pine woodlands.	**Considered.** Montane coniferous forests and ponderosa pine communities provide suitable habitat.
Ruffed Grouse ***(Bonasa umbellus)***	Deciduous hardwood forests, especially aspen. Conifer and mixed forests also used. Associated with disturbed forests and riparian woodlands.	**Considered.** Aspen and conifer forests exist within the project area. Proximity to water also makes their occurrence likely.
Sage Sparrow ***(Amphispiza belli nevadensis)***	Prefers big sagebrush whether pure stands or interspersed with bitterbrush, saltbrush, shadscale, rabbitbrush, or greasewood.	**Not Considered.** Sagebrush communities occur within the project area, but are not within the predicted distribution of the species.
Sage Thrasher ***(Oreoscoptes montanus)***	Considered a shrubsteppe obligate. Requires healthy stands of mature sagebrush.	**Not Considered.** Sagebrush habitat is located within the project area, but not to the extent where this species would be expected to occur.
Sandhill Crane ***(Grus canadensis)***	Inhabits isolated river valleys, edges of lakes, marshes, and open meadows. Nests in marshes, wet meadows, grasslands, or pastures.	**Considered.** The project area is adjacent to a lake and contains both marsh and meadow habitats.
Sharp-shinned Hawk ***(Accipiter striatus)***	Coniferous or mixed forests and open woodlands.	**Considered.** Project area contains mixed conifer forests.

Common name (*Scientific name*)	Habitat Associations	Species Consideration[1]
Short-eared Owl ***(Asio flammeus)***	Open country in prairie, shrub-steppe, agriculture, shrubby riparian, open woodlands, marshes, and meadows.	**Considered.** Marsh and meadow habitats exist within the project area.
Swainson's Hawk ***(Buteo swainsoni)***	Shrub steppe, prairie, open woods, shelterbelts, cultivated land with few trees. Open sagebrush areas. Open stands of grass dom. vegetation, sparse shrubs, small open woods, agriculture areas.	**Not Considered.** Suitable habitat occurs, but the project area is not within the predicted distribution of the species.
Townsend's Warbler ***(Dendroica townsendi)***	Coniferous forests. Douglas fir/ponderosa pine with high canopy closure. Shrubby riparian areas.	**Considered.** Coniferous forests and riparian areas create suitable habitat for the Townsend's warbler.
Trumpeter Swan ***(Cygnus buccinators)***	Occur in large ponds, lakes, rivers or marshes with emergent vegetation.	**Considered.** Project area borders a freshwater lake and contains marsh habitats.
Varied Thrush ***(Ixoreus naevius)***	Shrubby riparian areas and coniferous forest. Breeds at low elevation and ponderosa pine forests but is more typical of higher elevation areas above ponderosa pine.	**Not Considered.** Project area is outside the predicted distribution of this species.
Vaux's Swift ***(Chaetura vauxi)***	Coniferous forests. Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer. Forages over open areas.	**Not Considered.** Although suitable habitat exists in the project area, it is not within the predicted distribution for the species.
Virginia's Warbler ***(Vermivora virginiae)***	Breeds in deciduous woodlands on steep mountain slopes. Also found along mountain streams in sagebrush, juniper, and associated brushy riparian areas.	**Not Considered.** Deciduous woodland and juniper habitats do not exist within the project area.
Western Grebe ***(Aechmophorus occidentalis)***	Freshwater lakes and marshes bordered by emergent vegetation.	**Considered.** Project area borders a freshwater lake and contains marsh habitats.
Western Meadowlark ***(Sturnella neglecta)***	Grasslands and pastures, borders of croplands, orchards, grasslands and prairies. Occasionally found in open woodlands and meadows.	**Considered.** Open woodlands and meadows provide potential habitat for this species.
Western Tanager ***(Piranga ludoviciana)***	Montane coniferous forests and woodlands, riparian woodlands and aspen groves.	**Considered.** Montane coniferous forests and riparian woodlands occur within the project area.
White-headed Woodpecker ***(Picoides albolarvatus)***	Closely associated with ponderosa pine and ponderosa pine-mixed conifer forests.	**Considered.** Project area contains ponderosa pine woodlands.

Common name (*Scientific name*)	Habitat Associations	Species Consideration[1]
Williamson's Sapsucker ***(Sphyrapicus thyroideus)***	Uses mature, higher-elevation conifer forests. Prefers open ponderosa pine but may also use lodgepole pine, red fir, grand fir subalpine spruce, Douglas fir and aspen. Also breeds in riparian thickets within conifer forest mosaics	**Considered.** Project area contains ponderosa pine forests.
Willow Flycatcher ***(Empidonas traillii)***	Willow Flycatchers are limited to riparian habitats, primarily willow.	**Considered.** Project area is adjacent to or borders rivers and lakes within the predicted distribution of the species.
Yellow Warbler ***(Dendroica petechia)***	Riparian woodlands, shrub riparian and riparian thickets of stream edges and lakes.	**Considered.** Project area is adjacent to or borders rivers and lakes within the predicted distribution of the species.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo ***(Coccyzus americanus)***	Considered a riparian obligate and found in large tracts of cottonwood/willow habitats with dense sub-canopies.	**Not Considered.** Project area does not contain significant cottonwood/willow riparian habitats.

[1] Species considerations are based on habitat preferences of the species and ReGAP habitat analyses of the project sites. IDVMD Predicted Species Distributions are also incorporated.

Appendix C
Historical Survey Report

HISTORICAL SURVEY REPORT
FOR THE IDAHO STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

A. KEY INFORMATION

1. **Project Name:** Harriman State Park Fire Mitigation Project; submitted by Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation

2. **Report Number**: LPDM-PJ-10-ID-2008-006 (FEMA application number)

3. **FEDERAL AGENCY**: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

4. **AUTHOR:** Sally Donovan, M.A. Historic Preservation Consultant with URS Corp. Seattle

5. **DATE OF THE REPORT**: 15 June 2009

6. **COUNTY:** Fremont County, ID

7. **LEGAL DESCRIPTION**: Eastern Idaho, 18 miles N. of Ashton on Highway 20

8. **ACRES:** 128 total acres: 113 acres in the two project areas plus approximately a 15-acre area encompassing the main historic Inland Park Land and Cattle Company Home Ranch complex (Railroad Ranch).

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Overview: The Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation applied for a FEMA pre-disaster grant entitled "Harriman State Park Fire Mitigation Project." The project includes 1) creating a fuel hazard assessment and analysis study, and fuel management plan; and 2) conducting fire reduction work in selected areas of Harriman State Park (Park) in the historic Island Park Land and Cattle Company Home Ranch (commonly referred to as the Railroad Ranch), a property listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1996 as a district.

The fire reduction project would address the *immediate* treatment needs for reducing the threat and spread of wildfires in the Park. Fire safety zones and defensible space would be created to help *protect* the Park's historic and non-historic resources; vegetation around the Park road would be cleared to ensure safe routes for evacuation and facilitate fire fighting activities within the Park. Fire reduction activities include removing dead or dying trees, thinning or removing trees less than 10 feet tall, thinning larger trees, and pruning/limbing trees to eight feet above the ground. These activities will be undertaken using both chain saws, hand tools, pulaskis and an small, tracked excavator with a harvester head in the designated project areas.

Park Background: Harriman State Park near Island Park, Idaho is within an 11,000-acre wildlife refuge in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem. The Park is located in a high prairie and forested area along Henry's Fork of the Snake River in southeastern Idaho near the Montana and Wyoming borders in Fremont County (Attachment 1). The Park is used by 75,000 to 80,000 visitors each year who fish, camp, cross-country ski, snowmobile, and attend classes in the Park. Currently, visitor safety is one of the highest priorities of the Park's managers. The Park also provides up to 80 beds for emergency overnight accommodations for displaced Island Park residents as a result of natural disasters. The Park also has its own gravity flow water system that could provide drinking water to Island Park area residents if power was interrupted due to a disaster.

1. **Potential Direct & Indirect Impacts**
   There are no potential direct impacts to the historic Railroad Ranch buildings, structures, or landscape features cited in the 1996 National Register District nomination (Attachment 5). There are no standing historic structures or building associated with the Railroad Ranch in the two projects areas targeted for fuel reduction work; the project areas are outside the main ranch complex. Indirect

impacts include the use of the historic ranch buildings for the fire reduction crews; however, this impact is limited since the ranch buildings are often used to lodge visitors and staff.

2. **Area of Potential Effects (APE)**: This APE includes 128-acre area within Harriman State Park (Attachment 1 and 2). The APE includes two separate areas south of the main Railroad Ranch complex encompassing 50-and 63-acre areas. The APE also includes approximately 15 acres around the main historic Railroad Ranch complex.

3. **Acres in the Project Area**: 113 acres (Attachment 1)

4. **Owner:** State of Idaho under the management of Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation

C. STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES FOR SURVEY:

The objective of the survey is to identify and evaluate cultural properties within the project's area of potential effects.

D. LOCATION AND GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

1. **USGS Topographic Map**: Last Chance, ID (Attachment 1).

2. **Setting Description**: Harriman State Park is located in a high prairie and forested area in the Upper Snake drainage in southeastern Idaho. Sage meadows and pasture land dominate the landscape with views of the Teton Mountain Range. The area around the historic ranch is open land with pine forest at the south end and west side of the ranch buildings (Attachments 2 & 4). There are two dams and reservoirs in the area: Silver Lake Dam and Golden Lake Dam that are connected by Thurman Creek. Henry Fork Creek extends north-south through the northeastern side of the ranch, and the Green Canyon Road extends east-west near the southern ranch boundary.

   The historic Railroad Ranch building complex extends north-south in the linear fashion. The barns and granary are at the northern end; the houses/cottages, garages, and auto related buildings in the center; and barns and a newer dormitory building are at the south end of the ranch complex. There are few plantings within the historic ranch complex. The complex is sited on the west bank of Henry's River.

E. PRE-FIELD RESEARCH:

1. **Sources of information**
   - X Overviews
   - [ ] Historical records/maps (list)
   - X National Register
   - X Archaeological site records/maps
   - [ ] Individuals/groups with special knowledge
   - X Architectural site records/maps
   - X Survey records
   - [ ] Other (list)

2. **Summary and Evaluation of Previous Studies**: The following is a summary of the records research at the Idaho SHPO and other pertinent studies for Harriman State Park.

   Green, Dean. *The Idaho From History of Island Park: A Pictorial & Written History from before 1890 to Idaho's Centennial Year 1990.* An overview of the history of the Railroad Ranch development and transition into the public sector. Excerpt from book. <http://www.henrysforkcountry.com/full.php?sid=83>

   Henry's Fork Caldera Project. Historic Railroad Ranch Slideshow, 2008 <http://calderaproject.blogspot.com/2008/08/historic-railroad-ranch-slideshow.html>

Depicts the ranch in a photographic essay. Good source of historic photographs of the ranch complex and landscape.

Idaho State Historical Society Digital Collections
<http://idahohistory.cdmhost.com/cdm4/results.php?CISOOP1=any&CISOBOX1=railroad+ranch&CISOFIELD1=CISOSEARCHALL&CISOROOT=all>
Various photographs of the ranch.

Idaho Historic Sites Inventory, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office. Site survey forms for the buildings/structures in the Railroad Ranch complex, initial survey conducted in 1982 and updated in 1997. A condition assessment was also completed for each property including description of the resource, modifications, condition, summary of conservation elements, rehabilitation recommendations, and future assessment observations. Black and white photographs were also taken of each building or structure; and floor plans drawn for some of the larger buildings. Archaeological site survey forms for the area were also reviewed for information about any above ground resources. There were no above historic buildings or structures noted.

Morton-Keithley, Idaho State Historical Society. National Register District Nomination for the "Island Park Land and Cattle Company Home Ranch," 31 May 1996. The document gives a detailed study of the contributing and non-contributing buildings in the ranch complex, construction dates, architectural description, historical overview, map, and photographs.

F. EXPECTED HISTORIC USE

1. **List of Cultural Properties Recorded**: Recorded properties include the Island Park Land and Cattle Company Home Ranch, a National Register district encompassing 3,000 acres. The historic ranch buildings/structures date from 1902 to 1955, and the non-historic buildings date from 1980-81. (See National Register Nomination in Attachment 5).

2. **Types of Cultural Properties Expected**. The recorded resources in the main ranch complex includes houses, cottages, barns, dining hall, barns and sheds, corrals, granary, shop, creamery, equipment storage shed, cookhouse, garages, wood shed, meat smoker house, water tank, office, laundry, ice house, hotel, and dormitory. Buildings and structures outside the complex include two dams, a bull barn, and bridge (Attachments 2, 3, and 5).

3. **Cultural Themes/Contexts Expected**. The themes of Agriculture and Recreation /Tourism are represented in the National Register nomination.

4. **Expected Locations of Cultural Properties**. There are 28 historic resources in the main Railroad Ranch complex. Three other historic resources are north of the ranch buildings that include a bridge, the Golden Lake Dam, and the Bull Barn (Attachment 5). The Silver Lake Dam is south of the ranch complex. No other documented historic resources are in the study area; however, there are newer park amenities such as picnic tables, seating, viewing platforms, and restrooms.

G. FIELD METHODS

1. **Areas Examined and Type of Coverage**. The Railroad Ranch historic structures and buildings have been surveyed and documented in various previous studies including the 1996 National Register nomination and Idaho SHPO site survey forms.

2. **Ground Surface Conditions**: Currently, two feet of snow (April 16, 2009).

3. **Areas Not Examined and Why**. Snow covering ground; many areas of APE are not accessible. The area has been surveyed in the past.

4. **Names of Field Personnel**. Researched by Sally Donovan, M.S., Donovan and Associates. (Resume Attachment 6).

5. **Survey Dates**: N/A

6. **Problems Encountered**. Snow

H. RESULTS

1. **List of Cultural Properties and Types**:
   The Island Park Land and Cattle Company Home Ranch is a National Register district listed in 1996 (Attachment 5). Most the resources in the Railroad Ranch date from 1902 to 1955. A dormitory, the administrative buildings, and interpretative site were built in 1980-81. The district nomination includes 3,000 acres.

2. **Summary Description of Properties**: See National Register Nomination and maps (Attachment 3 and 5).

3. **Recommendations for National Register Eligibility**. None. The property was previously listed in the National Register.

4. **Recommendations for Further Investigation to Evaluate Properties**. None

5. **Cultural Properties Noted but not Formally Recorded**. None.

I. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Potential contributions to historic contexts**. The property's significance to the historic context of recreation and agriculture were established in the National Register District nomination for the Railroad Ranch.

2. **Potential Threats to Properties**: There are limited threats to the buildings and structures at the Railroad Ranch other than natural disasters, and/or deterioration by vandalism, natural weathering, and/or impacts by Park visitors. The greatest threats to the historic ranch complex are wildfires. The spread of wildfires in the Park has been cited as a major concern of the management. The bark beetle infestation in Harriman State Park has killed many of the trees in the Park, contributing to hazardous fuel loading. The bark beetle infestation has caused a high incidence of downed trees and dead coniferous trees. In addition, encroachment of non-native vegetation has also contributed to the hazardous fuels situation. Fire suppression in the Park is limited by access.

3. **Project's Effect on Each Property**: The following is a discussion of the effects on the contributing buildings within the Railroad Ranch. *See Attachment 5 for list of buildings/structures in the ranch complex and their status as contributing or non-contributing resources to the district.*

   a) Historic Railroad Ranch Complex (1902-1955): The fuel reduction project will have ***No Effect*** on the buildings or structures in the main historic Railroad Ranch complex within the APE. The two areas delineated for fuel reduction work are on land south of the main historic ranch complex. Vegetation removal would have no affect to the character-defining features of Railroad Ranch as the trees scheduled for removal are young or dead trees.

b) Historic Railroad Ranch Buildings/Structures Outside the Main Ranch Complex: The fuel reduction project will have ***No Effect*** on the buildings or structures noted below *outside* the main historic Railroad Ranch complex.

1. The Bull Barn (c. 1940s, non-contributing) is about ¼ -mile north of the ranch complex. This building is outside the APE.
2. Harriman Bridge (1942, contributing): about ¾ mile northeast of the main ranch complex. This bridge is outside the APE.
3. Golden Lake Dam (1921/1950s, contributing): The dam is outside the APE.
4. Silver Lake Dam (1907-08/1978-80, contributing): The dam is outside the APE.

4. Avoidance or Mitigation Options for Each Property: No mitigation is recommended.

5. Recommendations for Additional Investigations or for Management Procedures: No additional investigations or management procedures are recommended.

J. ATTACHMENTS

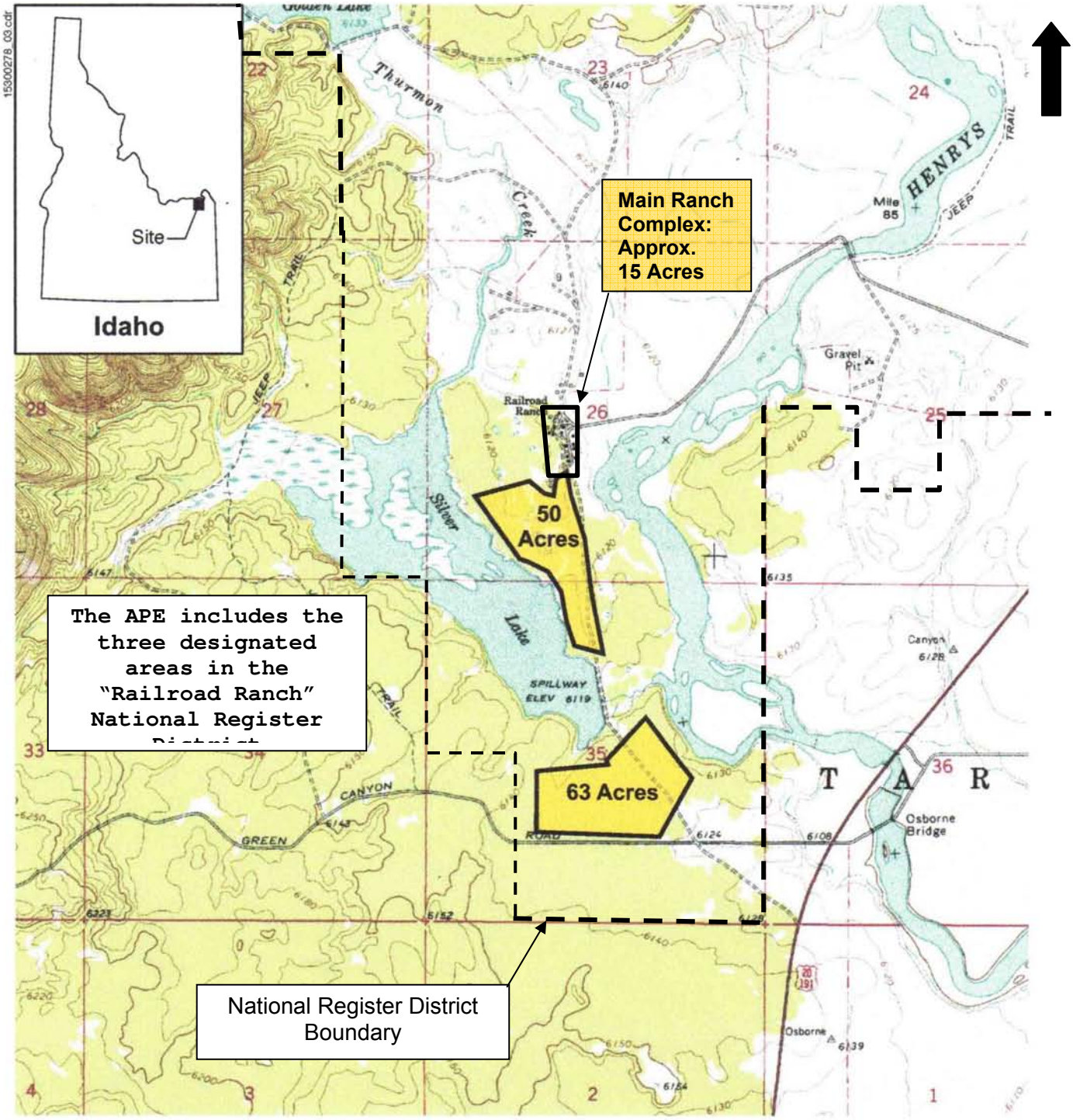
1. USGS 7.5' quadrangle maps showing project boundaries and area of potential effect
2. Aerial map of project area.
3. Map showing location of buildings in the main ranch complex.
4. Photographs of the Railroad Ranch complex and the condition of the surrounding forest.
5. National Register Nomination for the Railroad Ranch.

K. REPOSITORY - Copies of all survey reports, site forms, and slides for the Railroad Ranch are located at the office of the Idaho Archaeological Survey or the Idaho SHPO office. Negatives are on file at the Idaho State Historical Society.

L. CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS

Sally Donovan, M.S., Historic Preservation Consultant certifies that the investigation was conducted and documented according to Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines and that the report is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Sally Donovan, M.A. **Date**
Donovan and Associates June 15, 2009



Source: USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map Last Chance, Idaho dated 1964.

0 0.5 1

Approximate Scale in Miles

Job No. 15300278

Figure 1

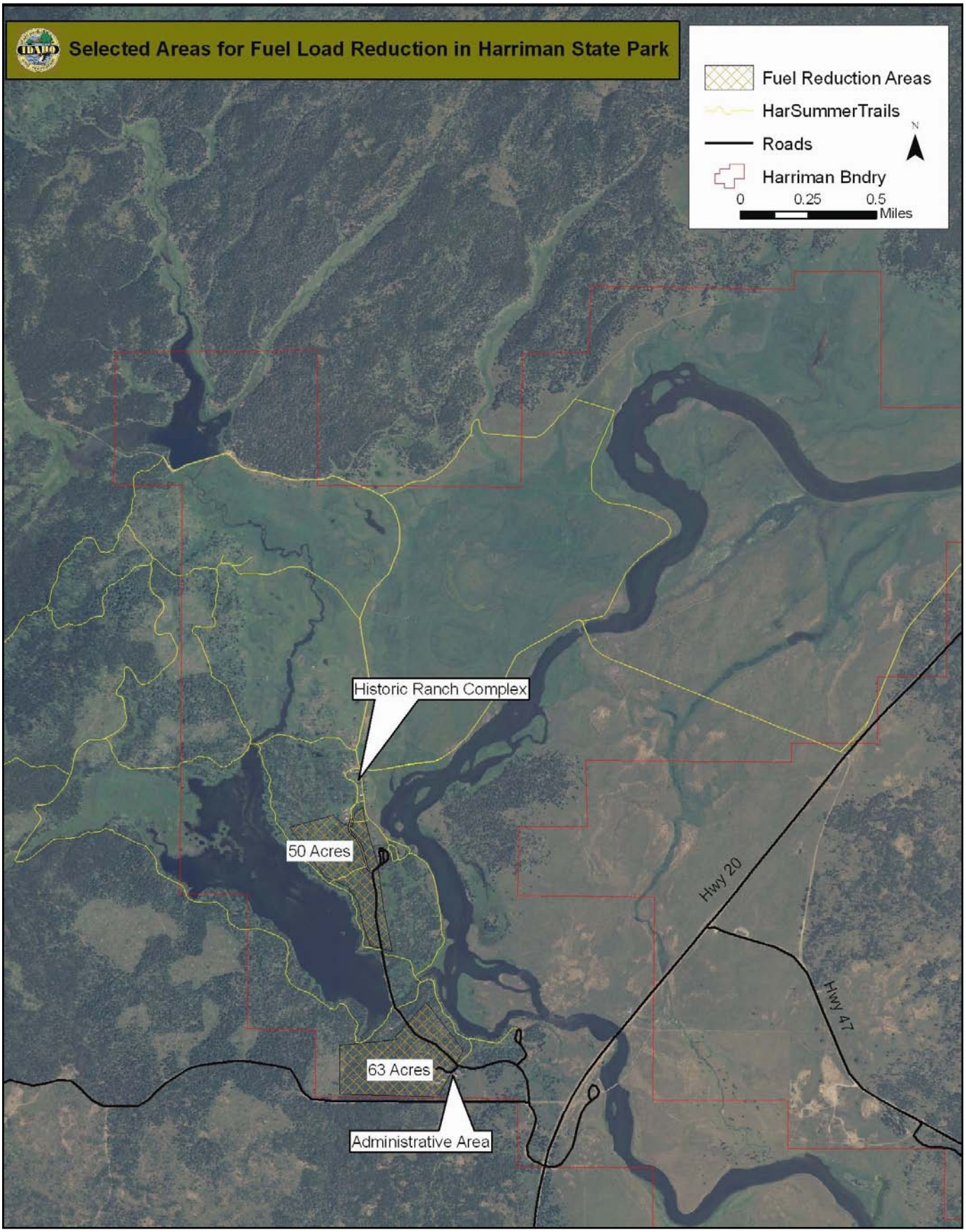
Proposed Project

URS

Harriman State Park
Fremont County, Idaho

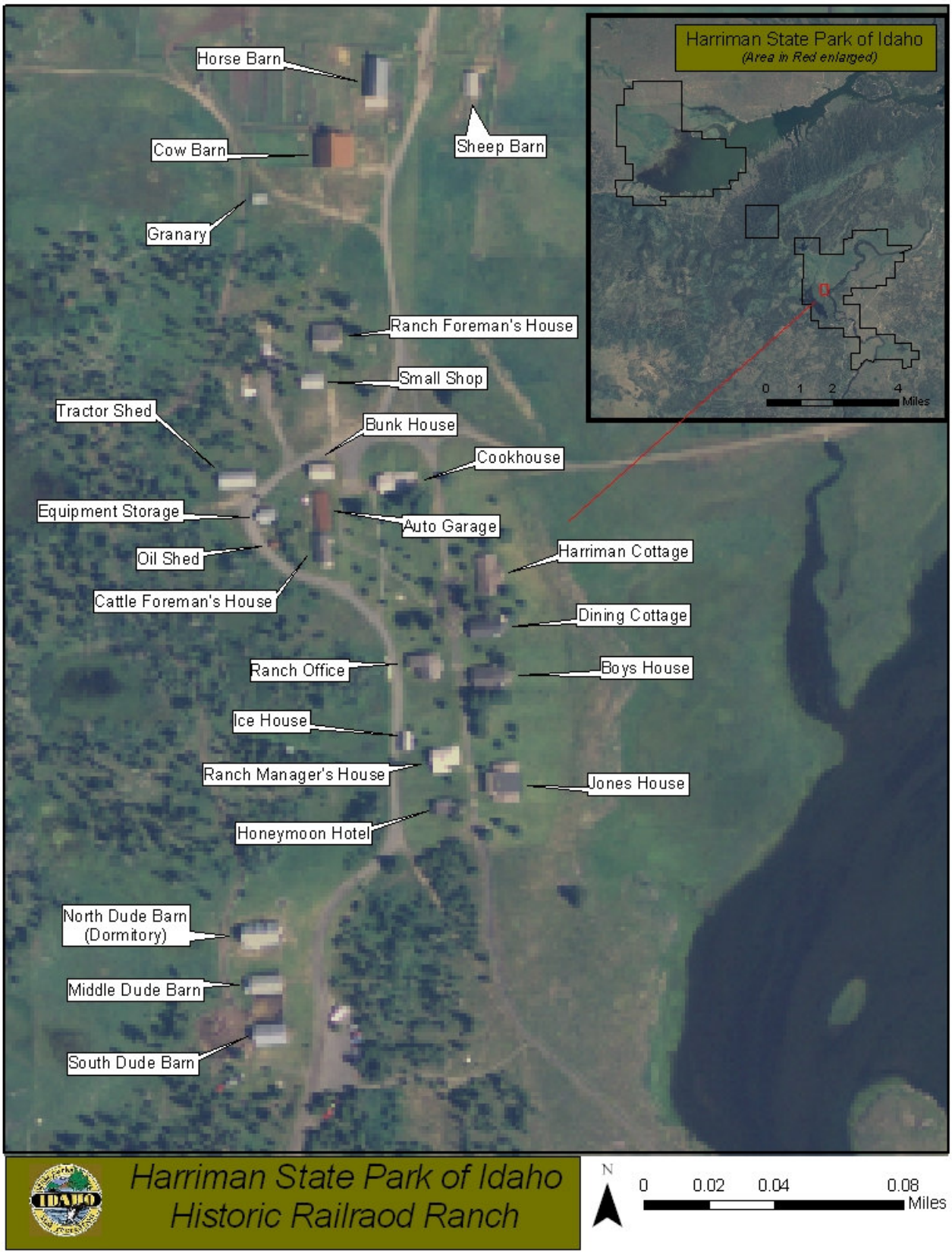
Attachment 1

Topographic Map with Project Area
And APE Delineated



Attachment 2

Aerial view showing topography and project locations.



Attachment 3

Main Railroad Ranch Complex

Photo 1: Railroad Ranch from the north.

Photo 2: Railroad Ranch from the south.

Attachment 4

Photographs of the Railroad Ranch and Project Area

Photo 3: Encroachment of forest on the Railroad Ranch buildings.

Photo 4: Forest near dormitory building at south end of complex.

Attachment 4

Photographs of the Railroad Ranch and Project Area

Photo 5: Forest near the ranch complex.

Photo 6: Fuel build-up in project area near ranch complex.

Attachment 4

Photographs of the condition of forest around ranch complex.

Attachment 5

National Register Nomination for Island Park Land and Cattle Company Home Ranch (Commonly called the Railroad Ranch)

This attachment can be provided upon request.

Attachment 6

Resume for Sally Donovan, Historic Preservation Consultant

This attachment can be provided upon request.

Appendix D

Project Conditions and Conservation Measures

The Proposed Action would comply with the following conditions and conservation measures:

- The applicant is responsible for selecting, implementing, monitoring, and maintaining best management practices to control erosion and sediment, reduce spills and pollution, and provide habitat protection.
- Any change to the approved scope of work stated in the FEMA grant application and described in this EA as the proposed action will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other laws and Executive Orders.
- Care should be taken during project implementation to avoid affecting historic properties identified in the Railroad Ranch complex, the Golden Lake Dam, and Bull Barn.
- In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity shall be discontinued, the area secured, and the SHPO and FEMA notified.
- Vegetation removal will not occur within 200 feet of wetlands and water resource.
- Work on the trees should occur outside of the nesting season.

Appendix E

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Draft Environmental Assessment
Wildfire Fuels Reduction in Harriman State Park, Idaho

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide funding to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation for a wildfire fuels reduction project in northeast Idaho. Funding would be provided as authorized by §203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act (Stafford Act), 42 USC.

FEMA prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and FEMA's implementing regulations found in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10. The EA evaluates alternatives for compliance with applicable environmental laws, including Executive Orders #11990 (Protection of Wetlands), #11988 (Floodplain Management), and #12898 (Environmental Justice). The alternatives evaluated in the EA are the (1) no action; and (2) reduction and management of fuel loads through manual and mechanical means in targeted areas of Harriman State Park, located within Fremont County.

The EA is available for review online at the FEMA environmental Web site at: http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments under Region X. If no significant issues are identified during the comment period, FEMA will finalize the EA, issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and fund the project. Unless substantive comments are received, FEMA will not publish another notice for this project. However, should a FONSI be issued, it will be available for public viewing at http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments under Region X.

The draft EA is also available for review on September 10, 2009 at the Harriman State Park Headquarters at 3489 Green Canyon Road, Island Park, ID, and the Fremont County Courthouse at 151 West 1st North, St. Anthony, ID.

Written comments on the draft EA should directed no later than 5 p.m. on October 12, 2009 to Mark G. Eberlein, Regional Environmental Officer, FEMA Region X, 130 228th Street SW, Bothell, WA 98021, or by e-mail at mark.eberlein@dhs.gov. Comments also can be faxed to 425-487-4613.