United States Department of the Interior

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JUN 2 4 2011

Memorandum

To: Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Boise, Idaho

From: State Supervisor, Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Boise, Idaho

Ren Holden for Brian Kelly

Subject: Biological Assessment of the Bureau of Land Management, Boise District and the Jarbidge Field Office of the Twin Falls District, Ongoing Rights-of-Way, Military Training, and Mineral Material Use Authorization Actions in Ada, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, and Owyhee Counties, Idaho—Biological Opinion
CONS-100b 14420-2011-F-0035

This memorandum transmits the Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Biological Opinion (Opinion) for 114 ongoing rights-of-way, military training, and mineral material use authorization actions in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Boise District, and the Jarbidge Field Office of the Twin Falls District, Idaho. This Opinion is being provided in response to your original request on September 16, 2009, for conference on all individual ongoing actions and four existing land use plans within the range of slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*). Following the publication of our listing decision in the Federal Register on October 8, 2009, a separate Biological Opinion was issued on November 30, 2009 (14420-2010-F-0019) regarding the existing land use plans. A subsequent amendment to your letter, received by the Service on January 14, 2010, requested that ongoing actions be addressed in separate Biological Opinions for livestock management activities and for rights-of-way, military training, and mineral material use authorization activities. The Biological Opinion for 27 ongoing livestock grazing actions was completed on January 28, 2010 (14429-2010-F-0025). The enclosed Opinion represents the final ongoing actions to be addressed under your original section 7 conference/consultation request.

You requested concurrence for five ongoing water facility rights-of-way that you determined are not likely to adversely affect the slickspot peppergrass. Within this Opinion, the Service provides acknowledgement/concurrence with your effects determinations for these five ongoing water facility rights-of-way actions. In addition, Service concurrence for the BLM's determination that the ongoing Three Creek-Bruneau road right-of-way (IDI-020724) located in the Jarbidge Field Office of the Twin Falls District will not adversely affect the slickspot peppergrass has been provided through a separate letter of concurrence (14420-2011-I-0140) dated April 18, 2011.

You also determined that 114 individual ongoing rights-of-way, military training, and mineral material use authorization actions are likely to adversely affect the slickspot peppergrass, however, these adverse effects are expected to be localized and do not result in rangewide effects that will decrease survival or recovery of the species. Conservation measures and implementation actions associated with these ongoing actions serve to reduce adverse affects and may incrementally contribute to improved conditions for the long term conservation of the slickspot peppergrass.

This memorandum and attached Opinion serve to conclude consultation for the 114 ongoing rights-of-way, military training, and mineral material use authorization actions, pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). This Opinion is based primarily on our review of your September 16, 2009, Biological Assessment (Assessment), the update to the Assessment received on November 23, 2010, additional clarifications received on May 9, 2011, and BLM and applicant review comments on the draft Opinion received by the Service on June 8, 2011. Our analyses were also based on other forms of documentation that subsequently updated and provided informational needs pertinent to the development of this Opinion. Our Opinion concludes that continued implementation of the 114 individual ongoing rights-of-way, military training, and mineral material use authorization actions, inclusive of applicable conservation measures and implementation actions, will not jeopardize the survival and recovery of the slickspot peppergrass. A complete record of this consultation is on file at this office. Potential impacts to other listed or proposed species or proposed critical habitat for the slickspot peppergrass have not been examined through this consultation in relation to the subject actions. We anticipate that critical habitat for the slickspot peppergrass in relation to these ongoing actions will be addressed in future section 7 conference or consultation efforts.

Thank you for your continued interest in the conservation of threatened and endangered species. If you have any questions regarding this Opinion, please contact Barbara Chaney at (208) 378-5259.

Attachment

cc: BLM-State Office, Boise (Foss, Rosentreter)
BLM-Jarbidge Field Office, Twin Falls (Forster, Stewart)
BLM-Boise District Office, Boise (Seidlitz, Knapton, Steiger)
IDARNG, Boise (Major General Sayler, Baun)

BIOLOGICAL OPINION
ON
THE EFFECTS OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ONGOING RIGHTS-OF-WAY, MILITARY TRAINING, AND MINERAL MATERIALS USE AUTHORIZATION ACTIONS IN IDAHO ON THE SLICKSPOT PEPPERGRASS (*LEPIDIUM PAPILLIFERUM*)

14420-2011-F-0035

June 2011

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
IDAHO FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICE
BOISE, IDAHO

Supervisor _____

Date _____

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CHAPTER 1. BACKGROUND

1.1. Introduction

This document transmits the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) biological opinion (Opinion) based on our review of 114 ongoing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) rights-of-ways (ROW), military training, and mineral materials use authorizations located on Federal lands within the BLM's Four Rivers Field Office and Jarbidge Field Office in Ada, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Payette, and Owyhee counties, Idaho, and their effects on the threatened slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*). This Opinion was completed in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). We received the BLM's November 23, 2010, request for formal consultation on November 29, 2010.

This Opinion is based on information provided in the May 6, 2011 *Final Amendment to the Biological Assessment for Slickspot Peppergrass (Lepidium papilliferum): Jarbidge and Four Rivers Field Offices, Land Use Plans and Ongoing Actions* (Amendment) (BLM 2011); field investigations; and other sources of information cited herein. The Amendment updates the analyses for ongoing ROWs, military training, and mineral material use authorization actions in the September 16, 2009, *Final Biological Assessment for Slickspot Peppergrass (Lepidium papilliferum): Jarbidge and Four Rivers Field Offices, Land Use Plans and Ongoing Actions* (Assessment) (BLM 2009) and the *Final Amendment to the Biological Assessment for Slickspot Peppergrass (Lepidium papilliferum): Jarbidge and Four Rivers Field Offices, Land Use Plans and Ongoing Actions* dated September 20, 2010 (BLM 2010). The September 20, 2010 version of the Amendment was updated by the BLM in May 2011 to address the Service's request for additional clarification on the individual ongoing actions and their effects on the slickspot peppergrass (BLM 2011). The BLM granted the Service a 60-day extension for completion of this batched consultation to allow for incorporation of updated information on these 114 individual ongoing actions into this Opinion. A complete administrative record of this consultation is on file at the Service's Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office in Boise, Idaho.

1.2. Consultation History

July 15, 2002 — The Service proposed to list the slickspot peppergrass as endangered (67 FR 46441).

December 8, 2003 — The Candidate Conservation Agreement for Slickspot Peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) (CCA) was signed by the BLM, the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho National Guard, and nongovernmental cooperator representatives Ted Hoffman and Robert Baker. Eighteen additional nongovernmental cooperators (private landowners who also hold BLM livestock grazing permits) also signed the CCA (State of Idaho et al. 2003, pp. 134–137).

January 24, 2004	The Service's decision to withdraw the proposal to list the slickspot peppergrass as endangered was published in the Federal Register. The species was subsequently dropped from inclusion in the BLM's consultation on existing land use plans (LUPs).
August 19, 2005	The U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho (Court) reversed the decision to withdraw the proposed rule to the list slickspot peppergrass as endangered, with directions that the case be remanded to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior for reconsideration of whether a proposed rule listing the slickspot peppergrass as either threatened or endangered should be adopted.
May 31–June 2, 2006	The BLM and Service *Lepidium papilliferum* (LEPA) Technical Team1 met in Twin Falls, Idaho, to develop LUP-level draft conservation measures for the slickspot peppergrass.
June 19–20, 2006	BLM and Service managers met with LEPA Technical Team biologists/botanists to review and discuss the draft conservation measures for the slickspot peppergrass.
July 11, 2006	BLM and Service LEPA Technical Team biologists/botanists met in Boise to revise the draft conservation measures for the slickspot peppergrass.
August 9, 2006	BLM and Service managers met to review and finalize LUP-level conservation measures for the slickspot peppergrass.
August 15, 2006	The BLM and Service entered into a Consultation Agreement (BLM and Service 2006) to provide for effective and efficient section 7 consultation on BLM LUP actions in Idaho affecting the slickspot peppergrass. The agreement was established in accordance with a national agreement regarding plan and program-level consultations.
August 22, 2006	The BLM and Service entered into a Conservation Agreement (CA) to implement the conservation measures for the slickspot peppergrass under existing LUPs.
Fall 2006	Multiple meetings were held between BLM and Service LEPA Technical Team biologists/botanists to develop a biological assessment that addressed the potential effects of existing BLM LUPs and ongoing actions on the slickspot peppergrass.

[1] The BLM and Service LEPA Technical Team consisted of BLM botanists from the Idaho State Office, the Four Rivers FO of the Boise District, and the Jarbidge FO of the Twin Falls District; and a Service biologist from the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office (formerly the Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office). The BLM's Idaho State Office biologist also participated as the BLM and Service LEPA Technical Team leader during 2006.

January 12, 2007	The Service published a decision in the Federal Register to withdraw the proposal to list the slickspot peppergrass under the Act, and efforts to complete section 7 consultation on the effects of existing BLM LUPs and ongoing actions on the slickspot peppergrass ceased.
June 4, 2008	The Court reversed the decision to withdraw the proposed rule with directions that the case be remanded to the Service for further consideration consistent with the Court's opinion (Western Watersheds Project v. Kempthorne, Case No. CV 07-161-E-MHW (D. Idaho)).
Winter 2009	The Service and BLM met to discuss potential modification to the conservation measures for the slickspot peppergrass within the 2006 CA.
July 15, 2009	Service and BLM managers and LEPA Technical Team biologists/botanists met to discuss threats to the slickspot peppergrass and a strategy for completing section 7 conference on the effects of the BLM's existing LUPs and ongoing actions on this species.
July 17, 2009	The BLM developed guidance for LEPA Technical Team biologists/botanists to make effects determinations on individual ongoing livestock grazing permits and ROW permits. The Service approved these guidelines.
July 20–22, 2009	Service and BLM LEPA Technical Team biologists/botanists met in Boise, Idaho to update effects determinations from 2006 section 7 conference efforts on individual ongoing livestock grazing permits and ROW permits, as well as on military training actions and mineral material use authorization actions.
July 28, 2009	Service and BLM LEPA Technical Team biologists/botanists met in Twin Falls, Idaho to update effects determinations on individual ongoing livestock grazing permits and ROW permits.
August 4–5, 2009	Service and BLM LEPA Technical Team biologists/botanists met in Boise, Idaho to update effects determinations on individual ongoing livestock grazing permits, ROWs, and military training actions.
August 27, 2009	The BLM and Service entered into an updated CA to implement conservation measures for the slickspot peppergrass under LUPs.
August 31, 2009	The Service received a preliminary copy of Chapter 3 of a draft Assessment that addressed the effects of ongoing LUP programs on the slickspot peppergrass.
September 11, 2009	Service and BLM LEPA Technical Team biologists/botanists met in Boise, Idaho to discuss the most recent version of the draft biological assessment on the effects to the slickspot peppergrass associated with individual ongoing livestock grazing permits, ROW permits, military training actions, and mineral material use authorizations.
September 14, 2009	The Service, BLM, and Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation met to develop a strategy and timeline for completing section 7 conference activities for the BLM's existing LUPs and individual ongoing livestock

	grazing permits, ROW permits, military training actions, and mineral materials use authorizations.
September 16, 2009	In a memorandum transmitting its Assessment, the BLM requested formal conference with the Service on effects to the slickspot peppergrass associated with implementing 4 LUPs and the CA and 118 individual ongoing actions.
October 8, 2009	The Service published its decision to list the slickspot peppergrass as threatened under the Act in the Federal Register.
October 14, 2009	The Service provided the BLM with written acknowledgement that adequate information was present in the Assessment to initiate formal consultation. Concurrence was also provided on eight ongoing project-level actions that the BLM determined were not likely to adversely affect the slickspot peppergrass.
October–December 2009	The Service and the BLM exchanged numerous clarifications on the ongoing actions addressed in the Assessment.
November 30, 2009	The Service completed formal consultation for the Jarbidge Resource Management Plan (RMP), the Kuna Management Framework Plan (MFP), the Cascade RMP, and the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area RMP on the effects of land use plan programs on the slickspot peppergrass (14420-2010-F-0019).
December 7, 2009	The Service's decision to list the slickspot peppergrass as threatened became effective.
December 15, 2009	The BLM requested that their original request for formal section 7 conference be changed to a request for formal consultation following the December 7, 2009, effective date for the listing of the slickspot peppergrass.
January 14, 2010	The Service received a letter from the BLM requesting that we continue to prepare a biological opinion for 27 ongoing livestock grazing actions, and subsequently prepare a separate biological opinion for the remaining ongoing BLM ROW, military training actions, and mineral material use authorizations.
January 28, 2010	The Service completed formal consultation on the effects of 27 ongoing livestock grazing actions on the slickspot peppergrass (14420-2010-F-0025).
September 30, 2010	The BLM provided the Service with maps illustrating fire history in relation to ongoing ROWs, military training actions, and mineral materials use authorizations.
November 23, 2010	The Service received the BLM's request for consultation on 126 ongoing ROWs, military training actions, and mineral material use authorizations and the Amendment. This batched consultation request included 121 ongoing actions requiring formal consultation and 5 ongoing actions requiring informal consultation.

Feburary 23 March 8, 2011	The Service requested clarification on the BLM's Amendment (BLM 2010) regarding individual ongoing ROW actions, fire history associated with those actions, and maps of the actions.
March 29, 2011	The BLM granted the Service a 60-day extension for the completion of formal consultation on the Amendment to allow for synthesis of additional information into the draft Opinion and subsequent review by the BLM and their Applicants.
April 26, 2011	The BLM provided the Service with updated maps illustrating fire history in relation to ongoing ROWs, military training actions, and mineral materials use authorizations.
May 9, 2011	The BLM provided the Service with an updated Amendment (BLM 2011) that addressed all requested clarifications on individual ongoing actions and their effects on the slickspot peppergrass. As a result of these clarifications, the total number of BLM ongoing actions submitted for formal consultation was reduced from 121 actions to 114 actions.
May 16, 2011	The Service provided the BLM with a draft Opinion on the effects of ongoing ROWs, military training actions, and mineral material use authorizations on the slickspot peppergrass for review and comment.
June 8, 2011	The BLM provided the Service with BLM and Applicant comments on the draft Opinion. These comments were incorporated into the final Opinion, as appropriate.

1.3. Consultation Context

1.3.1. Previous Related Consultations

1.3.1.1. Bureau of Land Management Land Use Plan-Level Consultations Previously Completed

The effects of the BLM's existing land use plans (LUPs) in Idaho on the following species are the subject of completed Service consultations (14420-2007-F-0250): bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), northern Idaho ground squirrel (*Spermophilus brunneus brunneus*), Bliss Rapids snail (*Taylorconcha serpenticola*), Utah valvata snail (*Valvata utahensis*), Snake River physa snail (*Physa natricina*), Banbury Springs lanx (*Lanx* spp.), Bruneau hot springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis*), and Ute ladies'-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*).

In November 2009, the Service also completed consultation on all existing BLM land use plans (LUP) implemented in Idaho that may affect the slickspot peppergrass (14420-2010-F-0019). As three of the four plans considered in that consultation (the Jarbidge RMP, the Kuna Management Framework Plan (MFP), and the Cascade RMP) do not provide specific guidance or direction for managing the slickspot peppergrass that may occur on the BLM lands covered by the LUPs, the Service and BLM developed species-specific management guidelines that would be applied together with LUP direction where the slickspot peppergrass may occur. In August 2006, the

Service and BLM signed a Conservation Agreement (CA), committing to implement LUP program-specific conservation measures for the slickspot peppergrass (BLM and Service 2006). This CA was updated on August 27, 2009. A fourth plan (the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area RMP) incorporated all conservation measures identified in the 2006 CA. Section 7 was not completed for this RMP until November 2009 as the slickspot peppergrass had no status under the Act at the time this LUP was completed.

Implementation actions identified in the CA provide greater detail regarding how, where, and when the conservation measures will be implemented and the processes that will be followed. Conservation measures are not intended to supersede or replace more restrictive LUP-level program conservations measures already in place. However, it is the Service's expectation that the CA conservation measures will be implemented in instances where past consultations have measures that are less protective than those currently identified and will remain in place until such time that the applicable LUP has been revised.

1.3.1.2. Bureau of Land Management Project-Level Consultations

On January 28, 2010, the Service completed section 7 consultation on the effects of 27 BLM ongoing livestock grazing actions on all known slickspot peppergrass locations. These ongoing actions included conservation measures and implementation actions defined in the 2006/2009 CA as part of the BLM's authorization process for ongoing, new, and renewable Federal activities. Similarly, the BLM will apply the conservation measures and implementation actions defined in the 2006/2009 CA as part of their authorization process for ongoing BLM ROWs, military training actions, and mineral material use authorizations analyzed in this Opinion.

The Service has completed many consultations under section 7 of the Act for programs and individual actions located in BLM Field Offices. Some of these were completed as letters of concurrence/conference reports as they were determined to be unlikely to adversely affect listed/proposed species, including the slickspot peppergrass. The Service has also completed formal consultations with the BLM on a number of actions. For actions that are underway, standing consultations will remain in effect as long as the actions are carried out as proposed and no new information surfaces to indicate the species will be affected in unanticipated ways.

1.4. Informal Consultations

1.4.1 Ongoing Water Facilities Rights-of-Way Actions

The Amendment includes five ongoing water facilities ROWs that the BLM gave "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" determinations for the slickspot peppergrass. In a letter dated October 19, 2009 (14420-2009-I-0604), the Service previously provided the BLM with concurrence on three of these five ROW effects determinations (IDB 005837, IDI 020297, and IDI 036011). These three ongoing ROWs are associated with EO 26. Slickspot peppergrass occupied habitat acreage located within these three ROWs has been refined by additional GIS analyses since the 2009 Assessment was developed. Table 1 illustrates that the total occupied habitat located within these three ROWs was updated from about 24 acres in the 2009 Assessment to approximately 44 acres in the 2011 Amendment (BLM 2011, p. VIII-1). Of these 44 acres, 7 acres bisect EO 26 (BLM 2011, p. A-4). Although the reported acreage of occupied

habitat located within these ROWs has increased between the issuance of the original Assessment and the Amendment, we acknowledge that the BLM's original effects determinations of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" remain valid for these three ongoing ROWs as the probability and extent of potential effects associated with these water facility ROW actions continue to be negligible. Therefore, as no consultation reinitiation triggers have been tripped, our original concurrence remains in effect for these three ongoing actions. For an overview of the Service's original concurrence on these ROWs, see our October 19, 2009 letter of concurrence (14420-2009-I-0604).

Table 1. Ongoing Water Facility Rights-of-Way (ROW) Actions Located on the Boise District that Previously Received Fish and Wildlife Service Concurrence

Water Facility Serial Number - Description	Expiration Date	EO # Associated with Occupied Habitat within the ROW	Occupied Habitat Acres within the ROW from 2009 Assessment	Occupied Habitat Acres within the ROW from 2011 Assessment Update
Water Facility ROW IDB-005837	(In perpetuity)	26	7.0	28.6
Water Facility ROW IDI-00020297	11/22/2013	26	10.84	9.5
Water Facility ROW IDI-036011	12/31/2037	26	6.54	6.3
TOTAL	--	--	**24.38**	**44.4**

The two remaining ongoing water facility ROWs bisect slickspot peppergrass occupied habitat in the Boise District: Water Facility ROW IDB-003153 and Water Facility ROW IDB-027560. These water facilities consist of irrigation ditches, canals, and water master quarters. Both of these realty actions are authorized in perpetuity under the March 3 Act of 1891. Depending on the size of the facility, it may or may not include an access road for maintenance purposes. Normally, only larger ditches and canals have adjacent vehicle access for maintenance.

Each spring, ditches and canals are cleaned of debris and readied for the upcoming irrigation season. This work is done with hand shovels, rakes and backhoes, depending on the size and nature of repairs. Also, weeds are burned inside ditches and along ditch banks to clear the way for access and the coming irrigation season. Ditch riders travel along the water facility daily, checking for problems and opening and closing delivery gateways. Unless there is a break in the system, there is usually no outside impact to adjoining areas. Access to the water facilities ROWs is normally via foot, horse, or Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs). Maintenance activities are restricted to the existing ROWs and would typically involve the use of hand tools. Approximately 70 percent of the water facilities ROWs occur in habitat dominated by exotic annuals. The only major potential effect to slickspot peppergrass from activities associated with the ongoing water facilities ROWs would be the dissemination of weeds and invasive annuals via OHV use during maintenance activities.

Table 2 below summarizes the occupied habitat acreages located within the two ongoing water facility ROWs.

Table 2. Ongoing Water Facility Rights-of-Way (ROW) Actions Located on the Boise District with no Previous Section 7 Consultation

Water Facility Serial Number – Description	Expiration Date	EO # Associated with Occupied Habitat within the ROW	Occupied Habitat Acres within the ROW
Water Facility ROW IDB-003153	(In perpetuity)	29	27
Water Facility ROW IDB-027560	(In perpetuity)	70	59.4
TOTAL	-	-	**86.4**

All occupied acreage shown in Table 2 above is located in the 0.5 mile pollinator buffer surrounding the associated EOs. No EOs are bisected by the two water facilities. For more detailed information regarding ongoing water facility ROW actions, see pages VIII-1 through VIII-6 of the BLM's Amendment (BLM 2011).

Service concurrence with the may affect, not likely to adversely affect determinations for the slickspot peppergrass associated with ongoing maintenance for Water Facility ROW IDB-003153 and Water Facility ROW IDB-027560 is based on the following rationales presented in the Amendment (BLM 2011, p. VIII-6).

1. The major direct effects to individual slickspot peppergrass plants, the seed bank, and slickspot microhabitats from ground disturbance associated with the development of the BLM-authorized ROWs for water facilities occurred at the time that the water facilities were constructed. These previously disturbed facility construction areas are no longer expected to support the plant or its slickspot microsite habitat. No new areas that support slickspots will be disturbed for ongoing water facility ROW actions. Future ground disturbance associated with maintenance activities is expected to be restricted to areas that have been previously disturbed within the existing ROW, so no direct impacts to slickspot peppergrass from ground disturbance are anticipated.

2. The only major potential indirect effect to slickspot peppergrass from activities associated with the ongoing water facilities ROWs would be the dissemination of weeds and invasive annuals via OHV use during maintenance activities. Approximately 70 percent of existing water facilities ROW areas occur in habitat currently dominated by exotic annuals. The area of these ROWs within occupied habitat being used for maintenance is limited and is already predominantly disturbed and overrun with invasive nonnative plants. The Service expects the risk of indirect effects to slickspot peppergrass or its habitat due to the expansion of weeds from water facilities maintenance activities to be low, as impacts associated with ditch maintenance are expected to be minimal. The potential indirect effects to slickspot peppergrass as the result of maintenance activities in the existing water facility ROWs are so small that they are not able to be meaningfully measured, detected, or evaluated.

1.4.2 Ongoing Three Creek-Bruneau Road Rights-of-Way

Section 7 consultation for the ongoing Three Creek-Bruneau road ROW located in the Jarbidge Field Office (IDI-020724) was concluded through a letter of concurrence (14420-2011-I-0140) dated April 18, 2011 (Service 2011 in litt., p.1). This ongoing road ROW action is not addressed further in this Opinion.

BIOLOGICAL OPINION

CHAPTER 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE ONGOING ACTIONS

2.1. Individual Ongoing Actions

This Opinion is based on the 2011 Amendment and the 2009 Assessment developed cooperatively by the BLM and the Service, that considers the effects of ongoing ROWs, military training actions, and mineral material use authorizations, and implementation of conservation measures as identified in the 2003 CCA, as updated in 2006, between the State of Idaho, the BLM, the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), and nongovernmental cooperators (private landowners who also hold BLM livestock grazing permits) (State of Idaho et al. 2003, 2006), and the CA between the BLM and the Service for slickspot peppergrass signed on August 22, 2006, and updated on August 27, 2009 (BLM and Service 2006, BLM and Service 2009), on the slickspot peppergrass. Individual ongoing actions analyzed within this Opinion are as follows: 4 communications site ROWs; 52 electric power and telephone line ROWs; 10 oil, gas, and water pipeline ROWs; 1 railroad ROW; 33 road ROWs; 9 military training actions; and 5 mineral materials use authorizations. Five ongoing water facility ROWs included in the Amendment are addressed in the Informal Consultation section above, and will not be discussed further in this Opinion.

Each of the individual ongoing actions analyzed within this Opinion are located within one of three LUP areas (Kuna MFP, Cascade RMP, and Snake River Birds of Prey NCA RMP). These LUPs provide guidance for activities within the boundaries of the BLM's Four Rivers FO of the Boise District (Figure 1). Each BLM FO area boundary may contain a mixture of BLM, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), State, and privately owned lands. However, this Opinion is relevant only to those individual ongoing actions authorized by the BLM, predominantly located on public lands in Ada, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, and Payette counties, Idaho. Detailed descriptions of individual ongoing actions are provided in Chapter 5 of this Opinion, as well as in the Amendment (BLM 2011). In addition, updated maps showing each individual ongoing action in relation to occupied habitat for the slickspot peppergrass have been provided to the Service by the BLM, and are available as part of the administrative record for this consultation.

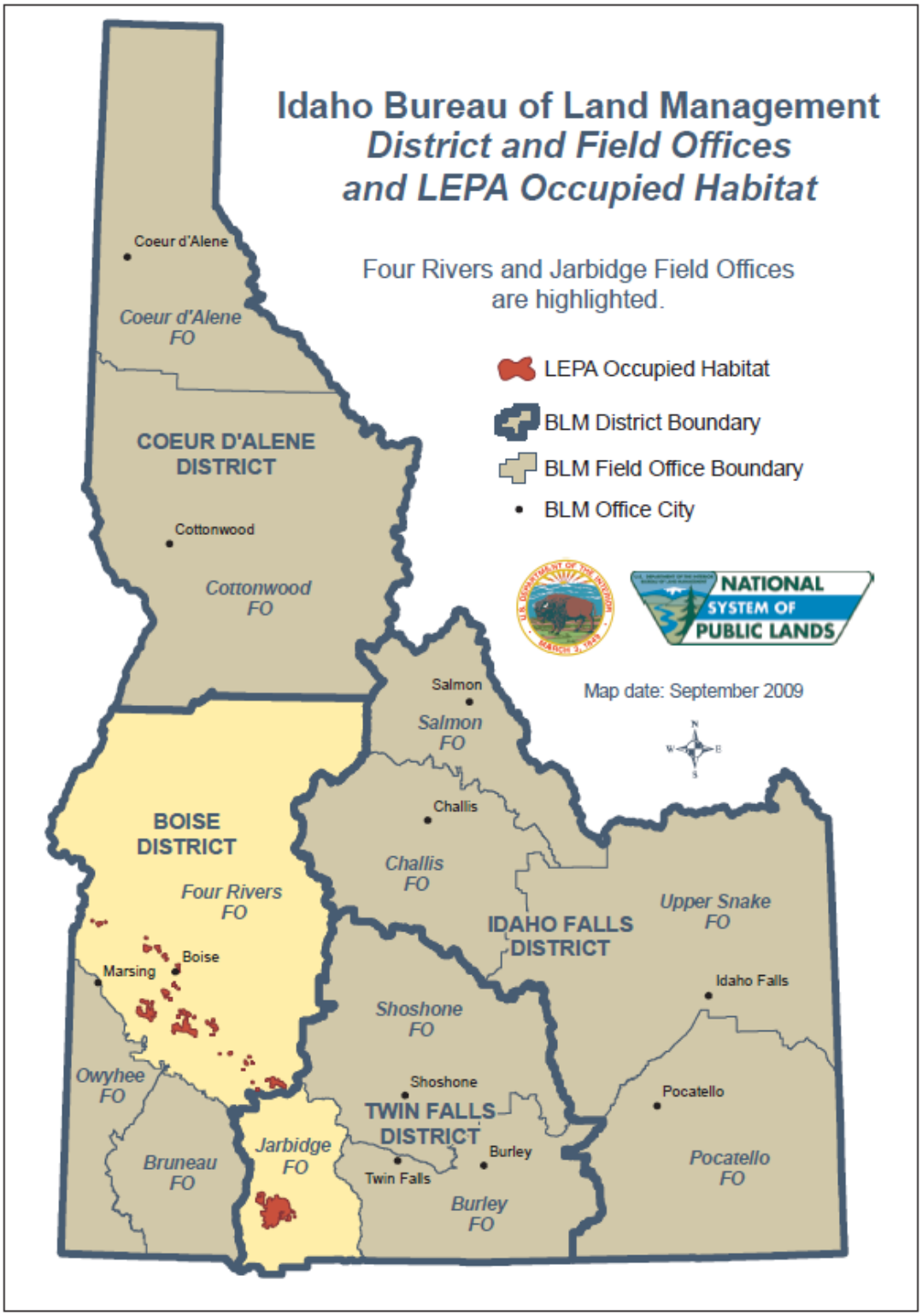

Figure 1. Bureau of Land Management Field Office locations in Idaho and the distribution of the slickspot peppergrass. Ongoing actions addressed in this Opinion are limited to the Four Rivers Field Office of the Boise District.

2.2. Conservation Agreement and Candidate Conservation Agreement for the Slickspot Peppergrass

As noted in section 1.2 of this Opinion, the Service and the BLM have entered into a CA committing to the application of conservation measures for the slickspot peppergrass to avoid or minimize effects associated with implementing BLM actions planned under the standards and guidelines of their LUPs (BLM and Service 2006). The conservation measures and associated implementation actions for the ongoing BLM LUP programs provide overall guidance for avoiding or minimizing direct and indirect effects to the habitat of the slickspot peppergrass and restoring and maintaining that habitat. Conservation measures and implementation actions for the slickspot peppergrass include conducting species inventories on BLM lands, exchanging location information with agency partners, completing site-specific section 7 consultation on both ongoing and new actions, and avoiding or minimizing potential adverse impacts of site-specific projects covered under LUP programs. Site-specific implementation and effectiveness monitoring, including annual reporting requirements, will also be completed to track progress toward achieving conservation objectives. All conservation measures in the CA will be implemented until such time that new LUPs or amendments are approved with completed consultations and signed Records of Decision. The CA provides goals for inventories of the slickspot peppergrass as well as direction for completing section 7 consultations on all ongoing and proposed activities on BLM lands that may affect this species. The 2009 CA between the BLM and the Service is presented in its entirety in the Appendix of this Opinion.

The BLM is also implementing conservation measures defined in a CCA signed between the State of Idaho, BLM, Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), and nongovernmental cooperators (private landowners who also hold livestock grazing permits on BLM lands) (State of Idaho et al. 2003, 2006). The majority of the individual conservation efforts being implemented for the slickspot peppergrass that are applicable to individual projects are contained in the CCA, which was originally drafted in 2003 and updated in 2006. The CCA represents an important milestone in the cooperative conservation of the slickspot peppergrass given its rangewide scope and coordinated management across Federal and State of Idaho-managed lands. The CCA includes rangewide efforts that are intended to address the need to maintain and enhance slickspot peppergrass habitat; reduce intensity, frequency, and size of natural- and human-caused wildfires; minimize loss of habitat associated with wildfire-suppression activities; reduce the potential of nonnative plant species invasion from wildfire; minimize habitat loss associated with rehabilitation and restoration techniques; minimize the establishment of invasive nonnative species; minimize habitat loss or degradation from off highway vehicle (OHV) use; minimize the impact of military training and other associated activities on the Orchard Training Area (OTA), an Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) training area on BLM land; and minimize the impact of ground disturbances caused by livestock trampling when soils are saturated (State of Idaho et al. 2006, p. 3).

As a signatory of the CCA (State of Idaho et al. 2003, 2006), the BLM is the primary land management agency responsible for implementing conservation actions for the slickspot peppergrass on their lands. Implementing the conservation measures in the CCA represents a major commitment on behalf of the BLM, which has management authority for the majority of

the range where the slickspot peppergrass occurs (i.e., 87 percent of the total Element Occurrence [EO] area [13,470 acres] and partial-to-entire management authority for 69 of the 80 extant EOs comprising the current population of this species occur on BLM lands). The BLM also has the lead for implementing CCA-derived conservation measures that were appropriate for LUP-level programs that were included in the August 22, 2006, CA between the Service and the BLM to avoid or minimize the adverse impacts of implementing BLM LUPs to the slickspot peppergrass (BLM and Service 2006).

Although the majority of the conservation measures identified in the CCA have been implemented to date, relatively few of these measures have been determined at this time to be measurably effective for conserving the slickspot peppergrass. For example, many of the implemented measures include conducting surveys, monitoring, or providing for public outreach and education, which have limited direct or long-term conservation benefits to the species. With the exception of the long-term conservation program implemented at the OTA, which has been successful in controlling wildfire effects on slickspot peppergrass habitats (along with other conservation actions), many of the remaining conservation efforts and adaptive management provisions identified in the CCA have not been implemented over a long enough period of time to demonstrate their effectiveness in reducing threats to the species. Furthermore, the conservation measures identified in the CCA are concentrated on slickspot peppergrass EOs. While this focus is helpful, effectively controlling the most significant threats to the slickspot peppergrass (wildfire and invasive nonnative plant species) requires efforts that extend well beyond the boundaries of the EOs since these threats are naturally expansive and occur throughout the Great Basin. We recognize the conservation efforts identified in the CCA have a conservation benefit for the slickspot peppergrass, but rangewide, their effectiveness in reducing or eliminating the most significant threats to the species has not been demonstrated at this time.

The IDARNG, another signatory to the CCA, also implements conservation efforts for slickspot peppergrass on the OTA through the "Idaho Army National Guard Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan for Gowen Field/Orchard Training Area" (IDARNG INRMP) (IDARNG 2004, section 4.4.2). The IDARNG conducts military training on BLM-administered lands under an MOU with the BLM. The IDARNG's OTA contains 7,213 acres (ac) of occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat, 7,163 ac of which represents some of the highest-quality occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat remaining in the Snake River Plain region. Many of the conservation efforts, such as monitoring long-term population trends, conducting or funding academic studies, actively protecting and maintaining/restoring sagebrush habitat, and actively managing or restricting military training activities within areas reserved for slickspot peppergrass conservation, have been implemented by the IDARNG for more than 20 years and have effectively maintained one of the highest-quality occupied slickspot peppergrass populations (which includes multiple EOs) remaining in the Snake River Plan physiographic region.

Conservation measures identified for the slickspot peppergrass are either specific measures designed to reduce impacts to the species and its habitat at the local level, or general measures designed to improve the ecological condition of native sagebrush-steppe vegetation at a landscape scale, inclusive of areas supporting the slickspot peppergrass. Specific measures include management actions such as varying the timing or season of livestock grazing or trailing and moving water or supplements away from EOs. General measures include management actions designed to maintain or increase native forb and grass cover, protect sagebrush through fire protection or suppression, and restore degraded habitats to improve connectivity between

sites. General conservation measures and implementation actions within the CA include direction to prioritize slickspot peppergrass EOs for fire protection and weed control across the range of the species. For example, the CA indicates that fire suppression efforts will be conducted, as possible, to protect slickspot peppergrass habitat; protecting slickspot peppergrass habitat will be a high priority. The BLM will also promote diversity, richness, and health of native plant communities to support pollinators and habitat for the slickspot peppergrass, including conducting weed control activities compatible with slickspot peppergrass conservation. The Service expects the BLM's continued implementation of these general conservation measures will reduce effects from wildfire and nonnative invasive plants across the range of the species. And while not necessarily specifically identified for any individual ongoing action, these general measures provide incremental conservation benefits that may appropriately be addressed for each ongoing action.

The ongoing actions are guided by the LUP program, the CA between the BLM and the Service, and other landscape-scale actions as described in Chapter III of the Assessment (BLM 2009), and reflect the full action under consideration via this consultation. Table 2 of the Assessment (BLM 2009, Table IV.B.1) lists the conservation measures from the CA and indicates how each is applied at the ongoing action level. Additionally, activities are guided by various components of the CCA, described in Chapter II, Section II.G.1, "Candidate Conservation Agreement of the Assessment" (BLM 2009). Table 3 of the Assessment (BLM 2009, Table IV.B.2) lists measures from the CCA and indicates applicability at the ongoing action level. See Tables 3 and 4 below for an overview of conservation measures from the CA and the CCA that are applicable to ROWs, military training actions, and mineral material use authorizations addressed in this Opinion.

Table 3. Conservation Agreement (CA) Conservation Measures Applicable at the Ongoing Action Level for Ongoing Rights-of-Way (ROW), Military Training, and Mineral Materials Use Authorization Actions (from pages IV-3 – IV-9 of the Assessment as updated by the BLM on 12/02/09)

See the Appendix of this Opinion for a full list of all LUP Programs Evaluated and all Conservation Measures included in the CA. The Implementation Actions listed in Appendix A are included in the conservation measures below.

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	ROWs	Military Training	Mineral Materials
Special Status Animal and Plant Management Note: Common to All Programs	**1)** In cooperation with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), Idaho Conservation Data Center (IDCDC), the Service, IDARNG, the USAF, and others:			
	a) Develop and use survey protocols consistent with the Service Rare Plant Survey Guidelines to conduct Stage 1, 2, and 3 surveys (see Figure III.C.1 for the general survey process).	X	X	X
	b) Cooperate to refine slickspot peppergrass potential habitat maps (Stage 1 survey, Figure III.C.1), and to identify and map slickspot peppergrass occurrences (Stage 2 survey, Figure III.C.1).	X	X	X
	c) Cooperate in regular monitoring of slickspot peppergrass population trends and land health conditions on BLM lands, and follow current monitoring protocols. Land health conditions include forb diversity to support pollinators and habitat for slickspot peppergrass.	X	X	X
	d) Participate in research essential to conservation of the species.	X	X	X
	2) Ensure that ongoing Federal actions support or do not preclude species conservation in slickspot peppergrass habitat.	X	X	X
	3) Ensure that new Federal actions support or do not preclude species conservation in slickspot peppergrass habitat.	X	X	X
	4) Implement adaptive management as needed to achieve conservation objectives.	X	X	X
	6) Include language in all land use authorizations to require rehabilitation of slickspot peppergrass habitat in case of trespass or permit violations, if damage occurs.	X	X	X

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	ROWs	Military Training	Mineral Materials
Upland Vegetation Management: Rangelands (includes weed management)	**2)** Although non-chemical methods will be the preferred approach in occupied habitat, when appropriate, projects involving the application of pesticides (including herbicides, fungicides, and other related chemicals) in slickspot peppergrass habitat and potential habitat that may affect the species will be analyzed at the project level and designed such that pesticide applications will support conservation and minimize risks of exposure.	X	X	X
	3) Where needed and feasible, coordinate with adjacent land owners and local governments regarding control of noxious and invasive plants in upland areas through cooperative weed management programs. One of BLM's priorities within the cooperative weed management program is the protection of special status plants on BLM lands.	X	X	X
	4) The BLM will promote diversity, richness, and health of native plant communities to support pollinators and habitat for slickspot peppergrass.	X	X	X
Special Designation Area Management	**2)** Explore the potential for new designations that would enhance species conservation.	X	---	---
Fire Management: Fire Suppression	**2)** Fire suppression efforts will be conducted, as possible, to protect slickspot peppergrass habitat. Place a high priority on protecting slickspot peppergrass habitat.	X	X	X
	3) As needed, coordinate with appropriate agency personnel regarding fire suppression activities in or adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat.	X	X	X
Fire Management: Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation	**2)** Implement Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ES&R) activities to consider slickspot peppergrass in and adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat rehabilitation.	X	X	X
	3) Fire rehabilitation projects involving the application of pesticides in slickspot peppergrass habitat will be analyzed and implemented in accordance with the approach described in the **Upland Vegetation Management: Rangelands (includes weed management)** program section.	X	---	X

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	ROWs	Military Training	Mineral Materials
Lands and Realty Management: Land Tenure Adjustment (land sale, exchanges, withdrawals, etc.)	**2)** Where feasible and funding is available, acquire through land exchange or purchase private lands that contain slickspot peppergrass habitat.	X	---	---
	3) Retain occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat in Federal ownership unless such a transfer would result in a net benefit to the species.	X	---	---
Lands and Realty Management: Land Use Permits and Leases	**2)** Issue new land use permits and leases and review existing permits and leases at renewal to conserve species habitat. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as ground disturbance resulting from human uses.	X	---	---
Lands and Realty Management: Rights-of-Way	**2)** Issue new rights-of-way and review existing rights-of-way at renewal to conserve species habitat. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.	X	---	---
Mineral Management: Locatable Minerals	**2)** Approve plans of operations or allow notice level operations so as not to preclude species habitat conservation. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.	---	---	X
Mineral Management: Saleable and Leasable Minerals	**2)** Approve development of saleable or leasable minerals so as not to preclude species habitat conservation. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.	---	---	X

Table 4. Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) Conservation Measures Applicable at Ongoing Action Level for Rights-of-Way (ROW), Military Training, and Mineral Materials Use Authorization Actions (from pages IV-10 – IV-14 of the Assessment and as updated by BLM on 12/02/09)

Refer to the CCA (State of Idaho et al. 2003) for a full description of all CCA conservation measures

Action	Action Description	Responsible Party	ROWs	Military Training	Mineral Materials
.01	Provide special status plant and habitat awareness training to fire resource advisors, engine operators, incident commanders, fire cooperators, and fire operations supervisors.	BLM and fire cooperators	---	X	---
.02	Will make protection of known Element Occurrences (EOs) a priority over the surrounding Management Area on wildfires.	BLM and fire cooperators	X	X	X
.06	Utilize stationary and mobile vehicle wash points for BLM vehicles and equipment to reduce transport of undesirable plant materials.	BLM	X	X	X
.08	Use minimal soil disturbance seeding techniques in occupied and potential habitat areas.	BLM	X	X	X
.09	Rest rehabilitation areas from activities until rehabilitation management objectives are met.	BLM	X	X	X
.10	Use native plant materials and seed when possible during restoration and rehabilitation activities.	BLM	X	X	X
.11	Avoid use of invasive nonnative species for restoration or rehabilitation if native species are not available.	BLM	X	X	X
.12	Include forbs in seed mixes to increase diversity and pollen sources for insect pollinators.	BLM	X	X	X
.13	Coordinate to increase participation in fire prevention, suppression, planning and rehabilitation.	Private landowners and permit holders, BLM	X	X	X
.14	Focus access management on use of marked designated routes and avoid creation of new routes when feasible.	BLM	X	---	X
.18	Require complete botanical survey using Service Rare Plant Inventory Guidelines prior to soil disturbance authorizations.	BLM, State	X	X	X

Action	Action Description	Responsible Party	ROWs	Military Training	Mineral Materials
.19	Require all land authorizations contain weed control measures.	BLM, State	X	X	X
.20	Increase the frequency of land authorization compliance inspections.	BLM, State	X	X	X
.21	Increase research for elimination and control of noxious and invasive species.	BLM, State	X	X	X
.22	Require equipment portable wash racks at agency authorized construction sites.	BLM	X	---	---
.23	Train weed control staffs on slickspot peppergrass and occupied and suitable habitat recognition.	BLM, State, CWMA cooperators	X	X	X
.24	Require botanical survey for slickspot peppergrass and occupied and potential habitat prior to authorizing herbicide use.	BLM	X	X	X
.26	Protect remaining stands of sagebrush and native vegetation. The Service received clarification from the BLM that this CCA conservation measure is being addressed through prioritized fire suppression, avoidance of military training impacts to areas with 10 percent or greater shrub cover, and fuels management (fuel breaks).	BLM	X	X	X
.27	Require all new, amending, or renewing right-of-way and related permit holders to establish 40 percent to 60 percent perennial cover, as appropriate to location, after ground disturbing activities.	BLM, State	X	---	---
.28	Incorporate requirements that new, renewing, or amending right-of-way holders contact the Land Management Agency for ground disturbing activities in occupied and suitable habitat, pre- and post-construction.	BLM, State	X	---	---
.29	Increase law enforcement patrols to discourage trespass.	BLM Law Enforcement Cooperator	X	---	X
.30	Train permittees on slickspot peppergrass and occupied and potential habitat recognition.	BLM, State	X	X	X
.31	Increase compliance inspections.	BLM	X	X	X

Action	Action Description	Responsible Party	ROWs	Military Training	Mineral Materials
.32	Conduct annual monitoring within all EOs in all Management Areas 1-11 to assess the effectiveness of the conservation measures. Protocols that expand the existing Habitat Integrity Index (HII) to encompass the monitoring required by this CCA will be in place for the 2004 monitoring season.	Slickspot Peppergrass Conservation Team, IDCDC	X	X	X
.33	Continue to survey lands within the LEPA Consideration Zone and report survey information to the IDCDC and incorporate the information into the CCA adaptive management strategy.	BLM, Service, and the State	X	X	X

CHAPTER 3. ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE JEOPARDY DETERMINATION

In accordance with policy and regulation, the jeopardy analysis in this Opinion relies on four components: (1) the Status of the Species, which evaluates the rangewide condition of the slickspot peppergrass, the factors responsible for that condition, and its survival and recovery needs; (2) the Environmental Baseline, which evaluates the condition of the slickspot peppergrass in the action area, the factors responsible for that condition, and the relationship of the action area to the survival and recovery of the slickspot peppergrass; (3) the Effects of the Action, which determines the direct and indirect impacts of the proposed Federal action and the effects of any interrelated or interdependent activities on the slickspot peppergrass; and (4) Cumulative Effects, which evaluates the effects of future, non-Federal activities in the action area on the slickspot peppergrass.

In accordance with policy and regulation, the jeopardy determination is made by evaluating the effects of the proposed Federal action in the context of the slickspot peppergrass' current status, taking into account any cumulative effects, to determine if implementation of the proposed action is likely to cause an appreciable reduction in the likelihood of both the survival and recovery of the slickspot peppergrass in the wild.

The jeopardy analysis in this Opinion places an emphasis on consideration of the rangewide survival and recovery needs of the slickspot peppergrass and the role of the action areas in the survival and recovery of the slickspot peppergrass as the context for evaluating the significance of the effects of the ongoing Federal action, taken together with cumulative effects, for purposes of making the jeopardy determination.

CHAPTER 4. STATUS OF THE SPECIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE OVERVIEW

This chapter presents information about the regulatory, biological, and ecological status of the slickspot peppergrass and environmental baseline conditions that provide context for evaluating the significance of potential effects to the slickspot peppergrass that would result from continued implementation of ongoing ROWS, military training, and mineral materials use authorization actions and the BLM's implementation of conservation measures identified in the CA and CCA. The environmental baseline is defined as the current habitat condition for the species in the action areas for these ongoing actions, taking into account: past and present impacts on the species of all Federal, State, and private actions, and other relevant human activities in the action areas; the anticipated effects of proposed Federal activities in the action areas that have already undergone consultation under section 7 of the Act; and the impacts of non-Federal actions that are contemporaneous with the actions considered in this Opinion.

The following discussion summarizes the current status and environmental baseline for the slickspot peppergrass. A full review of the slickspot peppergrass' status and environmental baseline conditions is presented in the BLM's Assessment (BLM 2009, pp. II-1 through II-51) and the Service's final listing decision (74 FR 52014, October 8, 2009).

4.1. Status of the Species

4.1.1. Regulatory Status

Effective December 7, 2009, the slickspot peppergrass was listed as threatened under the Act (74 FR 52014–52064, October 8, 2009). No critical habitat for the slickspot peppergrass has been designated at this time. However, on May 10, 2011, the Service's proposal for designation of critical habitat for the slickspot peppergrass was published in the Federal Register (76 FR 27184-27215). To date, BLM has not requested section 7 conference regarding the effects of these 114 ongoing actions on proposed critical habitat for the slickspot peppergrass. We assume that the BLM will consult with the Service on the effects of ongoing ROWs, military training actions, and mineral material use authorizations on slickspot peppergrass critical habitat at a future date; proposed critical habitat for the slickspot peppergrass will not be addressed further in this Opinion.

4.1.2. Reasons for Listing

Section 4 of the Act and regulations promulgated to implement the listing provisions of the Act (50 CFR part 424) set forth the procedures for adding species to the Federal list. A species may be determined to be endangered or threatened due to one or more of the five factors described in section 4(a)(1) of the Act. Three of the five factors apply to the slickspot peppergrass: (1) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; (2) disease or predation; and (3) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

The primary factors threatening the slickspot peppergrass include changes in wildfire regime (i.e., increased wildfire frequency) and invasive nonnative plants, especially cheatgrass (*Bromus*

tectorum). Additional factors threatening the species include land conversion associated with urban and agricultural development (a moderate risk factor); seed predation by harvester ants (an emerging threat); habitat fragmentation and isolation of small populations; and climate change. Livestock use, wildfire management and post-fire rehabilitation, military training, and recreation are not considered to pose a significant threat to the species rangewide, although localized adverse effects to individual plants or habitat may occur related to these factors. Refer to the final listing rule for more details on these factors (74 FR 52027–52048, October 8, 2009).

4.1.3. Species Description

The slickspot peppergrass is an intricately branched, tap-rooted plant, averaging 2 to 8 inches (in.) high, but occasionally reaching up to 16 in. high. Leaves and stems are covered with fine, soft hairs, and the leaves are divided into linear segments. Flowers are numerous, 0.11 to 0.15 in. in diameter, white, and four-petalled. Fruits (siliques) are 0.10 to 0.15 in. across, round in outline, flattened, and two-seeded (Moseley 1994, pp. 3, 4; Holmgren et al. 2005, p. 260). The species is monocarpic (it flowers once and then dies) and displays two different life history strategies—an annual form and a biennial form. The annual form reproduces by flowering and setting seed in its first year and dies within one growing season. The biennial life form initiates growth in the first year as a vegetative rosette but does not flower and produce seed until the second growing season. Biennial rosettes must survive generally dry summer conditions, and consequently many of the biennial rosettes die before flowering and producing seed. The number of prior-year rosettes is positively correlated with the number of reproductive plants present the following year (ICDC 2008, p. 9; Unnasch 2008, p. 14; Sullivan and Nations 2009, p. 44). The proportion of annuals versus biennials in a population can vary greatly (Meyer et al. 2005, p. 15), but in general, annuals appear to outnumber biennials (Moseley 1994, p. 12).

4.1.4. Life History

4.1.4.1. Seed Production

Depending on an individual plant's vigor, the effectiveness of its pollination, and whether it is functioning as an annual or a biennial, each slickspot peppergrass plant produces varying numbers of seeds (Quinney 1998, pp. 15, 17). Biennial plants normally produce many more seeds than annual plants (Meyer et al. 2005, p. 15). Average seed output for annual plants at the OTA was 125 seeds per plant in 1993 and 46 seeds per plant in 1994. In contrast, seed production of biennials at this site in 1993 and 1994 averaged 787 and 105 seeds per plant, respectively (Meyer et al. 2005, p. 16). Based on data collected from a 4-year demography study on the OTA, survivorship of the annual form of the slickspot peppergrass was demonstrated to be higher than survivorship of biennials (Meyer et al. 2005, p. 16). For example, of the 4,065 plants counted in spring 1993, a total of 2,503 survived to fruit as annuals, while only 85 survived to fruit as biennials in spring 1994. Meyer et al. (2005, p. 21) hypothesize that the reproductive strategy of the slickspot peppergrass is a plastic response, meaning that larger plants will flower and produce seed in their first season, whereas smaller plants that stand less chance of successfully setting seed in their first season will delay reproduction until the following year. The biennial life form is thus maintained, despite the higher risk of mortality.

Like many short-lived plants growing in arid environments, above-ground numbers of slickspot peppergrass individuals can fluctuate widely from year to year, depending on seasonal precipitation patterns (Mancuso and Moseley 1998, p. 1; Meyer et al. 2005, pp. 4, 12, 15; Palazzo et al. 2005, p. 9; Menke and Kaye 2006a, p. 8; Menke and Kaye 2006b, pp. 10, 11; Sullivan and Nations 2009, p. 44). Mancuso and Moseley (1998, p. 1) note that sites with thousands of above-ground plants one year may have none the next, and vice versa. Above-ground plants represent only a portion of the population; the seed bank (a reserve of dormant seeds generally found in the soil) contributes the other portion and in many years, constitutes the majority of the population (Mancuso and Moseley 1998, p. 1). Seed banks are adaptations for survival in a "risky environment" because they buffer a species from stochastic (random) impacts, such as lack of soil moisture (Baskin and Baskin 2001, p. 160).

4.1.4.2. Seed Viability and Germination

The seeds of the slickspot peppergrass are found primarily within the slickspot microsites where the plants are found (Meyer and Allen 2005, pp. 5–6). Slickspots, also known as mini-playas or natric (high sodium content) sites, are visually distinct openings in the sagebrush-steppe created by unusual soil conditions characterized by significantly greater sodium and clay content relative to the surrounding area (Moseley 1994, p. 7). The vast majority of slickspot peppergrass seeds in slickspots have been located near the soil surface, with lower numbers of seeds located in deeper soils (Meyer et al. 2005, p. 19; Palazzo et al. 2005, p. 3). Slickspot peppergrass seeds have been found in slickspots even if no above-ground plants are present (Meyer et al. 2005, p. 22; Palazzo et al. 2005, p. 10). When above-ground plants are present, flowering usually occurs in late April and May, fruit set occurs in June, and the seeds are released in late June or early July. Seeds produced in a given year are dormant for at least a year before any germination takes place. Following this year of dormancy, approximately 6 percent of the initially viable seeds produced in a given year germinate annually (Meyer et al. 2005, pp. 17–18). When combined with an average annual 3 percent loss of seed viability, approximately 9 percent of the original seed cohort per year is lost after the first year. Thus, after 12 years, all seeds in a given cohort will likely have either died or germinated, resulting in a maximum estimated longevity of 12 years for seeds in the seed bank (Meyer et al. 2005, p. 18).

Billinge and Robertson (2008, pp. 1005–1006) report that both small and large slickspot peppergrass populations share similar spatial structure, and that spatial structuring within its unique microsite slickspot habitats suggests that both pollen dispersal and seed dispersal are low for this species and occur over short distances (Robertson et al. 2006a, p. 3; Billinge and Robertson 2008, pp. 1005–1006). Dispersal and seed dormancy modeling of desert annual plants predicts that plants with long-range dispersal will have few dormancy mechanisms and quick germination (Venable and Lawlor 1980, p. 272). Contrary to this prediction, however, the slickspot peppergrass has delayed germination (Meyer et al. 2005, pp. 17–18), and, therefore, according to the model, may not disperse long distances. The primary seed dispersal mechanism for the slickspot peppergrass is not known (Robertson and Ulappa 2004, p. 1708), although viable seeds have been found outside of slickspots, indicating that some seed dispersal is occurring beyond slickspot habitat (Palazzo et al. 2005, p. 10). Additionally, beginning in mid-July, entire dried-up biennial plants and some larger annual plants have been observed to break off at the base and are blown by the wind (Stillman, pers. obs., as reported in Robertson et al. 2006b, p. 44). This tumbleweed-like action may have historically resulted in occasional long-distance seed dispersal (Robertson et al. 2006b, p. 44). Ants are not considered a likely

disperser despite harvesting an average of 32 percent of fruits across six sites (Robertson and White 2007, p. 11).

Slickspot peppergrass seeds located near the soil surface show higher rates of germination and viability (Meyer and Allen 2005, pp. 6–8; Palazzo et al. 2005, p. 10) and the greatest seedling emergence success rate (Meyer and Allen 2005, pp. 6–8). Viable seeds were more abundant and had greater germination rates from the upper 2 in. of soil (Palazzo et al. 2005, pp. 8, 10), while Meyer and Allen (2005, pp. 6–8) observed the upper 0.08 in. as optimal for germination. Deep burial of slickspot peppergrass seeds (average depths greater than 5.5 in.) can entomb viable seeds and may preserve them beyond the 12-year period previously assumed as the maximum period of viability for slickspot peppergrass seeds (Meyer and Allen 2005, pp. 6, 9). However, seeds buried at such depth, even if they remain viable, are unlikely to regain the surface for successful germination. The effects of environmental factors, such as wildfire, on slickspot peppergrass seed dormancy and viability are unknown although slickspot peppergrass abundance is reduced in burned areas.

4.1.4.3. Pollination

Slickspot peppergrass is primarily an outcrossing species requiring pollen from separate plants for more successful fruit production and has a low seed set in the absence of insect pollinators (Robertson 2003, p. 5; Robertson and Klemash 2003, p. 339; Robertson and Ulappa 2004, p. 1707; Billinge and Robertson 2008, pp. 1005–1006). Slickspot peppergrass is able to self-pollinate, with a selfing rate (rate of self-pollination) of 12 to 18 percent (Billinge 2006, p. 40; Robertson et al. 2006a, p. 40). In pollination experiments where researchers moved pollen from one plant to another, fruit production was higher when pollen from distant sources was used (4 to 12.4 miles (mi)) between patches of plants) than when pollen from plants within the same patch was used (246 to 330 feet (ft)) between plants within the same patch) (Robertson and Ulappa 2004, p. 1705; Robertson et al. 2006a, p. 3).

Fruits produced from fertilized flowers reach full size approximately two weeks after pollination (Robertson and Ulappa 2004, p. 1706). Each fruit typically bears two seeds that drop to the ground when the fruit dehisces (splits open) in midsummer (Billinge and Robertson 2008, p. 1003).

Known slickspot peppergrass insect pollinators include several families of bees (Hymenoptera), including Apidae, Halictidae, Sphecidae, and Vespidae; beetles (Coleoptera), including Dermestidae, Meloidae, and Melyridae; flies (Diptera), including Bombyliidae, Syrphidae, and Tachinidae; and others (Robertson and Klemash 2003, p. 336; Robertson et al. 2006b, p. 6). In slickspot peppergrass insect pollinator studies conducted at three study sites, seed set was not limited by the number of pollinators at any study site (Robertson et al. 2004, p. 14). Studies have shown a strong positive correlation between insect diversity and the number of slickspot peppergrass plants flowering at a site (Robertson and Hannon 2003, p. 8). Measuring fruit set per visit revealed considerable variability in the effectiveness of pollination by different types of insects, ranging from 0 percent in dermestid beetles to 85 percent in honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) (Robertson et al. 2006b, p. 15).

4.1.5. Genetics

The genetics of slickspot peppergrass have been studied using samples collected from areas across the entire range of the species (Stillman et al. 2005, pp. 6, 8, 9; Larson et al. 2006, p. 14 and Fig. 4; Smith et al. in press, pp. 15–16). Genetic exchange can occur either through pollen or seed dispersal. Some researchers consider the slickspot peppergrass to be closely related to mountain pepperweed (*Lepidium montanum*), and the slickspot peppergrass was originally described as *L. montanum* var. *papilliferum* in 1900 by Louis Henderson.

Recent genetic studies (Smith et al. in press, p. 18) confirm that the slickspot peppergrass is a full species distinct from mountain pepperweed. The accepted taxonomy recognizes the slickspot peppergrass (Henderson) A. Nels. and J.F. Macbr. as a full species (Taxonomic Serial No. 53383, ITIS 2009). There is some evidence that the slickspot peppergrass has reduced genetic variability relative to other native species of *Lepidium,* such as mountain pepperweed, and that smaller populations of the slickspot peppergrass have less genetic diversity than larger populations. Populations of the slickspot peppergrass in the Owyhee Plateau demonstrate distinctive genetic differences from individuals in the Snake River Plain, likely a reflection of the isolation of these two populations due to limited seed dispersal and the limited range of pollinators, resulting in little gene flow between them. We are not aware of any studies that may have examined the relative genetic differentiation, if any, of the Boise Foothills population from the remainder of the Snake River Plain.

4.1.6. Rangewide Status and Distribution

The slickspot peppergrass range is restricted to the volcanic plains of southwest Idaho, occurring primarily in the Snake River Plain and its adjacent northern foothills, with a single disjunct population on the Owyhee Plateau (Figure 2). The plant occurs at elevations ranging from approximately 2,200 to 5,400 ft in Ada, Canyon, Gem, Elmore, Payette, and Owyhee Counties (Moseley 1994, pp. 3–9). Based on differences in topography, soil, and relative abundance, we have divided the extant slickspot peppergrass populations into three physiographic regions: the Boise Foothills, the Snake River Plain, and the Owyhee Plateau. The nature and severity of factors affecting the species also vary between the three physiographic regions for the purposes of analysis. For example, urban and rural development, agriculture, and infrastructure development has been substantial in the sagebrush-steppe habitat of the Boise Foothills and the Snake River Plain regions, while very little of these types of development have occurred within the Owyhee Plateau region.

As of February 2009, there were 80 extant EOs in the three physiographic regions that collectively comprise approximately 15,801 ac of total area broadly occupied by the slickspot peppergrass (Cole 2009, threats table). This acreage does not include the 0.5 mi buffers defined as part of the occupied habitat analyzed within the BLM's Assessment (BLM 2009). The area actually occupied by the slickspot peppergrass is a small fraction of the total acreage since slickspots occupy only a small percentage of the landscape, and the slickspot peppergrass occupies only a fraction of those slickspots (see U.S. Air Force 2002, p. 9). 1 sdsdsdsd5 presents distribution, land ownership and management information for all slickspot peppergrass EOs, in total and by region. The majority of slickspot peppergrass sites are located on Federal lands, most of which are administered by the BLM.

Table 5. Distribution and landownership of slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) Element Occurrences (EOs) by physiographic region (Cole 2009, threats table; Sullivan and Nations 2009, p. 77). All areas are estimates and may not total exactly due to rounding.

	Slickspot Peppergrass EOs		Federal		State		Private		Total	
	Number	Percent (%)	Acres	Percent (%)	Acres	Percent (%)	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent (%)
Snake River Plain	43	54.0	12,754	98.0	55	0.5	164	1.5	12,980	82.0
Boise Foothills	16	20.0	89	48.0	0	0.0	96	52.0	185	1.2
Owyhee Plateau	21	26.0	2,636	99.7	7	0.3	0	0.0	2,643	16.8
All Extant EOs	80	100.0	15,479	98.0	62	0.4	260	1.6	15,801	100.0

4.1.7. Population Dynamics

Due to its occupancy of patchily distributed slickspots, the habitat of the slickspot peppergrass is somewhat naturally fragmented. However, large-scale fragmentation can pose problems for the slickspot peppergrass by creating barriers in the landscape that prevent effective genetic exchange between populations. Seed dispersal for the slickspot peppergrass likely occurs only over very short distances; thus, pollinators and pollen dispersal are the primary means for reproductive and genetic exchange between slickspot peppergrass sites (Robertson and Ulappa 2004, pp. 1705, 1708; Stillman et al. 2005, pp. 1, 6–8).

Research indicates that seeds generated by the pollen of nearby plants have reduced viability, and that slickspot peppergrass seed viability increases as the distance to the contributing pollination source increases (Robertson and Ulappa 2004, pp 1705, 1708). The ability to exchange pollen with distant populations is therefore an advantage for the slickspot peppergrass. Barriers or too much distance between slickspots and pollinating insect habitats can reduce the effective range of insects important to slickspot peppergrass pollination (Robertson et al. 2004, pp. 2–4). Barriers can include agricultural fields, urban development, and large areas of annual and perennial grass monocultures that do not support diversity and suitable floral resources such as nectar or edible pollen for pollinators. Slickspot peppergrass habitats separated by distances greater than the effective range of available pollinating insects (about 0.6 mi. as described in Colket and Robertson in litt. 2006, p. 1) are at a genetic disadvantage and may become vulnerable to the effects of loss of genetic diversity (Stillman et al. 2005, pp. 1, 6–8) and a reduction in seed production (Robertson et al. 2004, p. 1705). A genetic analysis of the slickspot peppergrass suggested that populations in the Snake River Plain and Owyhee Plateau "may have reduced genetic diversity" (Larson et al. 2006, p. 1).[2]

[2] The Boise Foothills were not analyzed separately in this study.

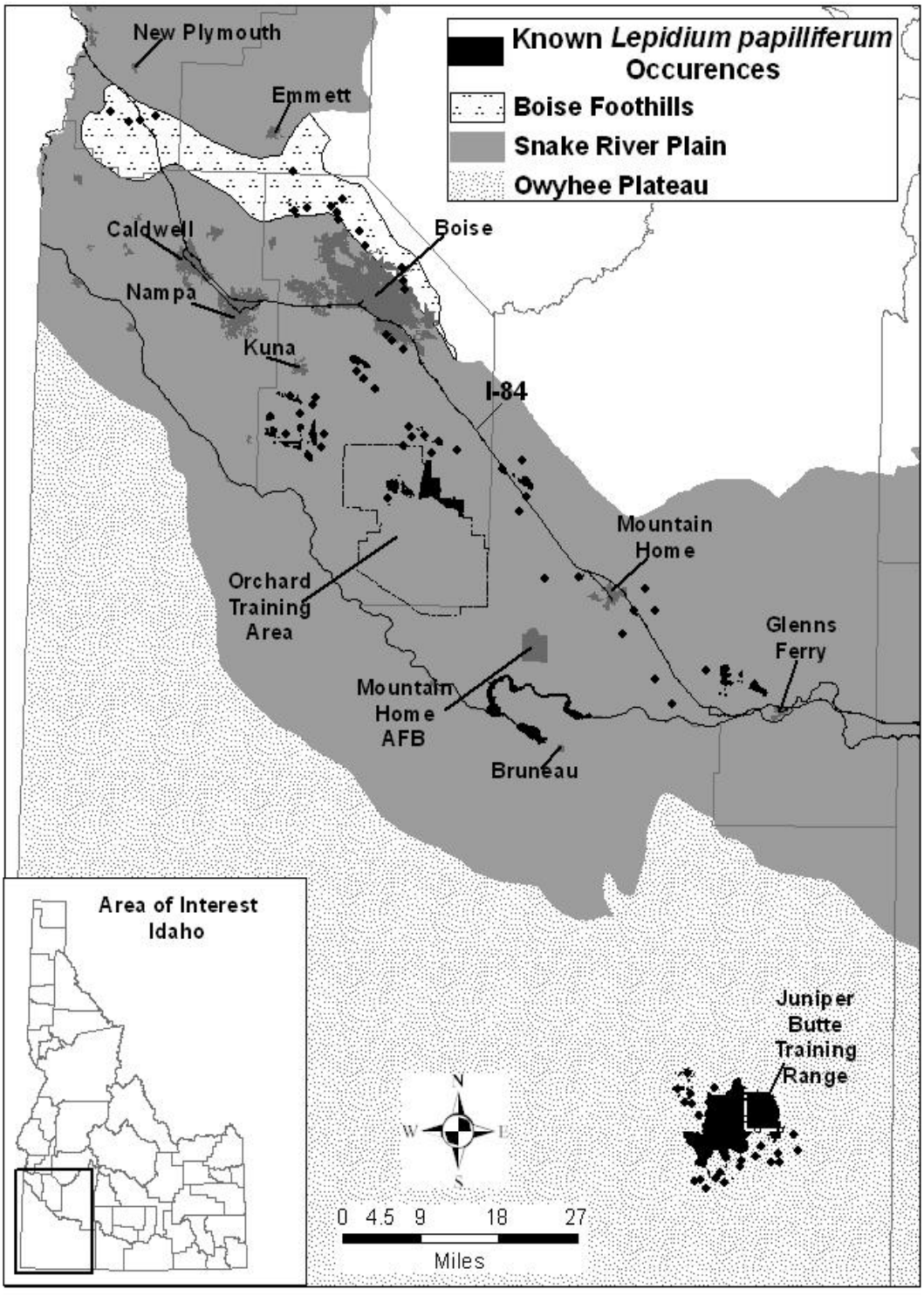

Figure 2. The range of the slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) in southwest Idaho, showing its distribution in the Snake River Plain, Boise Foothills, and Owyhee Plateau. Ongoing actions addressed in this Opinion are located within the Snake River Plain and Boise Foothills physiographic regions.

Many of the remaining occurrences of the slickspot peppergrass, particularly in the Snake River Plain near urban centers, are restricted to small, remnant patches of suitable sagebrush-steppe habitat. When last surveyed, 31 of the 80 EOs (39 percent) each had fewer than 50 plants (Colket et al. 2006, Tables 1–13). Many of these small, remnant EOs exist within habitat that is degraded. Small slickspot peppergrass populations have likely persisted due to their long-lived seed bank, but the potential risk of depleting each population's seed bank with no new genetic input makes the persistence of these small populations uncertain. Providing suitable nesting and foraging habitats for the species' insect pollinators is important for maintaining slickspot peppergrass genetic diversity. Small populations are vulnerable to relatively minor environmental disturbances such as wildfire, herbicide drift, and nonnative plant invasions (Given 1994, pp. 66–67) and are subject to the loss of genetic diversity from genetic drift and inbreeding (Ellstrand and Elam 1993, pp. 217–237). Populations with lowered genetic diversity are more prone to extirpation (Barrett and Kohn 1991, pp. 4, 28). Smaller populations generally have lower genetic diversity, and lower genetic diversity may lead to even smaller populations by decreasing the species' ability to adapt, thereby increasing the probability of population extinction (Newman and Pilson 1997, p. 360).

Fragmentation (either by development or wildfires) has occurred in 62 of 79 EOs (15 of 16 on the Boise Foothills, 35 of 42 on the Snake River Plain, and 12 of 21 on the Owyhee Plateau), and within 0.31 mi in 78 of the 79 EOs (all except one on the Owyhee Plateau) (Cole 2009, threats table).[3] Additionally, several development projects are planned within slickspot peppergrass occupied range that would contribute to further large-scale fragmentation of its habitat, potentially resulting in decreased viability of populations through decreased seed production, reduced genetic diversity, and increased inherent vulnerability of small populations to extirpation.

4.1.8. Habitat Characteristics

The native, semiarid sagebrush-steppe habitat of southwestern Idaho where slickspot peppergrass is found can be divided into two plant associations, each dominated by the shrub Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* spp. *wyomingensis*): Wyoming big sagebrush–Thurber's needlegrass (*Achnatherum thurberianum* [formerly *Stipa thurberiana*]) and Wyoming big sagebrush–bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata* [also known as *Agropyron spicatum*]) habitat types (Moseley 1994, p. 9). Menke and Kaye (2006a, p. 1) describe high-quality matrix habitat conditions for slickspot peppergrass as sagebrush-steppe habitat in late seral condition, and Fisher et al. (1996, p. 1) note that "habitat with vigorous slickspot peppergrass populations has not been recently burned, is not heavily grazed, has an understory of native bunchgrasses, and a well developed microbiotic soil crust." Moseley (1994, p. 4) suggests that slickspot peppergrass serves as an indicator species for the health of the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem in the western Snake River Plain.

[3] Habitat information is known for 79 of the 80 extant EOs; habitat information is not known for 1 EO on the Snake River Plain.

The biological soil crust, also known as a microbiotic crust or cryptogamic crust, is one component of quality habitat for slickspot peppergrass. Such crusts are commonly found in semiarid and arid ecosystems and are formed by living organisms, primarily bryophytes, lichens, algae, and cyanobacteria, that bind together surface soil particles (Moseley 1994, p. 9; Johnston 1997, p. 4). Microbiotic crusts play an important role in stabilizing the soil and preventing erosion, increasing the availability of nitrogen and other nutrients in the soil and regulating water infiltration and evaporation levels (Johnston 1997, pp. 8–10). In addition, an intact crust appears to aid in preventing the establishment of invasive plants (Brooks and Pyke 2001, p. 4 and references therein; Serpe et al. 2006, pp. 174, 176). These crusts are sensitive to disturbances that disrupt crust integrity, such as compression due to livestock trampling or OHV use and are subject to damage by fire; recovery from disturbance is possible but occurs very slowly (Johnston 1997, pp. 10–11).

The slickspot peppergrass occurs in slickspot habitat microsites scattered within the greater semiarid sagebrush-steppe ecosystem of southwestern Idaho. On a broad scale, the Snake River Plains and the Owyhee Plateau physiographic regions are volcanic in nature and underlain by Tertiary basalt or rhyolite; the adjacent Boise Foothill sites are underlain by Pliocene/Quaternary lacustrine deposits (Moseley 1994, p. 8). Slickspots are visually distinct openings characterized by natric soils and distinct clay layers; they tend to be highly reflective and relatively light in color, making them easy to detect on the landscape (Fisher et al. 1996, p. 3). Slickspots are distinguished from the surrounding sagebrush matrix as having the following characteristics: microsites where water pools when rain falls (Fisher et al. 1996, pp. 2, 4); sparse native vegetation, distinct soil layers with a columnar or prismatic structure, higher alkalinity and clay content, and natric properties (Fisher et al. 1996, pp. 15–16; Meyer and Allen 2005, pp. 3–5, 8; Palazzo et al. 2008, p. 378); and reduced levels of organic matter and nutrients due to lower biomass production (Meyer and Quinney 1993, pp. 3, 6; Fisher et al. 1996, p. 4). Fisher et al. (1996, p. 11) describe slickspots as having a "smooth, panlike surface" that is structureless and slowly permeable when wet, moderately hard and cracked when dry. Although the low permeability of slickspots appears to help hold moisture (Moseley 1994, p. 8), once the thin crust dries out, slickspot peppergrass seedling survival depends on its ability to extend its taproot into the argillic horizon (soil layer with high clay content) to extract moisture from the deeper natric zone (Fisher et al. 1996, p. 13).

How long slickspots take to form is unknown, but is hypothesized to take several thousands of years (Nettleton and Peterson 1983, p. 193; Seronko 2006, in litt. p. 2). Climate conditions that allowed slickspot formation in southwestern Idaho are thought to have occurred during a wetter Pleistocene period. Holocene additions of wind-carried salts (often loess deposits) produced the natric soils characteristic of slickspots (Nettleton and Peterson 1983, p. 191; Seronko 2006, in litt., p. 2). Several hundred years may be necessary to alter or lose slickspots through natural climate change or severe natural erosion (Seronko 2006, in litt. p. 2). However, some researchers hypothesize that new slickspots are no longer being created given current climatic conditions (Nettleton and Peterson 1983, pp. 166, 191, 206). As slickspots in southwest Idaho appear to have formed during the Pleistocene and current climate conditions may not allow for the formation of new slickspots, the loss of slickspot microsites appears to be permanent.

Some slickspots subjected to past light disturbance may be capable of reforming (Seronko 2006, in litt. p.2). However, disturbances that alter the physical properties of the soil layers, such as

deep disturbance and the addition of organic matter, may lead to the destruction and permanent loss of slickspots. For example, deep soil tilling and adding organic matter and gypsum have been recommended for eliminating slickspots from agricultural lands in Idaho (Peterson 1919, p. 11; Rasmussen et al. 1972, p. 142). Slickspot soils are especially susceptible to mechanical disturbances when wet (Rengasamy et al. 1984, p. 63; Seronko 2004, in litt. pp. 1–2). Such disturbances disrupt the soil layers important to slickspot peppergrass seed germination and seedling growth and alter hydrological function. Meyer and Allen (2005, p. 9) suggest that if sufficient time passes following the disturbance of slickspot soil layers, the slickspot soil layers may regain their pre-disturbance configuration yet not support the species. Thus, while the slickspot appears to have regained its former character, some essential component required to sustain the life history requirements of the slickspot peppergrass has apparently been lost, or the active seed bank is no longer present.

Most slickspots are between 10 and 20 square feet (ft^2) in size although some are as large as 109 ft^2 (Mancuso et al. 1998, p. 1). Slickspots cover a relatively small cumulative area within the larger sagebrush-steppe matrix, and only a small percentage of slickspots are known to be occupied by the slickspot peppergrass.

The slickspot peppergrass has infrequently been documented outside of slickspots on disturbed soils, such as along graded roadsides and badger mounds. These are rare observations and the vast majority of plants documented over the past 19 years of surveys and monitoring for the species were within slickspot microsite habitats (Service 2006b, p. 20). For example, in 2002, a complete census of an 11,070-ac area recorded approximately 56,500 slickspots (U.S. Air Force 2003 in litt., p. 15), of which approximately 2,450 (about 4.0 percent) were occupied by slickspot peppergrass plants (Bashore, pers. comm. 2003, p. 1). Of the approximately 11,300 slickspot peppergrass plants documented during the survey effort, only 11 plants (less than 1 percent) were documented outside of slickspots (U.S. Air Force 2002, summary attachment).

Not all potential slickspot peppergrass habitats in southwest Idaho have been surveyed, and additional slickspot peppergrass sites may be found outside of areas known to be occupied. Recent modeling was completed to develop a high-quality, predictive-distribution model of the slickspot peppergrass to identify potential habitat (Colket 2008, p. 1). The Assessment defines potential habitat as areas within the known range of the slickspot peppergrass that have certain general soil and elevation characteristics that indicate the potential for the area to support the slickspot peppergrass although the presence of slickspots or the plant is unknown (BLM 2009, p. B–2). Although surveys were conducted in 2008 in some areas identified as potential, previously unsurveyed habitat, these did not result in any new locations of the species (Colket 2008, pp. 4–6). The slickspot peppergrass has also been surveyed for in eastern Oregon, but the species has never been found there (Findley 2003 in litt., p. 1). We have no historical records indicating that the slickspot peppergrass has ever been found anywhere outside of its present range in southwestern Idaho.

The Idaho Natural Heritage Program (INHP) uses an EO ranking system for assessing the status of the slickspot peppergrass. This system ranks slickspot peppergrass occurrences based on measures of habitat quality and species abundance. EO ranks are useful for assessing estimated viability or probability of persistence and helping prioritize conservation planning or actions (NatureServe 2002). The ranks are defined as follows (Colket et al. 2006, pp. 3–4):

- A-Rank—
  - SIZE: Greater than1,000 detectable genets.
  - CONDITION: Native plant community is intact with trace introduced plant species cover. Slickspots have zero or trace introduced weed cover and/or livestock disturbance. Zero or few minor anthropogenic disturbances are present. EO is unburned.
  - LANDSCAPE CONTEXT: Surrounding landscape less than 0.6 mi away has not been fragmented by agricultural lands, residential or commercial development, introduced annual grasslands, or drill seeding projects.
- B-Rank—
  - SIZE: 400–999 detectable genets.
  - CONDITION: Native plant community is intact with low introduced plant species cover. Slickspots have low introduced weed cover and/or livestock disturbance. Zero or few minor anthropogenic disturbances present. EO is predominantly unburned.
  - LANDSCAPE CONTEXT: Surrounding landscape less than 0.6 mi away is minimally to partially fragmented by agricultural lands, residential or commercial development, introduced annual grasslands, or drill seeding projects.
- C-Rank—
  - SIZE: 50–399 detectable genets.
  - CONDITION: Native plant community is partially intact with low-to-moderate introduced plant species cover. Slickspots have low-to-moderate introduced weed cover and/or livestock disturbance. Few or several minimally to moderately severe anthropogenic disturbances are evident. EO has partially burned. Portions of EO may have been drill seeded, but slickspots are largely intact.
  - LANDSCAPE CONTEXT: Surrounding landscape less than 0.6 mi away is partially to predominantly fragmented by agricultural lands, residential or commercial development, introduced annual grasslands, or drill seeding projects.
- D-Rank—
  - SIZE: 1–49 detectable genets.
  - CONDITION: Few components of the native plant community remain and introduced plant species cover is high. Slickspots have high introduced weed cover and/or livestock disturbance. Few or several moderately severe anthropogenic disturbances are evident. EO has been predominantly to completely burned. Portions of EO may have been drill seeded, and slickspot soils have been altered by drill seeding.
  - LANDSCAPE CONTEXT: Surrounding landscape less than 0.6 mi away is moderately to completely fragmented by agricultural lands, residential or commercial development, introduced annual grasslands, or drill seeding projects.
- E-Rank (Extant)—
  - EO has been verified extant, but population size, condition, and landscape context have not been assessed.

- F-Rank (Failed to find)—
  - EO has been surveyed by experienced individuals who failed to find any slickspot peppergrass individuals, despite searching under conditions appropriate for the element at a location where it was previously recorded. Only one visit is required for this rank designation, but the survey should cover the entire extent of the EO. The F-rank was first standardized by NatureServe (2002) and not implemented for the slickspot peppergrass before 2006.
- H-Rank (Historical)[4]—
  - An EO that has not been observed since 1970. These are historical EOs indicating where slickspot peppergrass was reported, often based on older herbarium records. Locations associated with these herbarium records are typically geographically vague and may be simply indicated by the name of a town.
- X-Rank (Extirpated)—
  - EO has been extirpated. Extirpation is based on: 1) agricultural conversion, commercial or residential development, or other documented habitat destruction where slickspot peppergrass has been previously recorded, or 2) when an EO has consistently received an F-rank five times within a 12-year time period.
- X?-Rank (Probably Extirpated)—
  - EO has probably been extirpated. The "?" qualifier is used with the most appropriate rank (i.e. X?) if there is incomplete information on the EO size, condition, and/or landscape context factors.

As of February 2009, the INHP has ranked 80 extant EO records for the slickspot peppergrass based on habitat quality and abundance (Cole 2009, threats table). No A-ranked EOs for slickspot peppergrass exist. The most common rangewide EO ranks for the slickspot peppergrass are C and D. EO ranks also vary by physiographic region. A little more than one-half of the extant EO area in the Boise Foothills region is C-ranked. Approximately three-quarters of the total EO area in the Snake River Plain is B-ranked. The majority of B-ranked EO acreage rangewide occurs on the IDANG's OTA. The majority of the total EO area in the Owyhee Plateau physiographic region is also B-ranked. In addition, nine EOs are ranked as X or X?, and seven EOs are ranked as H.

4.1.9. Population Trends

Extreme variability in annual plant counts makes detecting significant population trends in the slickspot peppergrass difficult. However, the best scientific and commercial evidence available collected over the past 18 years from the rough census areas on the OTA shows a significant downward density trend in the abundance of slickspot peppergrass plants during the past two

4 No G-Rank exists in the INHP EO ranking system for the slickspot peppergrass.

decades (74 FR 52025, October 8, 2009). Furthermore, we believe it is reasonable to infer that this negative trend may be similar or possibly even greater rangewide in areas outside the high-quality habitat of the OTA, and this trend appears to be independent of any precipitation trend.

Uncertainties associated with both the data and the model, used by Sullivan and Nations (2009) in their analysis of slickspot peppergrass density and abundance on the OTA over time, preclude our ability to project future population trends for the slickspot peppergrass. These uncertainties include, but are not limited to, great annual variability in plant numbers; the confounding influence of the long-lived seed bank; complications associated with annual variability in both precipitation and temperature; and inconsistent results between the special-use plots and the rough census areas on the OTA (see Sullivan and Nations 2009, pp. 28–33 for an explanation of these two OTA survey methodologies). The evaluation by Sullivan and Nations (2009, pp. 1–278) was based on a simple model of slickspot peppergrass abundance or density as a linear function of time and intended only to discern whether there was any general population trend (74 FR 52025, October 8, 2009). The authors acknowledge that the dynamics are complicated, and note their model is not intended to describe (nor explain) the details of the temporal pattern of abundance or density of the slickspot peppergrass (Sullivan and Nations 2009, p. 38). In addition, we do not have any models for the slickspot peppergrass based on multivariate analyses, which would simultaneously consider additional variables such as precipitation to potentially allow for the prediction of abundance or density of the slickspot peppergrass over time based on projected conditions. As stated in our listing rule, although the available descriptive model is helpful for interpreting the population information available to date and indicates that the slickspot peppergrass has likely been trending downward for all of the reasons outlined above, it would be inappropriate to rely on this model to predict any future population trajectory for the slickspot peppergrass (74 FR 52025, October 8, 2009).

4.1.10. Survival and Recovery Needs

Although recovery planning has not been completed for the slickspot peppergrass, the Service anticipates that providing for its survival and recovery will entail reducing the threats that are the basis for its being listed: habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation primarily caused by increased fire frequencies and the invasion of exotic plants; lack of sufficient gene flow between populations; and reduced viability of seed banks. The Service anticipates that the following factors will be important for survival and recovery of the species:

- Protection, restoration, and maintenance of suitable habitat conditions for all life stages of the slickspot peppergrass;
- Reduction and mitigation of negative effects caused by increased fire frequencies and invasive nonnative plants on the slickspot peppergrass;
- Establishment of vegetation management goals and objectives that are compatible with slickspot peppergrass recovery;
- Identification of what is necessary to conserve genetic diversity and gene flow among populations of the slickspot peppergrass; and monitor to ensure that this diversity and gene flow are being maintained;

- Implementation of an adaptive management–based research and monitoring program that uses feedback from implemented, site-specific recovery tasks to implement and evaluate slickspot peppergrass recovery activities;
- Use of all available conservation programs and regulations to protect and conserve the slickspot peppergrass and sagebrush-steppe habitats, including slickspot microsites; and
- Development of a management area-based recovery program that relies on adaptive management to implement and revise, as appropriate, recovery actions for the slickspot peppergrass.

Slickspot peppergrass survival and recovery depends on maintaining and enhancing Wyoming big sagebrush–steppe habitat and the slickspot microsites located within this ecosystem in southwestern Idaho. The long-term conservation of the slickspot peppergrass is dependent upon the maintenance or improvement of ecological function of the higher quality (C- through A-ranked) EOs rangewide, including maintaining or improving connectivity within and between EOs, which may involve the maintenance or enhancement of currently lower ranked EOs (D- through F-ranked) as necessary to facilitate pollinator activity; the maintenance of genetic diversity; and limiting the establishment of invasive nonnative plant species.

Key to maintaining quality habitat includes preserving existing Wyoming big sagebrush stands by avoiding or minimizing adverse effects of wildfire and invasive nonnative plants, such as cheatgrass and medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*). The Service has identified the modified wildfire regime in the Great Basin and subsequent proliferation of invasive nonnative plants as the primary threats to the slickspot peppergrass. Adequate resources should be made available to reduce the wildfire risk in remaining sagebrush stands, and efforts to maintain and restore native shrubs, grasses, forbs, and biological soil crust should be identified as a priority in areas that have burned in or nearby slickspot peppergrass population strongholds. Plant species that may invade slickspots and compete with slickspot peppergrass should be avoided for use in emergency stabilization and rehabilitation or habitat restoration seedings in areas that support the slickspot peppergrass. Native forb cover should be maintained or restored to levels that would encourage diverse insect pollinators available for slickspot peppergrass seed production. Activities that could cause direct plant mortality should be minimized. Ground disturbance that could cause decreased suitability of microsites to support the slickspot peppergrass should be avoided or minimized. When soils are saturated, ground disturbing activities should be minimized to reduce the likelihood of directly affecting plants and burying seeds too deep to successfully germinate and emerge. Conservation measures should be implemented to mitigate the effect of actions that create conditions conducive to invasive nonnative plants within and adjacent to slickspot habitat.

Secondary threats, such as commercial and residential development, seed predation, habitat fragmentation and isolation, and climate change, were identified in the Federal Register notice for listing of the slickspot peppergrass as factors that could impact the slickspot peppergrass throughout a significant portion of its range. Other factors, including livestock grazing, fire rehabilitation activities, military training, and recreational use, were discussed as not having significant impacts that would lead to the slickspot peppergrass becoming endangered in the foreseeable future. However, both secondary threats and these other factors have been identified as aggravating degraded habitat conditions caused by the modified wildfire regime and associated invasion of nonnative plants. While not identified as rangewide issues, secondary

threats and other factors may adversely affect individual slickspot peppergrass plants at the physiographic regional or local level. In areas containing high-quality sagebrush-steppe habitats, conservation measures should be taken to avoid or minimize the impacts of habitat loss on the slickspot peppergrass. Actions that could degrade slickspots to the point that they can no longer provide the essential functions to support the slickspot peppergrass should be avoided as losing habitat represents a permanent loss for the species. Using pesticides near EOs should also be minimized to avoid impacts to individual slickspot peppergrass plants or insect pollinators.

Based on our understanding of the requirements for the survival and recovery of the species as described above, individual action areas analyzed within this Opinion were categorized as to their conservation value for the slickspot peppergrass. For the purposes of analyzing the overall effects of ongoing actions addressed in this Opinion, the State of Idaho's INHP EO rankings described in the "Habitat Characteristics" section above were used to characterize the conservation value of each action area considered in this document. These INHP criteria address population size of the EO, the condition of habitat within the EO, and the landscape condition of the area surrounding the EO. In general, B-ranked EOs represent areas supporting greater numbers of individual slickspot peppergrass plants with a higher proportion of intact native sagebrush-steppe habitat both within and surrounding the EO. In contrast, D-ranked EOs represent areas with relatively low numbers of plants (typically less than 50) with degraded habitat conditions (typically disturbed areas with high levels of nonnative invasive plant cover) both within and surrounding the EO. For the purposes of the analyses presented in this Opinion, action areas containing B- or BC-ranked (intermediate between B-rank and C-rank, see Colket et al. 2006, p. 5) EOs were categorized as having high conservation value for the slickspot peppergrass, action areas containing C-ranked EOs were categorized as having medium conservation value for the species, and action areas containing D- and F-ranked EOs were considered as having low conservation value for the species, except where they were integral to maintaining the viability of higher-ranked EOs. When multiple EOs of varying INHP ranks were located within an action area, the conservation value of the action area was categorized based on the highest-ranked EO located within the area.

For purposes of this jeopardy analysis, the maintenance or improvement of medium-to-high conservation value EOs (i.e., those currently ranked C through B by INHP, and including any EOs that may be A-ranked in the future) will be an important component of the rangewide conservation strategy for the slickspot peppergrass. We anticipate the enhancement of these higher-quality EOs will effectively offset the relatively low contribution made by the lower-ranked EOs of lesser conservation value to the species. In general, small populations of the slickspot peppergrass in degraded and fragmented habitat are at high risk of extirpation and are unlikely to significantly contribute to the conservation of the species. However, the potential contribution of D- and F-ranked EOs to the survival and recovery of the species should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; for example, a D-ranked EO that provides genetic connectivity between two EOs of high conservation value may play an important role in the conservation of the species. In addition, EOs may be of the same rank, but their conservation value may not be similar due to a variety of other considerations (i.e., distance from adjacent EOs, health of surrounding habitat, etc.). Although ongoing actions may incrementally decrease the conservation value of a few individual EOs, overall maintenance of the aggregate conservation value of all EOs across the range of the slickspot peppergrass should ensure its

survival and recovery. Future recovery and critical habitat planning efforts may identify additional conservation actions and essential factors appropriate for consideration when ongoing actions are reauthorized.

The effects of the BLM's ongoing implementation of slickspot peppergrass conservation measures, in addition to anticipated beneficial and adverse effects of each individual action considered in this document, form the basis for our determinations as to whether the BLM's ongoing actions are expected to maintain, reduce, or improve the current conservation value of the affected area for the slickspot peppergrass over the remaining term of the ongoing action. The remaining terms of individual ongoing actions vary by individual BLM permit authorizations. For example, actions scheduled for renewal (and subject to future section 7 consultation) in the next few years may be likely to maintain the conservation value of an action area for the slickspot peppergrass even with the implementation of limited conservation measures. Renewal of such actions for longer terms may include additional conservation measures to ensure the conservation value of the action area is maintained or improved over the subsequent term of the renewed action. Conservation measures designed to reduce wildfire threats and competition from invasive nonnative plants are expected to be especially important for the survival and recovery of the species.

Changing temperature regimes associated with global climate change represent another potential risk factor for the slickspot peppergrass. Researchers confirmed "experimentally in an intact ecosystem that elevated carbon dioxide may enhance the invasive success of *Bromus* spp. in arid ecosystems,'' and suggest that this enhanced success will then expose these areas to accelerated fire cycles (Smith et al. 2000, p. 81). Chambers and Pellant (2008, p. 32) also suggest that higher carbon dioxide levels are likely increasing cheatgrass fuel loads due to increased productivity, with a resulting increase in fire frequency and extent. Based on the best available information, we therefore expect continuing production of atmospheric carbon dioxide at or above current levels, as predicted, to increase the threat posed to the slickspot peppergrass by cheatgrass and from more frequent, expansive, and severe wildfires (Smith et al. 1987, p. 143; Smith et al. 2000, p. 81; Brown et al. 2004, p. 384; Neilson et al. 2005, pp. 150, 156; Chambers and Pellant 2008, pp. 31-32). Thus, under current climate-change projections, we anticipate future climatic conditions will favor further invasion by cheatgrass, fire frequency is likely to continue to increase, and the extent and severity of fires may also increase.

Current projections for the Pacific Northwest region are that precipitation will increase in the winter but decrease in the summer months (Karl et al. 2009, p. 135). The survivorship of slickspot peppergrass rosettes to flower the following spring is favored by greater summer precipitation (Meyer et al. 2005, p. 15; CH2MHill 2007a, p. 14; Sullivan and Nations 2009, pp. 33, 41), and increased winter precipitation appears to decrease survivorship (Meyer et al. 2005, pp. 15-16; Sullivan and Nations 2009, pp. 39, 43-44). As the projected rainfall pattern under climate change would follow the opposite pattern, this alteration in seasonal precipitation could result in decreased survivorship of the slickspot peppergrass. Alterations in precipitation patterns, however, are more uncertain than predicted changes in temperature for the Great Basin region (Neilson et al. 2005, p. 153).

The consequences of climate change, if current projections are realized, are therefore likely to exacerbate the existing primary threats—changing wildfire regime and invasive nonnative plants,

particularly cheatgrass—to slickspot peppergrass conservation. Because the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects changes to the global climate system in the twenty-first century will likely be greater than those observed in the twentieth century (IPCC 2007, p. 45), we anticipate that these effects will continue and likely increase into the future. Due to the uncertainty associated with climate change projections, we did not consider climate change in and of itself to represent a significant rangewide threat to the slickspot peppergrass in our listing decision. However, we acknowledge that climate change will likely play a potentially important supporting role in intensifying the most significant current threats to the species in the foreseeable future. The severity and scope of the primary threats of changing wildfire regime and invasive nonnative plants to the slickspot peppergrass are likely to be magnified, depending on the realized outcome of climate change. Habitat conservation and restoration efforts are likely to be further complicated by these climatic changes. Additional conservation measures may be needed to mitigate the effects of habitat degradation that are aggravated by climate change. For a more detailed discussion of climate change and the slickspot peppergrass, refer to the final listing rule (74 FR 52014, October 8, 2009).

4.1.11. Ongoing Conservation Efforts

In addition to the 2009 CA between the BLM and the Service, four formalized plans contain conservation measures for slickspot peppergrass: (1) the *Candidate Conservation Agreement for Slickspot Peppergrass* (Lepidium papilliferum) (CCA) with the State of Idaho, BLM, IDARNG, and nongovernmental cooperators (private landowners who also hold livestock grazing permits on BLM lands) (State of Idaho et al. 2003, 2006); (2) the *Idaho Army National Guard Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan for Gowen Field/Orchard Training Area* (IDARNG INRMP) (IDARNG 2004); (3) the *Final Juniper Butte Range Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan* (U.S. Air Force INRMP) (U.S. Air Force 2004); and (4) the *Conservation Agreement for Slickspot Peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) at the Boise Airport, Ada County, Idaho* (Boise Airport CA) (Boise Airport 2003). A fifth plan, Hull's Gulch Agreement, expired in October 2006 and was a CA by, and between, Boise City and the Service for Aase's onion (*Allium aasea*), Mulford's milkvetch (*Astragalus mulfordiae*), and the slickspot peppergrass (Service 1996, in litt. pp. 3–17). A new agreement is being crafted and will include conservation measures for portions of four, small slickspot peppergrass EOs in the Boise Foothills region on lands administered by both the City of Boise and Ada County. This new agreement is expected to be completed in 2012.

Prior to our 2007 withdrawal notice (72 FR 1622; January 12, 2007), we reviewed the available information for all individual conservation efforts contained in the five conservation plans developed for slickspot peppergrass (CCA, IDARNG INRMP, U.S. Air Force INRMP, Boise Airport CA, and Hull's Gulch Agreement) to evaluate how many conservation measures were implemented or certain to be implemented in the future and how many efforts were so effective as to have contributed to eliminating or reducing one or more threats to the species. Based on our 2006 review, we determined that 373 of the nearly 600 individual conservation efforts identified in the 5 plans were currently implemented and that 35 of these efforts were determined to be both certain to be implemented and effective in reducing threats to the slickspot peppergrass or were already known to be implemented and effective in reducing threats to the species. These 35 conservation efforts determined to be implemented and effective are from the CCA, U.S.

Air Force INRMP and IDARNG INRMP, and are not applicable rangewide. For example, 20 of the 35 conservation efforts are primarily directed at conserving the slickspot peppergrass at 1 of 3 EOs located on the OTA. As described in our October 8, 2009, listing rule, we do not consider these 35 actions sufficient to offset the threats posed to the slickspot peppergrass across its range (modified wildfire regime, invasive nonnative plants, development, potential seed predation by harvester ants, and habitat fragmentation and isolation) to the point that we would consider it unlikely that the slickspot peppergrass will become endangered within the foreseeable future (74 FR 52051, October 8, 2009). Recovery planning efforts may identify additional conservation measures for the slickspot peppergrass and, as new information becomes available, further opportunities for species conservation may be defined.

Since 2007, we have received additional information from the implementing agencies that describes the status of at least 152 of the 373 implemented conservation measures included in 3 of the 5 conservation plans (State of Idaho CCA, IDARNG INRMP, and U.S. Air Force INRMP) that were implemented in 2007 and 2008 (CH2MHill 2007a, p. 16; CH2MHill 2007b, pp. 1–6; Quinney 2007 in litt., pp.1–3; BLM 2007, p. 2–4; CH2MHill 2008a, p. 17; CH2MHill 2008b, pp. 1–6; Quinney 2008, in litt. pp.1–3; BLM 2008a, pp. 2–38; BLM 2008b, pp. 1–15; Colket 2009, pp. 65–72). We have not received specific information regarding conservation measures contained in the Boise Airport CA that have been implemented, or how effective these measures have been in reducing threats to the slickspot peppergrass for 2007 or 2008. The fifth conservation plan, the Hull's Gulch Agreement between Boise City and the Service, expired in October 2006 and has yet to be renewed.

Conservation measures identified for the slickspot peppergrass are either specific measures designed to reduce impacts to the species and its habitat at the local level or general measures designed to improve the ecological condition of native sagebrush steppe vegetation at the landscape scale, inclusive of areas supporting slickspot peppergrass. Specific measures include management actions such as varying the timing or season of livestock grazing or trailing, moving water or supplements away from EOs, and reducing trampling during periods when slickspot soils are saturated. General measures include management actions designed to maintain or increase cover of native forbs and grasses, protect sagebrush through fire protection or suppression, and restore degraded habitats to improve connectivity between sites. As these conservation measures are implemented over the long term, their effectiveness may be demonstrated. For both specific and general conservation measures, habitat condition improvements since the CCA measures were implemented 7 years ago have been difficult to detect with available monitoring data. The slickspot peppergrass is an annual or biennial plant that responds to spring precipitation and has seeds that remain viable for up to 12 years in the seed bank; thus, detecting the effectiveness of specific conservation measures using the 6 years of currently available habitat integrity and population (HIP) monitoring data is difficult. Decades are expected to be necessary for the effectiveness of general conservation measures designed to improve native sagebrush steppe ecological condition to be detectable although ongoing research may provide information and techniques to accelerate these types of recovery efforts.

4.2. Environmental Baseline

This section assesses the effects of past and ongoing human and natural factors that have led to the current status of the slickspot peppergrass, its habitat, and the associated ecosystem in the action areas for the ongoing BLM ROWs, military training, and mineral material use authorization actions considered in this Opinion. Also included in the environmental baseline are the anticipated impacts of all proposed Federal projects in the action areas that have already undergone section 7 consultations, and the impacts of State and private actions that are contemporaneous with this consultation.

The baseline conditions in the action area, including the status of the slickspot peppergrass and the factors affecting its status, are described below at a general landscape-scale. Site-specific scale discussion of baseline conditions is included in the "Effects of the Action" sections in Chapter 5 below. For additional information on the environmental baseline, see the Assessment (BLM 2009, Chapter 2).

4.2.1. Status of the Slickspot Peppergrass in the Action Areas

4.2.1.1. Slickspot Peppergrass Element Occurrences across the Action Areas

Of the 98 percent of EO area under Federal ownership, the BLM has management authority on 87 percent of the total EO area (13,470 ac) rangewide and on all or portions of 69 of the 80 extant EOs for the slickspot peppergrass. This represents the majority of the slickspot peppergrass range. The EO rankings (discussed in section 4.1.8 above) for slickspot peppergrass EOs located entirely or partially on BLM-managed lands are presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Element Occurrences (EOs) entirely or partially on BLM lands by Element Occurrence rank

EO Rank	B	BC[1]	C	D	E	F	Total
Number of BLM-managed EOs	13	1	27	13	10	5	69
Percentage of Total BLM-managed EOs (%)	19	2	39	19	15	7	100

[1] Indicates an EO that is an intermediate between B-rank and C-rank (see Colket et al. 2006, p. 5).

As shown in Table 6, the majority (65 percent) of EOs entirely or partially on BLM-managed land are ranked as C, D, and F. EOs with rankings of C, D, or F are indicative of lower-quality habitat and lower plant abundance. However, as discussed previously in this chapter, a lower EO ranking is not always indicative of the overall conservation value of a particular EO.

4.2.2. Factors Affecting the Species in the Action Areas

Several threat factors are contributing to the destruction, modification, or curtailment of slickspot peppergrass habitat or range in the action areas of individual ongoing actions. The sagebrush-steppe habitat of the Great Basin where the slickspot peppergrass occurs is becoming

increasingly degraded due to the impacts of multiple threats, including the invasion of nonnative annual grasses, such as cheatgrass, and increased fire frequency. Cheatgrass can impact the slickspot peppergrass directly through competition but also indirectly by providing continuous fine fuels that contribute to the increased frequency and extent of wildfires. Frequent wildfires have numerous negative consequences in the sagebrush-steppe system, which is adapted to much longer fire-return intervals, ultimately resulting in the conversion of the sagebrush community to nonnative annual grasslands with associated losses of native species diversity and natural ecological function. Because the modified wildfire regime and invasion of cheatgrass create a positive feedback loop, independently separating the effects of each threat is difficult.

Climate change is expected to exacerbate this feedback loop between the primary threats of invasive nonnative plants (e.g., cheatgrass) and changes in wildfire regime. As there is some degree of uncertainty regarding the potential effects of climate change on the slickspot peppergrass, specifically, climate change in and of itself was not considered a significant factor in our determination to list slickspot peppergrass as a threatened species. However, we recognize that the severity and scope of the primary threats to the slickspot peppergrass of frequent wildfire and invasion by nonnative plants such as cheatgrass are likely to magnify, depending on the realized outcome of climate change within the foreseeable future; thus, we consider climate change as playing a potentially important supporting role in intensifying the primary threats to the species.

Secondary threats of residential and commercial development, seed predation, and climate change; and other factors including livestock use, wildfire management activities, post-fire stabilization and restoration activities, and military training; also may affect the slickspot peppergrass, both directly through the damage or mortality to individual plants and loss of slickspot microsites and indirectly through habitat fragmentation and isolation. The loss of slickspots is a permanent loss of habitat for slickspot peppergrass since the species is specialized to occupy these unique microsite habitats that were formed in the Pleistocene; once lost, slickspots likely cannot be re-created on the landscape. For a detailed discussion of these factors, refer to the final listing rule for the slickspot peppergrass (74 FR 52014, October 8, 2009).

All of these threats have long been recognized as contributing to the ongoing degradation of the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem of southwestern Idaho. However, we have only recently received independent evaluations of the direct relationship between the more significant threats and indicators of population viability, specifically for the slickspot peppergrass. New evidence suggests a significant negative association between both cheatgrass cover and wildfire and the abundance of the slickspot peppergrass, such that the species appears to be in decline across its range with adverse impacts continuing and likely increasing into the foreseeable future (Sullivan and Nations 2009, pp. 109–112, 114–118, 137).

We acknowledge that gaps exist in available information on the slickspot peppergrass; these gaps create uncertainty, however, the best information available was used for developing this Opinion. Science may reduce but can never completely estimate nor eliminate the uncertainty regarding future events (BLM 2000, p. 3, 5). As stated in the *Endangered Species Consultation Handbook*, "Where significant data gaps exist there are two options: (1) if the action agency concurs, extend the due date of the biological opinion until sufficient information is developed for a more complete analysis; or (2) develop the biological opinion with the available information giving the

benefit of the doubt to the species" (Service and NMFS 1998, pp. 1–6). Conducting research studies on the effects of various management actions to gather missing effects data on a plant with a seed bank cohort that is viable for up to 12 years would likely delay this consultation for many years. Consultation timelines under the Act do not allow for such a delay; thus, for purposes of completing this consultation, the Service has provided the benefit of the doubt to the slickspot peppergrass with respect to data gaps regarding the effects of various ongoing project-level actions considered in this Opinion.

The ongoing project-level actions addressed in this Opinion are limited to ongoing BLM ROWs, military training, and mineral materials use authorization actions. Additional information regarding the potential impacts of ongoing livestock grazing permits is provided below. For a more detailed discussion of livestock use and the slickspot peppergrass, refer to the final listing rule for slickspot peppergrass (74 FR 52014, October 8, 2009) or to the Assessment (BLM 2009, Chapter II).

4.2.2.1. Development, Including Rights-of-Way

Development, as defined for HIP monitoring purposes, includes buildings, roads, water tanks, utility lines, railroad tracks, and fences (Colket 2009, Appendix A, HIP Protocol, p. 12). Agricultural development is recorded under a separate category. Residential, commercial, and agricultural development prior to 1955 has been reported as the cause for five documented and four probable extirpations of the slickspot peppergrass (Colket et al. 2006, p. 4). All forms of development can affect the slickspot peppergrass and slickspot habitat, whether directly or indirectly, through habitat conversion (resulting in direct loss of individuals and permanent loss of habitat), or through habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of consequent increased nonnative plant invasions, increased ORV use, increased wildfire, and changes to insect populations (ILPG 1999, in litt. pp. 1–3; Robertson and White 2007, pp. 7, 13).

The most direct impact of development is the outright loss of slickspot peppergrass populations due to habitat conversion, such as when habitat occupied by slickspot peppergrass is converted to a residential development or an agricultural field, resulting in the permanent loss of the plant population and the habitat. As mentioned above, development has been documented as the cause of several population extirpations of the slickspot peppergrass in the past, and at present, there are 10 approved or proposed development projects located in the Boise Foothills and Snake River Plain regions, all within the LEPA Consideration Zone (an area that contains slickspot peppergrass identified within the CCA) (State of Idaho 2008, in litt.). Activities in the Boise Foothills include four approved, planned residential communities in Ada County, totaling 4,062 ac, and six other development projects submitted for approval to Ada County, totaling 9,831 ac. While the Boise Foothills represents a relatively small geographic extent of the slickspot peppergrass range, the area supports the most dense and regionally abundant populations of the species (Sullivan and Nations 2009, p. 103). Several other planned communities on an additional 44,500 ac are proposed in the Boise Foothills physiographic region, but have not yet been submitted for County or other planning agency approval.

In addition, large-scale planned communities have been proposed for the southern portion of the Snake River Plain region in Elmore County. These numbers reflect only planned communities which, by definition, are 640 ac or larger and do not include smaller developments, such as

subdivisions (State of Idaho 2008, in litt.). Developments of this nature will likely lead to the extirpation of populations through permanent habitat conversion; they may also indirectly impact the slickspot peppergrass, as described below. While it is unlikely that all of these planned communities will move forward in the near future due to the current economic climate, the scale of potential future residential and commercial development may impact several of the remaining slickspot peppergrass populations across the range of the species (State of Idaho 2008, in litt.).

Direct effects to the slickspot peppergrass are also a likely consequence of the linear infrastructure associated with urban and residential development. In 2006, utility lines and accompanying roads were documented running through at least four EOs, natural gas pipelines were documented running through two EOs, and existing roads bisect at least six EOs (Colket et al. 2006, Appendix C). Additional infrastructure associated with the planned development projects described above is expected.

In addition to direct habitat destruction and associated loss of individual slickspot peppergrass plants, residential and commercial developments and associated utility corridors and roads may allow increased off highway vehicle (OHV) access, resulting in the potential destruction or degradation of slickspots and possible direct mortality of individuals. These developments may also increase the chance of nonnative plant invasions (most notably cheatgrass, as described above) and human-ignited wildfires and contribute to habitat fragmentation and its associated consequences. For additional details on these threats, refer to the final listing rule for the slickspot peppergrass (74 FR 52014, October 8, 2009) or the Assessment (BLM 2009, Chapter II).

Transportation and utility corridors associated with urban and residential development can increase the spread of nonnative invasive plants. Roads appear to create avenues for invasion by cheatgrass because there is generally a positive significant association between nonnative, disturbance-tolerant species such as cheatgrass and proximity to roads (Forman and Alexander 1998, p. 210; Gelbard and Belnap 2003, pp. 424-425, 430-431; Bradley and Mustard 2006, p. 1142). Bradley and Mustard (2006, p. 1146) found an even stronger association between the presence of cheatgrass and power-line corridors, and they suggest that the stronger relationship between cheatgrass and recent disturbance (that is, power lines; roads were considered an historical disturbance) suggests that future placement of either roads or power lines would very likely result in invasion by cheatgrass.

Increased urban and residential development also increases the probability of human-ignited wildfires, presumably by increasing the area of the urban-wildland interface (e.g., Keeley et al. 1999, p. 1829; Romero-Calcerrada et al. 2008, pp. 341, 351; Syphard et al. 2008, pp. 610–611). Increases in human habitation and activity in the rangelands of southern Idaho have contributed to the increase in wildfire starts in recent years. For example, in the Jarbidge Field Office area of the BLM (Owyhee Plateau physiographic region), where 21 of 80 total EOs are found, 43 percent of the wildfires occurring since 1987 were human-caused (Launchbaugh et al. 2008, p. 3). Proximity to urban areas and roads can be an important causal factor associated with wildfire ignitions (Kalabokidis et al. 2002, p. 6; Brooks et al. 2004, p. 3; Romero-Calcerrada et al. 2008, p. 351; Syphard et al. 2008, pp. 610–611).

Many of the ongoing and planned developments will require the construction of power, gas, and other transmission lines, as well as new road construction, which will impact and fragment

slickspot peppergrass habitats. In addition, several interstate-utility activities within the range of the slickspot peppergrass have been proposed, including a new electric transmission line between Casper, Wyoming, and Murphy, Idaho (Gateway West Transmission Line project) (State of Idaho 2008, in litt.). The proposed route of the Gateway West Transmission Line project currently bisects habitat occupied by the slickspot peppergrass.

Insect populations may also be affected by development, potentially impacting the primary vector for pollination and genetic exchange for the slickspot peppergrass. Insect densities have been documented as being lower in developed areas than in native habitats (Gibbs and Stanton 2001, p. 82; McIntyre and Hostetler 2001, p. 215; Zanette et al. 2005, p. 117; Clark et al. 2007, p. 333). Changes in native habitat caused by ongoing development or conversion of lands to agriculture may impact insect pollinator populations by removing specific food sources or habitats required for breeding or nesting (Kearns and Inouye 1997, p. 298; McIntyre and Hostetler 2001, p. 215; Zanette et al. 2005, pp. 117–118). Habitat isolation and fragmentation resulting from development may also impact the slickspot peppergrass by decreasing pollination from distant sources, possibly resulting in decreased reproductive potential (e.g., lower seed set) and reduced genetic diversity. Reductions in pollinators due to development could thus potentially impact slickspot peppergrass reproductive success as well as contribute to reduced genetic variability, as the plant is dependent on insect pollination for successful reproduction and the transfer of genetic material between populations.

Ongoing and planned residential and urban development currently threatens the long-term viability of slickspot peppergrass occurrences on private land, primarily in the Snake River Plain and Boise Foothills physiographic regions (Moseley 1994, p. 20; State of Idaho 2008, in litt.; Stoner 2009, pp. 13-14, 19-20). All or portions of 12 slickspot peppergrass EOs covering 224 ac (1.0 percent of the total area of all EOs, not including EOs managed by cities or counties) occur on private land subject to development. Two of these 12 EOs are smaller than 1 ac and are classified as having fair-to-poor habitat quality (INHP data as of January 14, 2009); therefore, these EOs are particularly vulnerable to extirpation through development. Surveys conducted in 2008 documented that 21 of 80 HIP transects rangewide are located within 213 ft of development, and 66 of 80 HIP transects were within 1,640 ft of development. Proximity to development carries increased risk of mechanical disturbances (such as from OHV use); increased risk of wildfire ignition and invasion by nonnative plant species, as discussed above; possible decreases in the diversity or abundance of pollinators; and vulnerabilities associated with fragmentation and isolation of small populations, as discussed below.

The development of adjacent private land may also threaten at least four slickspot peppergrass occurrences on BLM-administered land (Mancuso 2000, p. 13) . In the Boise area, a highway bypass has been proposed in the vicinity of Kuna-Mora Road, and several large developments have been approved or are being negotiated north and south of Boise near slickspot peppergrass habitat. The exchange of Federal lands containing the species into private or State ownership could increase the possibility of adverse impacts due to residential, agricultural, or commercial development. However, the BLM has developed conservation measures through the CA (BLM and Service 2006) and the CCA (State of Idaho et al. 2003, 2006) that address disposal or exchange of public lands that contain slickspot habitat.

The Service considers development to be a significant threat within the Boise Foothills and Snake River Plain portions of the range of the slickspot peppergrass, as the outcome of this threat is severe where it occurs and likely results in the permanent loss of populations and irreplaceable slickspot microsite habitats. However, this threat is not so imminent or sweeping in scope as to pose an immediate risk of extirpation to the populations of slickspot peppergrass in these regions, nor do we consider the threat of development to be equal to the magnitude and intensity of the primary threats of the modified wildfire regime and invasive nonnative plants. Development is considered to pose a significant but lesser threat to the species.

4.2.2.2. Military Training

Military activities within the range of slickspot peppergrass include ordnance impact areas, training activities, and military development. Military training activities occur at or near 4 of 80 extant EOs: 3 at the OTA on the Snake River Plain and a portion of 1 EO at the Juniper Butte Range on the Owyhee Plateau. Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) have been developed and implemented for both the U.S. Air Force's Juniper Butte Range and the IDARNG OTA. The INRMPs provide management direction and conservation measures to avoid, reduce, minimize, or mitigate the effects from military training exercises on slickspot peppergrass and its habitat. Both the IDARNG (Quinney 2008, in litt.; ICDC 2008, p. 21) and the U.S. Air Force (USAF) (CH2MHill 2008a, pp. 1, 17) conduct annual monitoring to ensure impacts to the species due to training activities are either avoided or minimized.

The OTA military training activities occur on BLM-administered lands. The IDARNG has implemented slickspot peppergrass conservation measures for 20 years on the OTA. The OTA currently supports nearly 60 percent of the highest-quality slickspot peppergrass habitat rangewide (B-ranked EO 27). This suggests that the conservation measures implemented are effective in maintaining generally intact native plant vegetation and limiting anthropogenic disturbances on the OTA (Sullivan and Nations 2009, p. 91).

While the effects of soil disturbance from military training activities can have serious local effects on slickspots, conservation measures—including the rapid suppression of fires, wash stations for vehicles to minimize nonnative plant species spread, and restrictions that require all military training activities to avoid sites with slickspot peppergrass and intact sagebrush steppe habitat—have been in place on the OTA and appear to have essentially eliminated this threat to slickspot peppergrass occurrences on the OTA. Implementation of these conservation efforts has resulted in no military damage to slickspot peppergrass plants on the OTA from 1991 through 2010, the most recent military training season the BLM has data for.

The IDARNG and USAF continue to implement conservation measures to avoid or reduce adverse effects of military training on slickspot peppergrass and its habitat. Since the areas managed by the IDARNG and the USAF continue to support some of the highest-quality habitat remaining for slickspot peppergrass, we consider the measures to minimize the impact of military training exercises on the species and its habitat to have been effective. The IDARNG and USAF are committed to continuing the implementation of these conservation measures into the future through the CCA and their respective INRMPs. The threat of military training effects on the species is localized and is minimal in significance across the range of the species;

therefore, the Service does not consider military training to pose a significant threat to survival and recovery of the slickspot peppergrass.

4.2.2.3. Gravel or Cinder Mining

Gravel and cinder mining, like other disturbances, may lead to increased nonnative plant invasions due to increased access of OHVs and mining equipment. Individual plants may also be damaged or crushed, and seeds may be buried too deep to successfully germinate by driving or parking equipment on wet slickspot soils. Gravel or cinder mining operations affect known slickspot peppergrass occupied habitat near at least two EOs (21 and 32) (Colket et al. 2006, Appendix C). Conservation measures that help to mitigate mining damage to slickspot peppergrass include (for notice-level operations) notifying the operator that modifications to proposed activities will be required to avoid negative impacts to slickspot peppergrass and avoiding development of saleable or leasable minerals in or adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat.

4.2.2.4. Habitat Fragmentation and Isolation of Small Populations

Due to its occupancy of patchily distributed slickspots, the habitat of the slickspot peppergrass is somewhat naturally fragmented. Fragmentation at a larger scale, however, can pose problems for the slickspot peppergrass by creating barriers in the landscape that prevent effective genetic exchange between populations. Seed dispersal for the slickspot peppergrass likely occurs only over very short distances; thus, pollinators and pollen dispersal are the primary means for reproductive and genetic exchange between slickspot peppergrass sites (Robertson and Ulappa 2004, pp. 1705, 1708; Stillman et al. 2005, pp. 1, 6-8). Research indicates that seeds generated by the pollination of nearby plants have reduced viability, and that slickspot peppergrass seed viability increases as the distance to the contributing pollination source increases (Robertson and Ulappa 2004, pp 1705, 1708). The ability to exchange pollen with distant populations is therefore an advantage for the slickspot peppergrass. Barriers or too much distance between slickspots and pollinating insect habitats can reduce the effective range of insects important to slickspot peppergrass pollination (Robertson et al. 2004, pp. 2-4). Barriers can include agricultural fields, urban development, and large areas of annual and perennial grass monocultures that do not support diversity and suitable floral resources such as nectar or edible pollen for pollinators. Slickspot peppergrass habitats separated by distances greater than the effective range of available pollinating insects (about 0.6 mi. as described in Colket and Robertson 2006, in litt. p. 1) are at a genetic disadvantage, and may become vulnerable to the effects of loss of genetic diversity (Stillman et al. 2005, pp. 1, 6-8) and a reduction in seed production (Robertson et al. 2004, p. 1705). A genetic analysis of the slickspot peppergrass suggested that populations in the Snake River Plain and the Owyhee Plateau "may have reduced genetic diversity" (Larson et al. 2006, p. 17; note the Boise Foothills were not analyzed separately in this study).

Many of the remaining occurrences of the slickspot peppergrass, particularly in the Snake River Plain near urban centers, are restricted to small, remnant patches of suitable sagebrush-steppe habitat. When last surveyed, 31 EOs (37 percent) each had fewer than 50 plants (Colket et al. 2006, Tables 1–13). Many of these small remnant EOs exist within habitat that is degraded by the factors identified above. Small slickspot peppergrass populations have likely persisted due to

their long-lived seed bank, but the potential risk of depletion of each population's seed bank with no new genetic input makes the persistence of these small populations uncertain. Providing suitable habitats and foraging habitats for the species' insect pollinators are important for maintaining slickspot peppergrass genetic diversity. Small populations are vulnerable to relatively minor environmental disturbances such as wildfire, herbicide drift, and nonnative plant invasions (Given 1994, pp. 66-67), and are subject to the loss of genetic diversity from genetic drift and inbreeding (Ellstrand and Elam 1993, pp. 217-237). Populations with lowered genetic diversity are more prone to local extinction (Barrett and Kohn 1991, pp. 4, 28). Smaller populations generally have lower genetic diversity, and lower genetic diversity may in turn lead to even smaller populations by decreasing the species' ability to adapt, thereby increasing the probability of population extinction (Newman and Pilson 1997, p. 360).

Fragmentation (either by development or wildfires) has occurred in 62 of the 79 EOs for which habitat information is known (15 of 16 on the Boise Foothills, 35 of 42 on the Snake River Plain and 12 of 21 on the Owyhee Plateau), and 78 EOs (all except one on the Owyhee Plateau) have fragmentation occurring within 0.31 mi of the EOs (Cole 2009, Threats Table). Additionally, as described above in the Development section (section 4.2.2.1), several development projects are planned within the occupied range of the slickspot peppergrass that would contribute to further large-scale fragmentation of its habitat, potentially resulting in decreased viability of populations through decreased seed production, reduced genetic diversity, and the increased inherent vulnerability of small populations to localized extirpation.

Even though the slickspot peppergrass occurs in naturally patchy microsite habitats, the increasing degree of fragmentation produced by wildfires and development may result in the separation of populations beyond the distance that its insect pollinators are capable of traveling. Genetic exchange in slickspot peppergrass is achieved through either seed dispersal or insect-mediated pollination, and plants that receive pollen from more distant sources demonstrate greater reproductive success in terms of seed production. As all indications are that seeds are dispersed over only a very small distance and insect pollinators are also limited in their dispersal capabilities, habitat fragmentation and isolation of populations poses a threat to the slickspot peppergrass in terms of decreased reproductive success (lower seed set), reduced genetic variability, and greater local extinction risk. For these reasons, we consider habitat fragmentation resulting from wildfires and development to pose a moderate degree of threat to the slickspot peppergrass. We consider this threat to be significant, but not as severe as the threats posed by the modified wildfire regime and invasive nonnative plant species. The threat of habitat fragmentation and isolation of small populations is pervasive throughout the range of the slickspot peppergrass.

CHAPTER 5. EFFECTS OF THE ACTIONS AND CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

5.1. Overview of the Effects of the Actions Analyses

In analyzing the effects of the ongoing ROWs, military training, and mineral material use authorization actions considered in this document on the slickspot peppergrass, the BLM used *A Framework to Assist in Making Endangered Species Act Determinations of Effect for Slickspot Peppergrass* (Lepidium papilliferum) (Framework) (Service 2006a). The Framework is a tool developed to assist Federal agencies when working with the Service to assess effects of their actions on the slickspot peppergrass. The Framework was developed based on the species' life history, ecological requirements, and threats. Using the Framework includes providing a description of baseline conditions for the species and its habitat in the action area and changes in conditions for the species resulting from the action. Since the slickspot peppergrass is a desert annual, emphasis is placed on the condition of the habitat rather than on the number of plants present in a given year. Populations of desert annuals change drastically in response to annual weather conditions; therefore, habitat condition is a much better long-term measure of the annual plants' potential ecological health (Elzinga et al.1998, p. 55). The Framework is intended for analyzing an individual action's potential effects on the species and may be applied to ongoing and proposed actions. The Framework consists for three major components: (1) a Matrix of Pathways and Indicators, (2) a Checklist of Diagnostics, and (3) a Dichotomous Key of Effects Determinations.

To complete the effects analyses, the BLM consistently applied the Matrix of Pathways and Indicators from the Framework for all of the ongoing actions to review both the baseline conditions and ongoing actions affecting slickspot peppergrass occupied habitat. This matrix considers indicators that reflect resource characteristics and their condition that are described as a quality ranking. The actual matrices generated by this analysis process are provided in the Assessment for each action under each individual project-specific "Effects of Action" section (BLM 2009). The Framework matrix categorizes a series of habitat quality indicators both within and outside of slickspots for each ongoing action. High, moderate, and low quality rankings of habitat represent points on a gradation of habitats rather than absolute thresholds for habitat quality. And while habitat quality may be categorized as low for a particular habitat quality indicator, in a given year slickspot peppergrass plant abundance at that location may be high due to other environmental variables, such as precipitation.

Slickspot peppergrass survival and recovery is dependent on maintaining and enhancing Wyoming big sagebrush-steppe habitat and the slickspot microsites located within this ecosystem in southern Idaho. The long-term conservation of slickspot peppergrass is dependent upon the maintenance or improvement of ecological function of the higher quality (C- through A-ranked) EOs rangewide, including maintaining or improving the connectivity within and between EOs which may involve the maintenance or enhancement of currently lower ranked EOs (D- through F-ranked), as necessary to facilitate pollinator activity; the maintenance of genetic diversity, and limiting the establishment of invasive nonnative plant species. As

described in the "Survival and Recovery of the Species" section above (section 4.1.10), the Service used the State of Idaho's INHP EO rankings to characterize the conservation value of each action area considered in this document. These INHP criteria address population size of the EO, habitat condition within the EO, and the landscape condition of the area surrounding the EO. For the purpose of analyses presented in this Opinion, action areas containing EOs that are B- or BC-ranked were categorized as having high conservation value for the slickspot peppergrass, action areas containing C-ranked EOs were categorized as having medium conservation value for the species, and action areas containing D- and F-ranked EOs were considered as having low conservation value for the species. When multiple EOs of varying INHP ranks were located within an action area, the conservation value of the action area was categorized based on the highest ranked EO located within the area. Once the conservation value of an action was identified, effects of the action were examined to determine whether the action was expected to increase, maintain, or decrease the current conservation value of the action area over time. These analyses were subsequently summarized at the end of this Chapter as part of the basis for our jeopardy determination for the ongoing BLM actions considered in this Opinion. Note that while some action areas may have been categorized as having a low or medium conservation value for the slickspot peppergrass based on the INHP ranking system for EOs, other factors such as their geographic position relative to other EOs of higher value for purposes of facilitating genetic exchange between populations of the slickspot peppergrass may make these sites of high conservation value for the species.

The indicators and quality rankings used to determine the effects of the ongoing BLM actions on the slickspot peppergrass are based on best available science. However, we acknowledge that information gaps and disagreement exist with respect to the available information on the slickspot peppergrass; however, in accordance with Service policy, the best information available was used to develop this Opinion. As described above in section 4.2.2, page 1-6 of the *Endangered Species Consultation Handbook* states that "Where significant data gaps exist there are two options: (1) if the action agency concurs, extend the due date of the biological opinion until sufficient information is developed for a more complete analysis; or (2) develop the biological opinion with the available information giving the benefit of the doubt to the species." Researching the effects of various management actions to gather missing effects data on a plant with a seed bank cohort that is viable for up to 12 years would likely delay this consultation for many years. Thus, the Service has provided the benefit of the doubt to the slickspot peppergrass with respect to data gaps regarding the potential effects of the ongoing actions considered in these analyses. Therefore, if there is a reasonable possibility that an adverse impact could occur to a single slickspot peppergrass plant or seed associated with an ongoing action, a "may affect, likely to adversely affect" determination was made for the individual ongoing action.

Within this Opinion, the Service considers the action area as the entire ROW area, military training area, or mineral materials use authorization area. While we acknowledge that slickspot peppergrass occupied habitat does not necessarily occur across an entire special use authorization area, overall habitat condition in and around occupied habitat likely has some influence on slickspot peppergrass conservation. Therefore, for the purposes of this Opinion, we have defined the action area as the special use authorization area in its entirety.

Within each action area, all available data were used for specific sites and then applied broadly to the action area. The BLM used satellite imagery, fire frequency, range trend, rangeland

standard and guide data, and HIP data, if available. If the data were not broad enough to cover the entire action area, they were extrapolated from these key sampling sites to encompass the broader level action area.

Many of the actions analyzed in this Opinion are described as having "localized effects" on the slickspot peppergrass. Localized effects are those that are anticipated to occur within a relatively small area in relation to slickspot peppergrass occupied habitat located within an action area. Because actions are often patchy in their distribution and the intensity of effects varies across an action area, it is not expected that impacts caused by an action would occur at the same level of intensity or on every portion of habitat within an individual action area. Localized effects are not expected to impact the slickspot peppergrass to the extent that the conservation value of an action area to the continued survival and recovery of the slickspot peppergrass is likely substantively reduced over the term of the action. For example, maintenance activities within rights-of-way with existing infrastructure are not expected to impact habitat beyond areas that have previously been disturbed.

The acreage described as occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat within the Amendment may present an inflated sense of the extent of the habitat affected by the ongoing action and should be considered a broad brush estimate. The "occupied acreage" is a calculation of the affected EO acres plus the area contained within a 0.5 mi-wide buffer area surrounding the EO. In some cases, the area within the 0.5 mi-wide buffer includes roads and other non-habitat. This 0.5 mi area surrounding the EO is considered important to maintain or improve habitat integrity and pollinator populations for species conservation (see pollinator discussion on pages 28, 38–39 in the Status of the Species section of this Opinion). This 0.5 mi buffer is also referred to as the "0.5 mi pollinator buffer" or the "EO pollinator buffer" in the individual ongoing action descriptions below.

5.2. Ongoing Actions

The ongoing actions in the Four Rivers FO of the Boise District, including the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA, occur in the Boise Foothills and the Snake River Plain physiographic regions for the slickspot peppergrass. The Boise District ongoing actions addressed in this Opinion include 10 oil, gas and water pipeline ROWs; 52 electrical and telephone line ROWs; 33 road ROWs; 1 railroad ROW; 4 communications site ROWs; 8 military training permits; 1 interagency agreement associated with ongoing military training on the OTA; and 5 mineral material use authorizations.

A description for each of these broad categories of ongoing actions, including an overall associated analysis of effects for each action category, is provided below. In addition, an effects analysis for each of the 114 individual ongoing actions is subsequently displayed in Table 15 of this Opinion (see pp. 114-223).

5.2.1. Boise District Rights-of-Way and Land Use Permits

The BLM's Boise District administers a number of ROWs and land use permits which are located in occupied habitat for the slickspot peppergrass. Public lands that may once have

supported slickspot peppergrass or its habitat but have since been impacted by the development of BLM-authorized ROWs, leases, or permit facilities have already sustained maximum construction-related impacts to slickspot peppergrass and its habitat. Impacts to slickspot peppergrass or its habitat from ongoing Lands and Realty actions are limited to the continued use and maintenance of the authorized facilities, rather than to the original construction and development. Impacts from continued use and maintenance are generally indirect in nature since the direct impacts occurred during project construction. This discussion of Lands and Realty actions is divided by the general type of authorization, including pipelines (oil and gas, and water); electric power and telephone lines; roads; communication sites; and military training authorizations.

Holders of ROWs issued under the authority of 43 CFR 2800 are required to comply with all existing and subsequently enacted, issued, or amended Federal and State laws and regulations applicable to the authorized use. Given this requirement, the BLM can amend existing ROWs by imposing restrictions required by legislation enacted subsequent to the issuance of the ROW. The Assessment indicates that slickspot peppergrass conservation measures are not required by existing legislation or Federal regulation so they could not be incorporated into ongoing ROW authorizations.

In general, ROWs granted prior to 2004 contain no specific slickspot peppergrass-associated terms and conditions or conservation measures. However, pursuant to 43 CFR 2801.2(b), slickspot peppergrass conservation measures could be applied if and when the ROWs are renewed, amended, or assigned. Some BLM ROWs were issued in perpetuity and thus have no formal expiration date. Opportunities for applying conservation measures to these ROWs are limited.

5.2.1.1. Conservation Measures and Actions Applicable to All Rights-of-Way and Land Use Permits

The Cascade RMP and the Kuna MFP contain no conservation measures that protect and conserve slickspot peppergrass and its habitat. The BLM and the Service have reached agreement on slickspot peppergrass conservation measures included as a part of the 2006 CA. These conservation measures were incorporated into the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey NCA RMP, and will be subsequently incorporated into affected realty decisions. These LUP–level conservation measures for slickspot peppergrass, which were also incorporated into the updated 2009 CA, are included in the original Assessment (BLM 2009, Table III.C-1) and in the Appendix of this Opinion. Measures that will be imposed on future authorizations are listed in the following LUP programs (BLM 2009, Table III.C-1):

- Lands and Realty Management: Land Tenure Adjustment (land sale, exchanges, withdrawals, etc.)
- Lands and Realty Management: Rights-of-Way
- Lands and Realty Management: Land Use Permits and Leases

Before the 2003 CCA was signed, Lands and Realty authorizations contained no special stipulations that would allow the BLM to modify the way authorized facilities were managed to minimize impacts to slickspot peppergrass plants or habitat. Since that time, ROWs and other realty authorizations (permits and leases) have contained applicable conservation measures from

the CCA. Sections affecting lands and realty include LEPA Consideration Zone Conservation Measures (State of Idaho 2003, pp. 25 and 26 and Priority Elements of Occurrence for Land Use Authorizations and Land Exchanges sections within State of Idaho 2003, pp. 28, 31, 33, 35, 37, 40, 43, 46, 49, 52, and 56).

Land use permits are temporary authorizations that the BLM may modify or revoke at its discretion. The ROWs and leases, however, are legal documents that bind both the BLM and the holder for the term of the authorization. As such, with the exception of the regulatory and legislative processes discussed above, the BLM cannot change requirements in existing ROWs and leases without the consent of the holder unless and until the holder applies for an amendment, renewal, or assignment. At that time, the BLM may amend current stipulations and/or impose new requirements. If the additional requirements are acceptable to the holder, they will probably renew the authorization. If the holder finds the new stipulations unacceptable, they may allow the authorization to expire, after which, they would be required to remove existing improvements and reclaim the affected lands.

The following stipulations are being imposed in new, amended, renewed, or assigned authorizations, in accordance with the 2003 CCA:

- Entire LEPA Consideration Zone
    - New, renewing, or amending ROW holders or other related permit holders will establish 40 to 60 percent perennial cover, depending on the location of the project, following completion of all ground-disturbing activities. Seeding shall be repeated if a satisfactory stand is not obtained as determined by the authorized officer upon evaluation after the growing season.
    - New, renewing, or amending ROW holders will contact the BLM prior to and following completion of ground-disturbing activities in occupied and suitable habitat.
    - ROW holders or permittees will install temporary or permanent project fencing to protect slickspot peppergrass habitat adjacent to construction activities.
    - As directed by the Authorized Officer, the holder shall be responsible for control of noxious weeds and nonnative invasive species that result or would result from the construction, use, or maintenance of their grant.
- Requirements Specific to LEPA Management Areas (MAs) as Defined in the 2003 CCA
    - Construction-related traffic shall be restricted to routes approved by the Authorized Officer. New access roads or cross-country vehicle travel will not be permitted unless prior written approval is given by the Authorized Officer. Authorized roads use by the holder shall be rehabilitated or maintained when construction activities are complete as approved by the Authorized Officer.
    - Before construction or maintenance equipment move onto the ROW area, the equipment shall be cleaned off using power or high-pressure cleaning procedures to remove all mud, dirt, and plant parts.
    - Specific sites, as identified by the Authorized Officer (areas adjacent to occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat) where construction equipment and vehicles shall not be allowed, shall be clearly marked onsite with temporary fencing by the holder before any construction or surface disturbing activities begin. The holder shall be responsible

for assuring that construction personnel are well trained to recognize these markers and understand movement restrictions involved.

- Priority EOs 8, 21, 26, 51, and 58
  - Seeding shall be by broadcast and the area shall be raked or chained to cover the seed. When broadcasting the seed, the pounds per acre noted below are to be doubled. The seeding will be repeated until a satisfactory stand is established as determined by the Authorized Officer. Evaluation of growth will not be made before completion of the growing season after seeding. The Authorized Officer is to be notified a minimum of 3 days prior to seeding of the project.

Conservation measures from the CA and the CCA for wildfire prevention and control and nonnative invasive plant control are also applicable to ongoing ROW, military training, and mineral material use authorization actions. These conservation measures include placing a high priority on protecting the slickspot peppergrass during fire suppression efforts; using pesticides in a manner that conserves or minimizes risk of exposure to the slickspot peppergrass and its habitat; and promoting the diversity, richness, and heath of native plant communities to support pollinators and habitat for the slickspot peppergrass. Wildfire has impacted 7 of the 59 EOs located in the Boise District since 2004 when the conservation measures that prioritize suppression in EOs were first implemented. Since 2004, F-ranked EO 54 and D-ranked EO 60 were completely burned, and portions of B-ranked EOs 8, 26, and 30 and portions of C-ranked EOs 24 and 32 partially burned. However, it is likely that the wildfire suppression priority measures have served to reduce wildfire-related impacts to individual EOs and occupied habitat in the Boise District since 2004. In addition, the BLM is partnering with permit holders such as the Idaho Department of Transportation and Idaho Power Company to implement cooperative fire suppression and weed control measures to further protect sensitive species, including the slickspot peppergrass. These cooperative efforts, in concert with the rangewide CA and CCA conservation measures, reduce the likelihood of wildfire and the spread of invasive nonnative plant effects on the slickspot peppergrass related to the ongoing ROW actions described below.

5.2.1.2. Boise District Individual Ongoing Rights-of-Way Descriptions and Effects Determinations

5.2.1.2.1 Oil, Gas, and Water Pipeline Rights-of-Way

Description of the Action Area

Ten oil, gas, and water pipeline ROWs (pipeline ROWs) located in the Boise District bisect 458 ac of occupied habitat for the slickspot peppergrass. The Amendment indicates that the action area used in this analysis includes occupied habitat for EOs inclusive of the slickspots, surrounding matrices, and 0.5 mi EO pollinator buffers within the project area in CCA MAs 1 and 2 in the Boise Foothills physiographic region and CCA MAs 5, 8, 9, and 10 in the Snake River Plain physiographic region (BLM 2011, pp. A-3 through A-4, IV-1 through IV-2).

Description of the Action

As these oil, gas, and water pipelines have already been constructed, the ongoing action is limited to maintenance activities. Buried pipelines are more susceptible to corrosion from static

electrical buildup than above-ground structures. Pipeline maintenance involves replacement or upgrade of cathodic protection systems and replacement of failing pipeline sections. Cathodic protection upgrades or replacements are not considered further in this Opinion, as these actions typically require amendments to the existing ROW and applications for amendments are treated the same as new ROW applications. Additional site-specific section 7 consultation will occur at the time those ROW permit amendments are being considered. On occasion, pipe upgrading is required because of Department of Transportation (DOT) health and safety regulations and standards under which pipeline companies are regulated. Any maintenance work on a pipeline involves some kind of digging. Digging typically occurs in sites that were previously disturbed when the pipeline was originally constructed. Soil layers located in these previously disturbed sites have been severely mixed, and it is extremely unlikely that slickspots would reform in these areas. Rubber-tired vehicles are used to do all of the work and pick-up trucks are routinely used in monitoring and surveillance activities. Likewise, aircraft are used daily to detect problems and ensure the safety and integrity of the system.

Much of the pipeline maintenance occurs internally within the pipe itself by sending "pigs" through the line that can clean, measure pipeline wall thickness, inspect welding joints, detect corroding or failing pipelines, and separate commodities from one another. Most transportation pipelines are under extremely high pressure, and companies are sensitive to any anomalies that may be found. Because of this concern, buildings, deep rooted vegetation, or permanent walls are usually not allowed within their ROW areas. Expiration dates of the ROW permits range from July 25, 2014 to those authorized in perpetuity.

The 10 pipeline ROWs located in the Boise District in the vicinity of occupied habitat are listed in the Table 7 below.

Table 7. Ongoing oil, gas, and water pipeline Rights-of-Way (ROW) actions located in the Boise District

Oil, Gas, and Water Pipeline Serial Number	Expiration Date	Conservation Value of ROW (High, Medium, Low) and EOs Associated with Occupied Habitat within the ROW	Slickspot Peppergrass Stipulations Included in the ROW? (Y/N)
IDI-014443	In perpetuity	Medium to High EO 26	N
IDI-001958	In perpetuity	Low to Medium EO 48	N
IDI-030166	Jan. 23, 2024	Low EO 10	N
IDI-031008	June 26, 2015	Low to Medium EO 48	N
IDI-0000602	In perpetuity	Medium to High EOs 8, 26, 30, 62, 63, 76	N
IDI-0006421	In perpetuity	Medium to High EOs 8, 20, 22, 26, 32, 48, 54, 62, 70, 102, 104	N
IDI-030409	July 25, 2014	High EO 70	N
IDI-0008402	In perpetuity	High EO 26	N
IDI-024227	Sept. 21, 2017	Medium to High EO 30	N
IDI-002791	In perpetuity	Low EO 10	N

For additional details on the project description for ongoing Boise District oil, gas, and water pipeline ROWs, see the Amendment (BLM 2011, p. IV-1 through IV-9).

Environmental Baseline

Status of the Species in the Action Area

The 10 pipeline ROWs contain occupied habitat associated with EOs in CCA MAs 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, and 10, which have applicable HIP monitoring data available. These ROWs bisect both the Boise Foothills and Snake River Plain physiographic regions. The INHP has classified EOs associated with the oil, gas, and water pipeline ROWs as B-, C-, and D-ranked.

Occupied habitat for 15 EOs is located partially within the boundaries of the 10 pipeline ROWs. The pipeline ROWs bisect five EOs encompassing a total of approximately 136 ac, which constitutes about 1 percent of the total acreage of EOs located on Federal lands. The 10 pipeline ROWs also encompass an additional 322 ac (0.03 percent of the total occupied habitat acreage

on Federal lands) of 0.5 mile pollinator buffers that surround 15 EOs. The BLM-administered occupied habitat in these 10 pipeline ROWs are dominated by exotic annuals with shrub cover expected to be low within the pipeline construction footprint. The acreage of EOs bisected by pipeline ROWs ranges from about 0.2 ac in D-ranked EO 63 to about 49 ac in B-ranked EO 8. Two (F-ranked EO 54 and D-ranked EO 63) of the five EOs bisected by pipeline ROWs contain less than 1 ac of existing pipeline ROW areas. In contrast, three (B-ranked EOs 8, 26, and 30) of the five EOs bisected by pipeline ROWs contain between 40 and 49 ac of existing pipeline ROW areas. Of the six MAs that contain pipeline ROWs, MA 10 contains the highest acreage of pipeline ROW (about 283 ac), with MAs 5 and 8 containing the lowest acreage of pipeline ROWs (about 3 ac and 5 ac, respectively).

Factors Affecting the Species in the Action Area

Threats to slickspot peppergrass for the 10 pipeline ROWs include wildfire, invasive nonnative plants, fire rehabilitation activities, herbicide and pesticide use, development, and livestock use. Damage to slickspots associated with pipeline construction has already occurred, and disturbance to new slickspot areas is not anticipated. Significant ground disturbance has already occurred in the footprint of the pipelines, making the continued presence of slickspots, individual slickspot peppergrass plants, and a seed bank unlikely within the pipeline footprint.

Travel along existing maintenance roads by both maintenance crews and the general public can increase wildfire potential as heat from vehicles can ignite fuels within two-track roads and along roadsides, particularly in areas with high cheatgrass cover. However, no pipeline maintenance- or operations-related fires have been documented to have ignited or spread outside of these ROW areas between 1980 and 2009 within the 10 pipeline ROWs (BLM 2011, p. A-1 through A-2). Therefore, based on past fire history data, the incidence of wildfire ignitions related to operation and maintenance of the 10 pipeline ROWs is expected to be low.

The usefulness of these pipelines as fuel breaks is limited due to the relatively high levels of invasive nonnative plants within the footprint of these ongoing actions. These pipeline ROWs are not expected to decrease the risk of wildfire spread and the subsequent invasion of nonnative plants.

HIP monitoring data document invasive nonnative plant cover from about 1 to 41 percent in slickspots within EOs in the vicinity of the 10 pipeline ROWs. Most of these ROWs are heavily overgrown with invasive nonnative annual plants such as cheatgrass, limiting their utility for slickspot peppergrass insect pollinators.

Slickspot peppergrass habitat fragmentation within the action area is determined by shrub cover. The Amendment indicates that, according to vegetation maps generated by ground-truthed satellite imagery and HIP monitoring photos, native shrub cover in occupied habitat within the 10 oil, gas, and water pipeline ROWs can vary between 40 and over 90 percent. Although the level of shrub cover associated with occupied habitat varies from low to high, shrub cover would typically be low in the footprint of pipeline construction where significant ground disturbance and vegetation removal occurred during pipeline construction. Pipeline maintenance activities would not be expected to remove additional shrubs in undisturbed portions of the ROW.

Five years of HIP monitoring has documented slickspot biological soil crust cover to be from about 8 to 74 percent for EOs in the vicinity of the 10 pipeline ROWs. However, biological crust

cover is thought to have already been lost during construction of the pipelines. Crust cover recovery in the footprint of these pipelines is unlikely due to the extensive mixing of soil horizons associated with constructing the buried pipelines. Undisturbed portions of the ROWs that contain native vegetation are expected to contain higher biological soil crust cover levels, resulting in classification as moderate quality for this habitat parameter.

Two years of HIP monitoring indicate native forb cover from 0 to about 6 percent with the majority of values being less than 1 percent for EO areas in the vicinity of the 10 pipeline ROWs. As most ROWs are heavily overgrown with exotic annuals such as cheatgrass, native forb cover is classified in the Amendment as low quality.

Effects of the Action

Significant ground disturbance related to ongoing pipeline ROW authorizations has already occurred in the footprint of existing ROWs, including extensive mixing of soil layers associated with constructing underground pipelines, and disturbance of previously unimpacted slickspots is not anticipated. Continued presence of slickspots, individual slickspot peppergrass plants, and a seed bank is unlikely within the footprint of the pipelines. However, slickspot peppergrass and slickspot microsites may still exist within undisturbed portions of ROWs or nearby. If digging occurs during pipeline maintenance, dust may be generated that could affect the survival or reproduction of nearby slickspot peppergrass plants within or adjacent to the ROW although the potential effects of dust on individual plants are expected to be minor due to the infrequent and limited area of digging that typically occurs for pipeline maintenance. Pipeline maintenance digging may also move soil that could impact nearby slickspot microsites and slickspot peppergrass plants. However, impacts on adjacent native habitat areas from pipeline maintenance digging are expected to be minimal due to existing vegetation filtering sediment in the undisturbed portion of the ROWs. In addition, direct mechanical effects to individual plants and slickspot habitats would be avoided or minimized as vehicle travel associated with pipeline maintenance activities is restricted to designated roads and trails, and maintenance activities are restricted to within existing ROW boundaries. No additional shrubs are expected to be impacted by ongoing pipeline maintenance activities. However, noxious weeds and invasive exotic annuals could be disseminated and dispersed along existing ROWs by vehicles. In addition, travel along existing maintenance roads by both maintenance crews and the general public can increase wildfire potential as heat from vehicles can ignite fuels along roadsides, particularly in areas with high levels of cheatgrass. Based on 19 years of BLM fire history data, the incidence of wildfire ignitions related to operation and maintenance of the 10 pipeline ROWs is expected to be low, although there is a chance that wildfire ignitions may occur due to public use of these ROWs. Therefore, adverse effects from ongoing pipeline maintenance activities for the 10 pipeline ROW authorizations on individual slickspot peppergrass plants and slickspot microsites from wildfire and dispersal of noxious weeds and invasive exotic annuals are reasonably certain to occur. Effects associated with pipeline maintenance have been reduced, but not eliminated, by restricting vehicles to existing roads and trails and the expectation that no new ground disturbance on previously undisturbed sites is anticipated within the ROW.

Effects of Interrelated and Interdependent Activities

None are anticipated.

Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects include the effects of future State tribal, local, or private actions that are reasonably certain to occur within the action area considered in this Opinion. Future Federal actions that are unrelated to the proposed action are not considered in this section because they require separate consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act. Cumulative effects are generally similar for all of the actions considered in this Opinion. Livestock grazing and chemical treatments for weed or insect control that may directly or indirectly affect the slickspot peppergrass can occur on both State and private lands in the vicinity of the 10 ongoing oil, gas, and water pipeline ROW actions. Residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural development on private lands can affect slickspot peppergrass plants and habitat through habitat conversion, increased noxious and invasive weed invasions, increased OHV use, increased wildfire frequency, changes to insect pollinator populations, and increased habitat fragmentation. The Service recognizes that some actions on non-Federal lands may have adverse effects on the slickspot peppergrass at the individual or EO level. Non-Federal lands in the vicinity of the 10 oil, gas, and water pipeline ROWs may contain slickspot peppergrass. However, because only 2 percent (322 ac) of the total EO acreage rangewide occurs on non-Federal lands (Table 5), the Service expects that any cumulative effects occurring in the vicinity of the 10 ongoing oil, gas, and water pipeline ROWs actions considered herein are not likely to significantly alter habitat conditions for the slickspot peppergrass within the EOs affected by BLM actions.

Overview of Effects

Overall, the analysis of effects of the 10 ongoing oil, gas, and water pipeline ROW authorizations indicated that slickspot peppergrass habitat conditions may degrade over time under six of the eight habitat framework indicators. While some adverse impacts may occur, effects are expected to be localized. Existing conservation measures for prioritization of wildfire suppression and weed control near EOs reduce but do not eliminate localized effects from maintenance activities that could adversely affect slickspot peppergrass and its habitat. Habitat quality conditions within slickspot peppergrass occupied habitat in the ROWs are not expected to change with continued implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because there is a lack of documented fire ignitions associated with pipeline operation and maintenance over the past 19 years, only limited maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action areas, and BLM fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site into occupied habitat is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the potential spread of invasive nonnative plants caused by ground-disturbing maintenance activities. For the above reasons, these actions are not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action areas over the remaining term of the actions (3 more years to in perpetuity, depending on the individual ROW). Thus, these actions are compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the 10 pipeline ROW action areas.

5.2.1.2.2. Electric Power and Telephone Rights-of-Way

Description of the Action Area

Fifty-two ongoing electric power line and telephone ROWs located in the Boise District bisect 395 ac of occupied habitat for the slickspot peppergrass. The Amendment indicates that the action area used in this analysis includes occupied habitat for EOs inclusive of the slickspots, surrounding matrices, and 0.5-mi EO pollinator buffers within the action area in CCA MAs 1 and 2 in the Boise Foothills physiographic region, and CCA MAs 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 in the Snake River Plain physiographic region (BLM 2011, pp. A-3 through A-4, II-1 through II-2).

Description of the Action

There are 52 electric power and telephone line ROWs in the vicinity of occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat in the Boise District. Utility ROWs such as these comprise the majority of all Land and Realty actions in the Boise District, which correlates to the residential, commercial, and industrial development that has resulted from recent population growth in the Treasure Valley area. Where possible, these facilities are co-located along the same alignment and sometimes even on the same poles. Fiber optic cable installation has seen a recent resurgence because of computer and internet popularity. These lines are normally buried but are bundled so additional disturbance is avoided if expanded capacity is needed.

Power and telephone line maintenance occurs throughout the year. Wooden pole replacement, butt treatment, or supporting structure modifications need periodic attention. Lines (conductors), insulators, and anchors wear out, break, and are subject to periodic vandalism and need to be replaced or repaired as needed. Aerial reconnaissance crews and ground crews in pick-up trucks regularly inspect lines. When a problem is identified, work crews are dispatched to the site in either light or heavy trucks. Heavy trucks may include line trucks with a boom lift and trailer to transport poles. Work crews stay on designated roads and trails to gain access to the work site. The frequency of use is determined by the level of maintenance needed and whether vandalism is a chronic problem in a particular area.

If new line needs to be strung, the number of crews and vehicles on a project site would increase. Work on any particular line is only done when a problem is detected or up-grading is needed. Timeframes or time of year is not the controlling factor except for older poles and lines that are scheduled for replacement, upgrade, or repair. Expiration dates of the electric power and telephone ROW permits range from October 1, 2011 to authorized in perpetuity.

The 52 electric power and telephone ROWs located in the Boise District in the vicinity of occupied habitat are listed in Table 8 below.

Table 8. Ongoing electric power and telephone Rights-of-Way (ROW) actions located in the Boise District

Electric Power and Telephone Serial Number	Expiration Date	Conservation Value of ROW (High. Medium. Low) and EOs Associated with Occupied Habitat within the ROW	Slickspot Peppergrass Stipulations Included in the ROW? (Y/N)
IDBL-054046	Dec. 17, 2031	High EO 26	N
IDI-000334	Feb. 20, 2017	Medium EOs 24, 43	N
IDI-0008798	Dec. 31, 2037	High EO 26	N
IDI-0009155	Dec. 31, 2037	High EO 26	N
IDI-0013074	Sept. 12, 2012	Medium EOs 54, 72, 103, 104	N
IDI-0013236	Feb. 11, 2013	Medium EO 48	N
IDI-0013610	Jan. 23, 2013	Low EO 42	N
IDI-0015024	June 20, 2015	High EO 26	N
IDI-0015804	Dec. 3, 2014	Medium EOs 32, 48	N
IDI-0017143	May 19, 2016	Medium EOs 32, 49	N
IDI-002763	April 15, 2019	Medium EO 32	N
IDI-002890	June 10, 2019	Medium EO 18	N
IDI-005963	March 31, 2026	Medium EO 66	N
IDI-008875	Sept. 13, 2029	High EOs 31, 41, 67, 104	N
IDI-008913	Feb. 19, 2025	Low EO 43, 105	N
IDI-009195	Oct. 29, 2025	Medium EO 32	N

Electric Power and Telephone Serial Number	Expiration Date	Conservation Value of ROW (High. Medium. Low) and EOs Associated with Occupied Habitat within the ROW	Slickspot Peppergrass Stipulations Included in the ROW? (Y/N)
IDI-009280	Oct. 19, 2026	Low EO 19	N
IDI-009759	Dec. 31, 2038	High EO 26	N
IDI-014146	Dec. 31, 2037	Medium EO 29	N
IDI-014749*	In perpetuity	High EOs 20, 26, 51	N
IDI-014749-03*	In perpetuity	Medium EOs 48, 54, 72, 102, 104	Y
IDI-014868	Sept. 29, 2031	High EOs 8, 26, 29, 30	N
IDI-016256	In perpetuity	Low EO 10	N
IDI-016259	In perpetuity	Medium EO 18	N
IDI-020025	July 8, 2012	High EOs 8, 26	N
IDI-020829	In perpetuity	Medium EO 29	N
IDI-020976	Feb. 18, 2035	High EOs 52, 76	N
IDI-023966	Sept. 14, 2017	Medium EO 104	N
IDI-025555	April 24, 2018	High EO 76	N
IDI-025639	March 14, 2018	High EO 30	N
IDI-025910	March 23, 2019	High EO 76	N
IDI-026291	Jan. 24, 2019	High EOs 8, 26, 29, 54, 60	N
IDI-026346	Nov. 14, 2013	High EOs 27, 53	N

Electric Power and Telephone Serial Number	Expiration Date	Conservation Value of ROW (High. Medium. Low) and EOs Associated with Occupied Habitat within the ROW	Slickspot Peppergrass Stipulations Included in the ROW? (Y/N)
IDI-026724	July 31, 2019	Medium EO 68	N
IDI-027555	July 9, 2020	High EO 70	N
IDI-028090	Feb. 11, 2021	Medium EOs 24, 43	N
IDI-029176	July 28, 2012	High EOs 15, 20, 30	N
IDI-030911	Dec. 11, 2014	Low EO 15	N
IDI-031196	July 16, 2025	High EO 76	N
IDI-033074	March 23, 2020	High EOs 20, 30	N
IDI-033767	Oct. 1, 2011	High EOs 15, 20, 29, 30	N
IDI-033797	Oct. 23, 2011	Medium EO 29	N
IDI-034001	April 18, 2012	Medium EO 68	N
IDI-034014	Jan. 8, 2033	Medium EOs 24, 43	N
IDI-034098	Oct. 9, 2022	High EO 76	N
IDI-035510	Dec. 31, 2015	High EOs 15, 20, 30	N
IDI-035651	Dec. 31, 2025	Medium EO 104	Y
IDI-036023	Dec. 31, 2037	Medium EOs 72 and 104	N
IDI-056096	Sept. 13, 2029	Medium EO 31	N
IDI-026986	Feb.13, 2020	High EO 76	N

Electric Power and Telephone Serial Number	Expiration Date	Conservation Value of ROW (High. Medium. Low) and EOs Associated with Occupied Habitat within the ROW	Slickspot Peppergrass Stipulations Included in the ROW? (Y/N)
IDI-032508	Dec. 31, 2028	Medium EOs 32, 66	N
IDI-0013808	April 1, 2013	High EO 26	N

*No LEPA conservation stipulations are specified as terms and conditions of the authorization, but successful rehabilitation of disturbance by seeding and treatment of noxious weeds within disturbance areas were stated as terms and conditions of these ROWs.

Terms and Conditions

ROW IDI-35651, which is granted to Idaho Power Company for a stub line or customer service line, has associated terms and conditions or conservation measures from the 2003 CCA and 2006 CA. No specific terms and conditions or conservation measures for slickspot peppergrass are attached to any other ROW listed above. However, realty-related conservation measures from the 2003 CCA and 2006 CA could be applied if and when the ROWs are renewed, amended, or assigned. Terms and conditions or conservation measures attached to ROW IDI-35651, which includes about 4 ac of occupied habitat, are as follows:

- The holder is responsible for controlling noxious weeds that result or would result from construction or maintenance of their ROW. Before construction or maintenance equipment moves into the ROW area, the equipment shall be cleaned off using power or high-pressure cleaning to remove all mud, dirt, and plant parts. During the term of the grant, whenever known noxious weeds are observed along the ROW, the holder shall spray such weeds with an herbicide approved by the Authorized Officer. The spraying shall be done during recommended periods, using the prescribed type and quantities of spray recommended by the chemical manufacturer. The holder shall follow the prescribed application methods required by State and local authorities.
- All slickspots shall be encircled by flagging on the ground prior to the commencement of any construction activity. At no time shall construction crews encroach upon these locations during power line installation activities either by walking or driving of vehicles.
- All attempts shall be made to minimize damage to existing vegetation with special emphasis on the shrub overstory.
- If rehabilitation is necessary, the holder shall first smooth all disturbed areas then broadcast seed and harrow a 10.5 pound per acre (lb/ac) seed mixture approved by the Authorized Officer. The seed mixture required for all rehabilitation shall consist of fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) (0.5 lb/ac.), Hycrest crested wheatgrass (6 lbs/ac), Sandburg bluegrass (2 lbs/ac), and Bozoisky Russian wildrye (2 lbs/ac) pure live seed. Seeding shall be completed in the fall (between October 15 and November 30) in the year surface disturbance activities occur. If in the opinion of the Authorized Officer, the seeding has been determined to be unsuccessful, additional seedings as specified shall occur until final approval of the rehabilitation is accepted.

ROW IDI-14749-03, which is granted to Idaho Power, has associated terms and conditions or conservation measures that provide for conservation of the species as detailed below:

- Specific sites as identified by the authorized officer (e.g., archaeological sites, areas with threatened or endangered species, or fragile watersheds) where construction equipment and vehicles shall not be allowed, shall be clearly marked onsite by the holder before any construction or surface disturbing activities begin. The holder shall be responsible for assuring that construction personnel are well trained to recognize these markers and understand the equipment movement restrictions involved.

For additional details on the project description for the 52 ongoing Boise District electric power and telephone ROWs, see the Amendment (BLM 2011, pp. II-1 through II-3).

Environmental Baseline

Status of the Species in the Action Area

The 52 ongoing electric power and telephone ROWs contain occupied habitat associated with multiple EOs in CCA MAs 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, which have applicable HIP monitoring data available. These ROWs bisect both the Boise Foothills and Snake River Plain physiographic regions. The INHP has classified EOs associated with the electric power and telephone ROWs as B-, BC-, C-, D-, and F-ranked.

Occupied habitat for 33 EOs is located partially within the boundaries of the 52 electric power and telephone ROWs. The electric power and telephone ROWs bisect 13 of these 33 EOs; the total bisected area of these 13 EOs encompasses a total of approximately 31 ac, which constitutes about 0.2 percent of the total acreage of EOs located on Federal lands. The 52 electric power and telephone ROWs also encompass an additional 364 ac (about 0.03 percent of the total occupied habitat acreage on Federal lands) of 0.5 mile pollinator buffers that surround the 33 EOs. The acreage of individual EOs bisected by electric power and telephone ROWs ranges from about 0.06 ac in F-ranked EO 42 to about 21 ac in C-ranked EO 32. Eight of the 13 EOs bisected by electric power and telephone ROWs (B-ranked EOs 26 and 27; C-ranked EOs 29, 66, 72, and 104; and F-ranked EOs 42 and 49) contain less than 1 ac of existing electric power and telephone ROW area. In contrast, two of the 13 EOs bisected by electric power and telephone ROWs (B-ranked EO 30 and C-ranked EO 32) contain between 10 and 21 ac of existing electric power and telephone ROW area. Of the eight MAs that contain electric power and telephone ROWs, MA 10 contains the highest acreage of electric power and telephone ROWs (about 100 ac), with MAs 2 and 5 containing the lowest acreage of electric power and telephone ROWs (about 0.1 ac and 1.4 ac, respectively).

Factors Affecting the Species in the Action Area

Threats to slickspot peppergrass in the vicinity of the 52 electric power and telephone ROWs include wildfire, invasive nonnative plants, fire rehabilitation activities, herbicide and pesticide use, development, military training, and livestock use. The majority of damage to slickspot microsites within the existing ROWs occurred with ground disturbance and associated structure placement during construction. Significant ground disturbance has already occurred in the footprint of electric power and telephone structures and associated access roads, making the continued presence of slickspots, individual slickspot peppergrass plants, and seed banks unlikely within highly disturbed areas in the ROW construction footprints. However, other areas

within the electric power and telephone ROWs are relatively undisturbed, and in some cases are known to contain both slickspot microsites and slickspot peppergrass plants. Disturbance to previously undisturbed slickspots in localized areas may occur during maintenance activities.

Much of the area has been fragmented by wildfire, with pockets of shrubs in both potential and occupied habitat within the action area. Some level of sagebrush overstory is present in all areas. Understory vegetation consists of low perennial forb cover and high cheatgrass cover (Colket 2009, pp. 86–322).

Power transmission lines are a common source of ignition of wildfires (InterFire Online website, last accessed February 18, 2011). The ways in which power lines can start fires that are applicable to the ROW action areas include:

- Electrical transformer malfunction or explosion, dropping flaming, sparking, or hot material onto fuels.
- Animals short-circuiting the power line, then falling to the ground and spreading flame to fuels.
- Fallen wires from wind or storm damage spark and ignite fuels.
- Arcing between conductors brought into accidental contact by high winds. When combustible vegetation comes in contact with the arcing, a fire can ignite.

With tens of thousands of miles of transmission and distribution lines on wildlands, the risk of ignition of a wildfire is considerable and the effort to meet this risk and prevent wildfires from utility line ignition is substantial (InterFire Online website, last accessed February 18, 2011). Although power line related ignitions are relatively infrequent compared to other human caused fires, these fires tend to be larger and more difficult to control. The underlying mechanism that explains this difference seems to be that power line fire ignitions are more likely to occur under high wind conditions (Mitchell 2009, pp.1–2). Fire spread is also more rapid during high wind conditions, making the probability of successful suppression of power line ignited fires during windy conditions lower.

BLM fire records between 1980 and 2009 have only shown a single fire totaling 13 acres in occupied habitat for the slickspot peppergrass that has resulted from a BLM electrical power line ROW authorization. This fire was allegedly caused by the de-lamination of a power pole cross-arm (which fire investigators attribute to lack of maintenance). Despite this single instance, the maintenance and operation of power transmission lines have a demonstrated record of precluding (to the extent possible) the disturbance of occupied habitat through the ignition of fires outside of naturally occurring events beyond the control of BLM or the ROW holder.

Travel along existing maintenance roads by both maintenance crews and the general public can also increase wildfire potential as heat from vehicles can ignite fuels within two-track roads and along roadsides, particularly in areas with high cheatgrass cover. However, based on past BLM fire history data (BLM 2011, pp. A-1 through A-2), the incidence of wildfire ignitions related to operation and maintenance of the 52 electric power and telephone ROWs and public use of associated ROW access roads is expected to be relatively low.

HIP slickspot monitoring data for EOs within in the vicinity of the electric power and telephone ROWs, document invasive nonnative plant cover that ranges from less than 1 to about 58 percent, with little over half of the data points exhibiting less than 10 percent invasive species

cover. In addition, Scotch thistle has been documented in the vicinity of EOs 68, 70, and 26. Diffuse knapweed has been documented in the vicinity of EOs 68 and 70. Canada thistle has been documented in the vicinity of EO 48, and rush skeletonweed has been documented in the vicinity of EO 30. Overall, habitat quality within the electric power and telephone ROWs is ranked as moderate quality due to the presence of noxious weeds near some EOs and high cheatgrass cover in the understory.

Slickspot peppergrass habitat fragmentation within the action area is determined by shrub cover. The Amendment indicates that, according to vegetation maps generated by ground-truthed satellite imagery and HIP monitoring photos, native shrub cover in occupied habitat within the 52 electric power and telephone ROWs can vary between a low of less than 5 percent (parts of occupied habitat associated with EO 24) to over 90 percent (EO 27). Although the level of shrub cover associated with occupied habitat varies from low to high, shrub cover would typically be low in the immediate area of electric power and telephone line structures where significant ground disturbance and vegetation removal occurred during construction. Electric power and telephone structure maintenance activities would not be expected to remove additional shrubs in undisturbed portions of the ROW.

Five years of HIP monitoring have documented percent biological soil crust cover from 5 to about 76 percent within slickspots in EOs in the vicinity of the 52 electric power and telephone ROWs. However, loss of biological crust cover is thought to have already occurred during construction of the electric power and telephone structures and access roads. Crust recovery in the footprint of these structures is unlikely due to the level of ground disturbance associated with construction. However, undisturbed portions of the ROWs that contain native vegetation are expected to contain higher percentages of biological soil crust cover, resulting in moderate quality classification for this habitat parameter.

Two years of available HIP monitoring of EOs in the vicinity of the 52 electric power and telephone ROWs have documented native forb cover from 0 to about 7 percent, with half of values being below 1 percent cover. However, as most ROWs are heavily overgrown with exotic annuals such as cheatgrass, native forb cover is classified in the Amendment as low quality.

Effects of the Action

Significant ground disturbance has already occurred in the footprint of existing ROWs, including permanent loss of slickspot microsites, associated with construction of structures and access roads for the 52 ongoing electric power and telephone ROW authorizations. As construction of the 52 electric power and telephone structures has already occurred, potential effects of the action are limited to effects associated with ongoing maintenance activities. However, slickspot peppergrass and slickspot microsites exist within undisturbed portions of ROWs or nearby, and some EOs are below or immediately adjacent to electric power and telephone line ROWs. Direct mechanical effects to individual plants and slickspot microsites caused by maintenance activities and vehicle access in the ROWs have been minimized by restricting vehicle travel to designated roads and trails and restricting maintenance activities to existing ROWs. However, soil disturbance may occur when repairing or replacing damaged power poles. These maintenance activities may occur at any time of the year, including when soils are wet, so some direct effects to individual slickspot peppergrass plants and slickspot microsite soils in localized areas are likely to occur. In addition, digging associated with pole replacement maintenance activities may

generate dust that could affect the survival or reproduction of nearby slickspot peppergrass plants within or adjacent to ROWs, although the potential effects from dust on individual plants are expected to be minor. Pole replacement digging may also move soil, which could impact nearby slickspot microsites and slickspot peppergrass. However, impacts from soil movement associated with ground disturbance are expected to be minimal because existing vegetation is able to filter sediment in the undisturbed portion of the ROWs. Few shrubs are expected to be removed during ongoing power or telephone line maintenance activities. However, vehicles could disseminate and disperse noxious weeds and invasive nonnative annual plants along existing ROWs. Travel along existing maintenance roads by both maintenance crews and the general public also increases the potential for fire, as heat from vehicles can ignite fuels along roadsides, particularly in areas with high levels of cheatgrass.

Fires ignited during high wind conditions in remote ROW areas would likely spread over a substantial area before firefighters could arrive and begin suppression activities. Ignition of large rangeland wildfires increases the risk of slickspot peppergrass EOs burning and contributes to the subsequent spread and increased abundance of invasive nonnative plants such as cheatgrass. As both wildfire and invasive nonnative plants are the primary threats to the slickspot peppergrass, significant adverse effects to existing sagebrush steppe habitat and the slickspot peppergrass can occur if a wildfire is ignited from arcing during high wind conditions. Therefore, the operation of electric power lines within power line ROWs has the potential to adversely affect the slickspot peppergrass due to the risk of power line-related wildfire ignitions, although based on 19 years of fire history data, the incidence of wildfire ignitions related to operation and maintenance of the 52 electric power and telephone ROWs is expected to be low. There is also a chance that wildfire ignitions may occur due to public use of these ROWs. The Amendment indicates that electric power and telephone ROWs may serve to reduce threats to the species as two-track maintenance roads and bare soil areas associated with line structures may act as fuel breaks, potentially limiting the spread of wildfire and subsequent spread of weeds. Maintenance roads may also provide access for fire suppression activities. However, localized adverse effects associated with maintenance activities in the 52 electric power and telephone ROWs are still likely to occur.

Therefore, localized effects from ongoing electric power and telephone maintenance activities for the 52 ongoing electric power and telephone ROW authorizations on individual slickspot peppergrass plants and slickspot microsites due to wildfire and dispersal of noxious weeds and invasive nonnative annual plants are reasonably certain to occur. Adverse effects associated with electric power and telephone structure maintenance have been reduced, but not eliminated, by restricting vehicles to existing roads and trails and the expectation that no new ground disturbance on previously undisturbed site is anticipated within the ROW. In addition, conservation measures have been incorporated in a recent ROW authorization that includes about 7 ac (about 2 percent) of the 395 ac of occupied habitat within the electric power and telephone ROW authorizations.

Effects of Interrelated and Interdependent Activities

None are anticipated.

Cumulative Effects

See discussion on pages 61–62 under oil, gas, and water pipeline ROWs section.

Overview of Effects

Overall, the analysis of effects of the 52 electric power and telephone ROW authorizations indicated that slickspot peppergrass habitat conditions may degrade over time under six of the eight framework indicators. While some adverse impacts may occur, the majority of effects are expected to be localized. Existing conservation measures for prioritization of wildfire suppression and weed control near EOs reduce but not eliminate localized effects from maintenance activities that could adversely affect slickspot peppergrass and its habitat. Habitat quality within slickspot peppergrass-occupied habitat in the ROW is not expected to change with continued line operation and maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only limited maintenance is likely to occur within the ROW action areas and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of maintenance related fire starts that would burn off-site is considered low. While there is a risk of fire ignitions from power line operations that could result in a large wildfire, conservation measures reduce the probability of this occurring. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of invasive nonnative plants caused by ground-disturbing ROW maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced in some ROWs by either the small area of EOs bisected by the existing ROWs (only 31 ac total across the range of the species), the short term of some of the actions (less than 10 more years), or both. For the above reasons, these electric and telephone line ROW actions are not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action areas over the remaining term of the actions (1 year to authorized in perpetuity). Thus, these actions are compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the 52 individual electric power and telephone line ROW action areas.

5.2.1.2.3. Road Rights-of-Way

Description of the Action Area

Thirty-three ongoing road ROWs are located in the Boise District bisect approximately 755 ac of occupied habitat for the slickspot peppergrass. The Assessment indicates that the action area used in this analysis includes occupied habitat for EOs inclusive of the slickspots, surrounding matrices, and 0.5-mi EO pollinator buffers within the action area in CCA MA 1 and 2 in the Boise Foothills physiographic region and CCA MAs 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 in the Snake River Plain physiographic region (BLM 2011, pp. A-3 through A-4, VII-1 through VII-2).

Description of the Action

There are 33 road ROWs in the vicinity of occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat in the Boise District. The intensity of road maintenance activities depends on the type of road in question (dirt, graveled, paved, crowned, in-sloped, out-sloped, and others). For example, dirt two-track roads receive infrequent and less intense maintenance such as periodic spot grading to keep the surface passable. More developed dirt roads may have waterbars, ditches, and barrow areas that require periodic grading to mitigate effects from wind and water erosion and remove unwanted vegetation. Some road barrow areas are graded annually, others are graded as-needed or every 3

to 4 years. The type and anticipated frequency of maintenance would be defined in the grant stipulations or State/County requirements (State law/county ordinance) for construction.

Gravel road surfaces are graded annually for safety. New gravel may be added in places where it has been worn away. This work is typically done in the spring with a rubber tired grader while the soil is still moist. Moist soil helps reduce dust and provide a malleable road surface that will pack down when graded. Paved roads can be maintained anytime, but are normally chip-sealed during the summer so the tars used do not cool too quickly and become difficult to be spread or be worked in with a roller. Support vehicles are typically dump trucks, pickups, and the special machines used to lay the gravel chips. Upon completion, depending on the kind of road, the center line would be repainted for traffic separation.

Ancillary road facilities include culverts, concrete gutters, guard rails, and signage. These would be added post-construction and be cleaned or replaced as-needed to ensure maximum public safety. This work is done mostly by hand, but a rubber-tired backhoe is occasionally needed to accomplish certain tasks. Expiration dates of the ROW permits range from May 4, 2012, to authorized in perpetuity.

The 33 road ROWs in the vicinity of occupied habitat in the Boise District are listed in Table 9. Ongoing road ROW IDI-026348 is also addressed in the military training section of this Opinion.

Table 9. Ongoing road Rights-of-Way (ROW) actions located on the Boise District

Road Serial Number	Expiration Date	Conservation Value of ROW (High. Medium. Low) and EOs Associated with Occupied Habitat within the ROW	Slickspot Peppergrass Stipulations Included in the ROW? (Y/N)	Road Surface (Paved, Graveled, or Soil)
IDI-028281 (also a communications site)	Oct. 9, 2012	High EO 70	N	Graveled
IDBL-0049316	In perpetuity	Medium to High EO 70	N	Paved
IDBL-0053630	In perpetuity	Medium EOs 10, 61	N	Paved
IDBL-0054134	In perpetuity	Medium EO 61	N	Paved
IDI-001416	In perpetuity	Medium EO 29	N	Paved
IDI-013933	Dec. 31, 2036	Medium EOs 18, 25	N	Graveled
IDI-020029	In perpetuity	High EOs 8, 10, 26, 61	N	Paved and Graveled
IDI-020038	In perpetuity	High EO 18,19, 24, 25, 27, 32, 43, 52	N	Paved and Graveled
IDI-020042	April 14, 2013	High EO 26	N	Soil
IDI-021406	May 5, 2016	High EO 51	N	Paved and Graveled
IDI-026348 (also in OTA)	Nov. 14, 2013	High EO 27	N	Graveled
IDI-028879	July 25, 2023	High EO 76	N	Soil
IDI-029438	July 16, 2013	High EOs 27, 53	N	Graveled
IDI-030340	August 30, 2024	High EO 30	N	Soil
IDI-030639	Oct. 5, 2014	Low EO 15	N	Graveled

Road Serial Number	Expiration Date	Conservation Value of ROW (High. Medium. Low) and EOs Associated with Occupied Habitat within the ROW	Slickspot Peppergrass Stipulations Included in the ROW? (Y/N)	Road Surface (Paved, Graveled, or Soil)
IDI-30643	Aug. 4, 2014	High EO 30	N	Graveled
IDI-033012	Dec. 31, 2036	Low EO 60	N[1]	Graveled
IDI-033796	July 17, 2031	Medium EO 48	N	Paved
IDI-034811	May 22, 2025	Medium EO 21	N*	Paved
IDI-034871	Nov.14, 2034	Medium EOs 32, 102	N*	Paved
IDI-035108	Dec. 31, 2024	High EO 30	N*	Graveled
IDI-035121	Dec. 31, 2015	High EO 30	N[1]	Graveled
IDI-035367	Dec, 31, 2035	High EOs 20, 30	N*	Paved
IDI-0000759	In perpetuity	High EOs 15, 20, 30	N	Paved
IDI-0007111	In perpetuity	High EO 76	N	Paved
IDI-0009669	In perpetuity	Medium EO 68	N	Paved
IDI-0010280	In perpetuity	Low EO 15	N[2]	Paved
IDI-009494	In perpetuity	Medium EO 21	N	Graveled
IDI-021406A	May 5, 2016	High EOs 51, 20	N	Graveled
IDI-014749 02	In perpetuity	Medium EO 104	N	Graveled
IDI-020004	May 4, 2012	Medium EO 52	N	Paved
IDI-020716	In perpetuity	Medium EO 66	N	Soil

Road Serial Number	Expiration Date	Conservation Value of ROW (High. Medium. Low) and EOs Associated with Occupied Habitat within the ROW	Slickspot Peppergrass Stipulations Included in the ROW? (Y/N)	Road Surface (Paved, Graveled, or Soil)
IDI-035898	Dec. 31, 2036	Medium EO 20	N	Paved

*No LEPA conservation stipulations are specified as terms and conditions of the authorizations, but successful rehabilitation of disturbance by seeding, control of fires, vehicle washing prior to access, and treatment of noxious weeds within disturbance areas were stated as terms and conditions of these ROWs.

[1] No LEPA conservation stipulations are specified as terms and conditions of the authorization, but successful rehabilitation of disturbance by seeding, control of fires, and treatment of noxious weeds within disturbance areas were stated as terms and conditions of this ROW.

[2] No LEPA conservation stipulations area specified as terms and conditions of the authorization, but control of fires was included as a term and condition of this ROW.

For additional details on the project description for the 33 ongoing Boise District road ROWs, see the Amendment (BLM 2011, pp. VII-1 through VII-2).

Environmental Baseline

Status of the Species in the Action Area

The 33 ongoing road ROWs contain occupied habitat associated with multiple EOs in CCA MAs 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, which have applicable HIP monitoring data available. These ROWs bisect both the Boise Foothills and Snake River Plain physiographic regions. The INHP has classified EOs associated with the road ROWs as B-, C-, and D-ranked.

About 772 ac of occupied habitat for multiple EOs is located within the boundaries of the 33 road ROWs. The acreage of occupied habitat associated with each ROW ranges from less than 1 ac to about 134 ac, with 21 of the 33 road ROWs containing less than 10 ac of occupied habitat.

Occupied habitat for 27 EOs is located partially within the boundaries of the 33 road ROWs. The road ROWs bisect 11 of the 27 EOs; these 11 EOs encompass a total area of approximately 69 ac, which constitutes about 0.5 percent of the total acreage of EOs located on Federal lands. The 33 road ROWs also encompass an additional 686 ac of 0.5 mile pollinator buffers that surround the 27 EOs (about 0.07 percent of the total occupied habitat acreage on Federal lands). The acreage of individual EOs bisected by road ROWs ranges from about 0.01 ac in BC-ranked EO 51 to about 20 ac in B-ranked EO 27. Four of the 11 EOs bisected by road ROWs (B-ranked EO 26; BC-ranked EO 51, and C-ranked EOs 20 and 104) contain less than 1 ac of existing road ROWs area. In contrast, three of the 11 EOs bisected by road ROWs (B-ranked EOs 8 and 27 and C-ranked EO 18) contain between 10 and 20 ac of existing road ROW area. Of the eight MAs that contain road ROWs, MA 8 contains the highest acreage within road ROWs (about 177 ac), with MA 2 containing the lowest acreage of road ROWs (about 3 ac).

Factors Affecting the Species in the Action Area

Threats to slickspot peppergrass in the vicinity of the 33 road ROWs include wildfire, invasive nonnative plants, fire rehabilitation activities, herbicide and pesticide use, development, military

training, and livestock use. Continued presence of slickspot peppergrass plants and slickspot microsites in roadways depends on the type of road in question (dirt, graveled, paved, crowned, in-sloped, out-sloped, and other types). For example, dirt two-track roads may have slickspots and slickspot peppergrass plants located between the tracks, while graveled or paved roads have no slickspot microsites or plants remaining in the roadway. Damage to slickspots associated with construction of paved or graveled roads within the ROWs has already occurred and disturbance to additional slickspot areas is not anticipated. However, other areas within the paved or graveled road ROWs are relatively undisturbed and in some cases contain both slickspot microsites and slickspot peppergrass plants. In addition, infrequent maintenance on two-track roads has an increased risk of localized direct mechanical impacts on individual plants, the seed bank, or slickspot microsites compared to graveled or paved roads. However, only four road ROWs that bisect occupied habitat for the slickspot peppergrass have soil surface (potentially two-track roads), and only one of these bisects an EO (IDI-030340, which bisects less than 1 ac of EO 30).

Much of the area has been fragmented by wildfire, with pockets of shrubs in both potential and occupied habitat within the action area. Some level of sagebrush overstory is present in all areas. Understory vegetation consists of low levels of perennial forbs and high levels of cheatgrass (Colket 2009, pp. 86–322). No road maintenance-related fires have been documented to have ignited and subsequently spread outside of these ROW areas between 1980 and 2009 (BLM 2011, p. A-1 through A-2). Based on BLM fire history data, the incidence of wildfire ignitions related to maintenance of the 33 road ROWs is expected to be low, although there remains an overall moderate risk of wildfire ignitions due to public use of these road ROWs.

Some individual ROWs, such as I-84, have a high risk of fire ignition due to vehicle fires and disposal of cigarettes. High numbers of fires have ignited within the I-84 ROW; however, BLM is working with the Idaho Department of Transportation on the maintenance and improvement of fuel breaks to preclude the spread of fire from I-84 onto adjacent rangelands.

HIP monitoring data for EOs within the vicinity of the road ROWs document invasive nonnative plant cover that ranges from less than 1 percent to about 82 percent, with almost three quarters of the data points exhibiting less than 10 percent invasive species cover within slickspots. In addition, Scotch thistle has been documented in the vicinity of EOs 26, 68, and 70. Diffuse knapweed has been documented in the vicinity of EOs 68 and 70. Canada thistle has been documented in the vicinity of EO 48, and rush skeletonweed has been documented in the vicinity of EOs 20 and 30.

Slickspot peppergrass habitat fragmentation within the action area is determined by shrub cover. The Amendment indicates that, according to vegetation maps generated by ground-truthed satellite imagery and HIP monitoring photos, native shrub cover in occupied habitat within the 33 road ROWs can vary between a low of less than 5 percent (parts of occupied habitat associated with EO 24) to over 90 percent (that portion of EO 27 that was previously EO 71). Although the level of shrub cover associated with occupied habitat varies from low to high, shrub cover would typically be low in the footprint of more developed roads where significant ground disturbance and vegetation removal occurred during construction. As road prisms have previously been established, road maintenance activities would not be expected to remove additional shrubs in undisturbed portions of the ROW.

Five years of HIP monitoring has documented biological soil crust cover from about 2 percent to about 78 percent within slickspots for EOs in the vicinity of the 33 road ROWs. Seventy of the 85 data points (82 percent) for EOs in the vicinity of the 33 road ROWs documented biological soil crust cover greater than 20 percent. Greater than 20 percent biological soil crust cover is considered a characteristic of high quality slickspot peppergrass habitat. However, loss of biological crust cover is thought to have already occurred within road ROWs during road construction. Crust recovery, particularly near more developed roads, is unlikely since habitat has been lost. Undisturbed portions of the ROWs that contain native vegetation are expected to contain higher percentages of biological soil crust cover, resulting in a classification of moderate quality for this habitat parameter as described in the Amendment.

Two years of available HIP monitoring of vegetation in EOs in the vicinity of the 33 road ROWs has documented native forb cover from 0 percent to about 15 percent, with about three-quarters of the values documented as below 1 percent cover. Habitat quality based on the percent cover of native forbs is categorized as low in the Amendment.

Effects of the Action

Significant ground disturbance associated with construction of roads within the 33 ongoing road ROW authorizations has already occurred, including the permanent loss of slickspot microsites. As construction of the 33 roads has already occurred, potential effects of the action are limited to effects associated with ongoing use and maintenance activities. However, slickspot peppergrass, native forbs, biological soil crust, and slickspot microsites exist within undisturbed portions of ROWs or nearby, and some EOs are located immediately adjacent to road ROWs. Direct mechanical effects to individual plants, native forbs, biological soil crust, and slickspot microsites caused by maintenance activities and vehicle access in the ROWs have been minimized as maintenance activities occur within previously disturbed areas of the ROWs. Ground-disturbing activities such as grading and spot blading may generate dust that could affect the survival or reproduction of nearby slickspot peppergrass plants and native forbs within or adjacent to the ROW, although the potential effects of dust on individual plants are expected to be localized and minor. In addition, soil disturbance may occur associated with maintenance activities such as infrequent spot blading. Road maintenance activities may also result in moving some soil, which could impact nearby slickspot microsites and slickspot peppergrass if disturbed soils subsequently are transported into slickspots. Soil disturbance associated with spot blading may negatively impact slickspot soils, the seed bank, or individual plants located within the ROWs, particularly on two-track roads. However, effects to individual plants and slickspots from ground disturbance on ROWs containing two-track roads will be minimal as spot blading on a dirt surface road will be limited to a very localized area (less than 1 acre) within the boundary of a single EO (EO 30) as the vast majority of road ROWs are currently paved or graveled. In addition, impacts from soil movement associated with ground disturbance are expected to be localized due to existing vegetation filtering sediment in the undisturbed portion of the ROWs. Habitat fragmentation from shrub removal is not anticipated to occur as ongoing road maintenance activities will primarily occur within previously disturbed areas.

Graded roads may act as fuel breaks, potentially limiting spread of wildfire and subsequent spread of invasive nonnative plants that occurs subsequent to fires, which may benefit the slickspot peppergrass. Road maintenance activities can decrease the potential for wildfire starts

due to the temporary removal of road-side vegetation and fuels that could be ignited by vehicles. Maintained roads may also expedite access by fire crews for fire suppression activities. In contrast, road maintenance activities and travel along existing roads by both maintenance crews and the general public can increase the potential for fire ignitions. Heat from vehicles or sparks created by equipment striking rocks can ignite fine fuels along roadsides, particularly in areas with high cheatgrass cover. However, 19 years of BLM fire history data do not show evidence of fire ignitions related to road ROW maintenance, so the risk of fire ignitions from maintenance of the 33 road ROWs is expected to be low. There remains a moderate risk of wildfire ignitions due to operations/public use of these road ROWs.

Roadways also serve as dispersal corridors for invasive nonnative plants such as cheatgrass and noxious weeds, which may be transported by maintenance equipment or vehicles used by the public or the ROW permittee. In addition, ground disturbance associated with road maintenance activities may provide a seed bed for the establishment of invasive nonnative plants. Conservation measures requiring the control of noxious weeds minimize, but not eliminate, the adverse effects to the slickspot peppergrass from the introduction and spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ongoing road ROWs.

In summary, road maintenance may serve to reduce threats to the species as graded roads may act as fuel breaks, potentially limiting spread of wildfire and the spread of invasive nonnative plants that occurs subsequent to fires. Road maintenance activities can decrease the potential for wildfire starts due to the temporary removal of road-side vegetation and fuels that could be ignited by vehicles. Maintained roads may also expedite access for fire suppression activities. However, some localized adverse effects associated with ongoing maintenance and ROW use are expected to occur. Maintenance activities and travel along existing roads by both maintenance crews and the general public increases the potential for fire ignitions as hot equipment and vehicles can ignite fine fuels along roadsides. Ongoing use and maintenance of road ROWs also may contribute to the establishment and spread of invasive nonnative plants. In addition, localized adverse impacts on slickspot microsites, individual slickspot peppergrass plants, or seeds related to ground disturbance may occur within road ROW IDI-030340 when the two-track road associated with this ROW is bladed. Therefore, effects from ongoing maintenance activities for the 33 road ROW authorizations on individual slickspot peppergrass plants and slickspot microsites due to maintenance-related mechanical damage and soil disturbance, wildfire ignitions, and dispersal of noxious weeds and invasive nonnative annual plants are reasonably certain to occur. Adverse effects associated with road maintenance in all road ROWs are reduced by CCA conservation measures prioritizing fire suppression and weed control near EOs. In addition, slickspot peppergrass conservation measures have been incorporated into three recent ROW authorizations, including requirements to control noxious weeds. These three ROW authorizations include about 6 ac (less than 1 percent) of the 755 total acres of occupied habitat within the ongoing road ROW authorizations.

Effects of Interrelated and Interdependent Activities

None are anticipated.

Cumulative Effects

See discussion on pages 61–62 under oil, gas, and water pipeline ROWs section.

Overview of Effects

Overall, the analysis of effects of the 33 road ROW authorizations indicated that slickspot peppergrass habitat conditions may degrade over time under four of the eight habitat framework indicators. While some adverse impacts may occur, effects are expected to be localized. Existing conservation measures for prioritization of wildfire suppression and weed control near EOs reduce but do not eliminate localized effects from maintenance activities that could adversely affect slickspot peppergrass and its habitat. Habitat quality conditions within slickspot peppergrass occupied habitat in the ROWs are not expected to change with continued implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action areas, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of maintenance-related fire starts that would burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the roads increases the risk of fire ignitions and the chance of introduction of invasive nonnative plants, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the slickspot peppergrass. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with road maintenance activities. Impact risk is also reduced in some ROWs by either the small area of EOs bisected by some road ROWs (less than 1 ac), the short term of some of the actions (less than 10 more years), or both. For the above reasons, these road ROW actions are not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action areas over the remaining term of the actions (1 more year to authorized in perpetuity). Thus, these actions are compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the 33 individual road ROW action areas.

5.2.1.2.4. Communication Site Rights-of-Way

Description of the Action Area

Four ongoing communication site ROWs are located in the Boise District, encompassing approximately 7 ac of occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat. The Assessment indicates that the action area used in this analysis includes occupied habitat for EOs inclusive of any remaining slickspots, surrounding matrices, and 0.5-mi EO buffer within the action area in CCA MA 1 in the Boise Foothills physiographic region and in CCA MAs 7 and 10 in the Snake River Plain physiographic region (BLM 2011, pp. A-3 through A-4, I-1).

Description of the Action

Four communication site ROWs in the Boise District bisect occupied habitat for the slickspot peppergrass. Communication sites are designated for transmitting and receiving communication signals from towers. These sites require access to the towers and normally have a building to house the electrical equipment, a power source, and an antenna mounted to the tower for broadcasting. Minimal activity normally occurs at these sites during the year; typically, only two to three visits are needed annually. Most communication problems are corrected remotely from stations in urban areas using microwave or radio links. Site access is by all-wheel drive vehicles

the size of an average pick-up truck on existing roads. Expiration dates of the ROW permits range from August 11, 2012 to authorized in perpetuity.

The four communication site ROWs in the vicinity of occupied habitat in the Boise District are listed in Table 10 below.

Table 10. Ongoing communications site Rights-of-Way (ROW) actions located in the Boise District

Communication Site Serial Number	Expiration Date	Conservation Value of ROW (High. Medium. Low) and EO #s Associated with Occupied Habitat within the ROW	Slickspot Peppergrass Stipulations Included in the ROW? (Y/N)
IDI-013442	In perpetuity	High EO 26	N
IDI-026347	March 14, 2018	Medium EO 53	N
IDI-028281 (also a road)	Oct. 10, 2012	High EO 70	N
IDI-028719	Aug. 11, 2012	Medium EO 53	N

For additional details on the project description for the four ongoing Boise District communication site ROWs, see the Amendment (BLM 2011, p. I-1).

Environmental Baseline

Status of the Species in the Action Area

The four ongoing communication site ROWs contain occupied habitat associated with three EOs in CCA MAs 1, 7, and 10, which have applicable HIP monitoring data available from three transects. These ROWs are located within the Boise Foothills and the Snake River Plain physiographic regions. No communications sites are located within the boundary of existing EOs. The INHP has classified EOs located within 0.5 mi of the communication site ROWs as B- and C-ranked.

Occupied habitat for 3 EOs is located partially within the boundaries of the four communication site ROWs. The communication site ROWs do not bisect any EOs. The four communication site ROWs encompass about 7 ac (about 0.0007 percent of the total occupied habitat acreage on Federal lands) of 0.5 mile pollinator buffers that surround 3 EOs. Of the three MAs that contain communication site ROWs, MA 7 contains the highest acreage of communication site ROWs (about 6 ac), with MAs 1 and 10 containing the lowest acreage of communication site ROWs (about 1 ac and 0.3 ac, respectively).

Factors Affecting the Species in the Action Area

Threats to the slickspot peppergrass in the vicinity of the four communication site ROWs include wildfire, invasive nonnative plants, fire rehabilitation activities, herbicide and pesticide use, development, military training, and livestock use. Significant ground disturbance has already occurred in the footprints of the communication site structures and associated access roads,

making the continued presence of slickspots, individual slickspot peppergrass plants, and seed banks unlikely in previously disturbed ground in the immediate area of the structures and access roads. Damage to slickspots associated with construction has already occurred and disturbance to additional slickspot areas is not anticipated. Effects to the slickspot peppergrass have been minimized as access to communication sites is restricted to existing roads and trails, and maintenance activities are restricted to the area occupied by the communication site.

Much of the surrounding area has been fragmented by wildfire, with pockets of shrubs in both potential and occupied habitat within the action area. The sagebrush overstory is intact in the EOs associated the communication site ROWs. Understory vegetation appears to be devoid of perennial forbs, and high levels of cheatgrass and exotic annuals are associated with EOs as a consequence of past wildfire. HIP slickspot monitoring data for EOs within the vicinity of the four communication site ROWs document invasive nonnative plant cover from less than 1 percent to about 10 percent. Based on 19 years of BLM fire history data, the incidence of wildfire ignitions related to operation and maintenance of the four communication site ROWs is expected to be low. As these sites are fenced, the risk of fire ignitions from public use at these ROW sites is negligible, although there remains some risk of fire ignitions from public use of existing access roads to the communication sites.

Slickspot peppergrass habitat fragmentation within the action area is determined by shrub cover. The Assessment indicates that, according to vegetation maps generated by ground-truthed satellite imagery and HIP monitoring photos, native shrub cover in occupied habitat within the four communications site ROWs is between 75 to 90 percent. Habitat in the area is categorized as moderate quality due to the presence of an intact sagebrush overstory, a lack of perennial forbs in the understory, and noxious weeds near EOs.

Five years of HIP monitoring has documented biological soil crust cover from 8 percent to about 69 percent within slickspots for EOs in the vicinity of the four communication site ROWs. However, loss of biological crust cover is thought to have already occurred during site construction. The area occupied by communication sites is small and maintenance activities are not likely to have an effect on the biological soil crust within the action area.

Two years of available HIP monitoring of EO areas in the vicinity of the four communication site ROWs document native forb cover from 0 percent to about 15 percent, with half of HIP values being less than 1 percent cover. Habitat quality based on the percent cover of native forbs is categorized as low in the Amendment.

Effects of the Action

Significant ground disturbance has already occurred in existing communication site ROWs, including permanent loss of slickspot microsites associated with construction of structures and access roads. As construction of the four structures has already occurred, potential effects of the action are limited to effects associated with ongoing maintenance activities. Direct mechanical effects to individual plants, native forbs, biological soils crust, and slickspot microsites caused by maintenance activities and vehicle access in the ROWs have been minimized as maintenance activities occur within previously disturbed areas of the ROWs. Impacts from soil movement associated with maintenance activities are expected to be minimal because the sites are small and existing vegetation is able to filter sediment in undisturbed habitat within and adjacent to the

ROWs. In addition, habitat fragmentation from shrub removal is not anticipated to occur as ongoing maintenance activities will occur within previously disturbed areas.

Vehicles could disseminate and disperse noxious weeds and invasive exotic annuals along access roads to existing communication sites. Travel along existing access roads by both maintenance crews and the general public also increases the potential for fire, as heat from vehicles can ignite fine fuels along roadsides, particularly in areas with high cheatgrass cover. Based on 19 years of BLM fire history data, the incidence of wildfire ignitions related to operation and maintenance of the four communication site ROWs is expected to be low. As these sites are fenced, the risk of fire ignitions from public use at these ROW sites is negligible. However, there remains some risk of fire ignitions from public use of existing access roads to the communication sites. Therefore, adverse effects from ongoing maintenance activities for the four communication site ROW authorizations on individual slickspot peppergrass plants and slickspot microsites due to maintenance-related wildfire ignitions and dispersal of noxious weeds and invasive nonnative annual plants are reasonably certain to occur. In addition, wildfire ignitions may occur from public use of communication site access roads. Risk of adverse effects from wildfire and invasive nonnative plants is reduced, but not eliminated, by slickspot peppergrass conservation measures that prioritize both wildfire suppression and weed control in the vicinity of EOs, including EOs associated with communication site ROWs. Although no conservation measures for slickspot peppergrass are incorporated into existing communication site ROW authorizations, there is the opportunity to incorporate site-specific conservation measures into individual permits when they are reissued in the future.

Effects of Interrelated and Interdependent Activities

None are anticipated.

Cumulative Effects

See discussion on pages 61–62 under oil, gas, and water pipeline ROWs section.

Overview of Effects

Overall, the analysis of effects of the four communication site ROW authorizations indicated that slickspot peppergrass habitat conditions may degrade over time under three of the eight habitat framework indicators. While some adverse impacts may occur, effects are expected to be localized. Existing conservation measures for prioritization of wildfire suppression and weed control near EOs reduce but do not eliminate localized effects from maintenance activities that could adversely affect slickspot peppergrass and its habitat. Habitat quality conditions within slickspot peppergrass occupied habitat in the ROWs are not expected to change with continued implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only limited maintenance is likely to occur within the ROW action areas and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that would burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ROW maintenance activities. Impact risk is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROWs (about 7 ac for all four ROWs), and, in some cases, by the short term of the actions (about 1 more year for two of the four ROWs). For the above reasons, these communication site ROW actions are not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action areas over the remaining term

of the actions (1 more year to authorized in perpetuity). Thus, these actions are compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the individual communication site ROW action areas.

5.2.1.2.5. Railroad Right-of-Way

Description of the Action Area

One discretionary railroad ROW in the Boise District (IDI-012527) bisects approximately 18 ac of occupied habitat for the slickspot peppergrass. The Assessment indicates that the action area used in this analysis includes occupied habitat for EOs inclusive of the slickspots, surrounding matrices, and 0.5-mi EO buffer within the action area. The railroad ROW is located in CCA MA 7 in the Snake River Plain physiographic region (BLM 2011, p.VI-1).

Description of the Action

Railroad maintenance is ongoing throughout the year and targets specific problems identified by safety engineers. The greatest maintenance efforts take place during spring thaw when the railroad bed is most susceptible to track spread. Vehicle travel is restricted to designated roads and trails along the railroad ROW and maintenance activities are restricted to the existing railroad ROW. Maintenance activities generally occur within fenced railroad ROWs because, for the most part, road access exists along the entire length of the track for such purposes. Depending upon the type of maintenance needed, the majority of the activities are supported by rubber-tired vehicles ranging in size from pickup trucks to large cranes. Two-ton trucks are used for hauling materials to the site and for removal of discarded waste. Work crews traverse the tracks continually, searching for problems and replacing switches, ties, and other mechanical devices.

The one railroad ROW in the vicinity of occupied habitat in the Boise District is listed in Table 11 below. This railroad ROW has been authorized in perpetuity.

Table 11. Ongoing railroad Rights-of-Way (ROW) actions located in the Boise District

Railroad Serial Number	Expiration Date	Conservation Value of ROW (High. Medium. Low) and EO #s Associated with Occupied Habitat within the ROW	Slickspot Peppergrass Stipulations Included in the ROW? (Y/N)	Occupied Habitat Acres within the ROW
IDI-012527	In perpetuity	High EO 27	N	18.0
TOTAL	—	—	—	18.0

For additional details on the project description for the ongoing Boise District railroad ROW, see the Amendment (BLM 2011, p. VI-1).

Environmental Baseline

Status of the Species in the Action Area

The ongoing railroad ROW IDI-012527 contains occupied habitat associated with one EO (EO 27) in CCA MA 7 which has applicable HIP monitoring data available from one transect (transect 027E). This ROW is located within the Snake River Plain physiographic region. Railroad ROW IDI-012527 is not located within the boundary of the existing EO 27, which the INHP has classified as B-ranked.

Occupied habitat for EO 27 is located partially within the boundaries of railroad ROW IDI-012527. Although no EOs are bisected by the railroad ROW, railroad ROW IDI-012527 contains about 18 ac (about 0.002 percent of the total occupied habitat acreage on Federal lands) of the 0.5 mile pollinator buffer that surround EO 27. In addition, railroad ROW IDI-012527does not include any portion of MA 7.

Factors Affecting the Species in the Action Area

Threats to the slickspot peppergrass in the vicinity of railroad ROW IDI-012527 include wildfire, invasive nonnative plants, fire rehabilitation activities, herbicide and pesticide use, development, military training, and livestock use. Significant ground disturbance has already occurred in the footprints of the railroad infrastructure and associated access roads, making the continued presence of slickspots, individual slickspot peppergrass plants, and seed banks unlikely in previously disturbed ground in the immediate area of the structures and access roads. Damage to slickspots associated with construction has already occurred and disturbance to additional slickspot areas is not anticipated. Effects to the slickspot peppergrass have been reduced as access to railroad ROW IDI-012527 is restricted to existing roads and trails, and maintenance activities are restricted to the area occupied by railroad structures.

Much of the surrounding area has been fragmented by wildfire, with pockets of shrubs in both potential and occupied habitat within the action area. However, the sagebrush overstory is intact in the EO associated with railroad ROW IDI-012527 (EO 27). Understory vegetation appears to be devoid of perennial forbs, with moderate levels of cheatgrass and exotic annuals in the understory of the EO at HIP transect 027E. HIP slickspot monitoring data for EO 27 in the vicinity of railroad ROW IDI-012527 document invasive nonnative plant cover from about 2 percent to about 13 percent.

Slickspot peppergrass habitat fragmentation within the action area is determined by shrub cover. The Amendment indicates that, according to vegetation maps generated by ground-truthed satellite imagery and HIP monitoring photos, native shrub cover within the occupied habitat in the railroad ROW is less than 50 percent, with the remainder of the ROW dominated by invasive nonnative plants. Habitat in the ROW area is categorized as low to moderate quality for the slickspot peppergrass due to the presence of invasive nonnative plants, less than 50 percent intact sagebrush overstory, a lack of perennial forbs in the understory, and noxious weeds near EOs.

The Amendment identifies the greatest threat to the slickspot peppergrass from ongoing railroad ROW IDI-012527 as wildfire. Trains can emit sparks, heat, and hot materials that can ignite nearby fuels. Possible sources of flame and/or heat from railroad ROW IDI-012527 include exhaust fumes from trains or maintenance equipment, hot brake metal, and overheated wheel bearings. Railroad crews cutting, grinding, and welding track during maintenance activities are

also potential sources of railroad fires (InterFire website, last accessed March 8, 2011). Activities associated with the Union Pacific Railroad have started numerous fires along the tracks over the years, from near Glenns Ferry to the northern portion of the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA). Nineteen years of BLM fire history data indicate that operations within this nondiscretionary Union Pacific Railroad ROW (which is not addressed in this Opinion) have resulted in 17 fires that spread outside of the ROW area and have burned a collective total of 3,278 ac of occupied habitat for the slickspot peppergrass. Sixteen of these 17 Union Pacific Railroad trespass fires occurred between 1980 and 1998. In contrast, only one Union Pacific Railroad trespass fire has been documented between 1998 and 2009. This indicates that the Union Pacific Railroad has worked out some mechanical problems on their trains that were igniting the fires. The reduced railroad-related fire ignitions represents a trend across the District, with a significant decrease in the number of railroad-ignited fires over the last 10-15 years. Rapid fire suppression responses by BLM and National Guard fire crews have minimized the extent of past railroad-ignitied fires, preventing widespread adverse effects to slickspot peppergrass occupied habitat (including EO 27) from burning. However, a high risk of future railroad ROW fire ignitions remains, particularly with the level of invasive nonnative plants that occur in ROW IDI-012527. These fires may result in adverse impacts to EOs located along and adjacent to the railroad, including EO 27. In addition, rush skeletonweed occurs along the tracks near the northeast corner of the National Guard's Orchard Training Area. This invasive nonnative species may spread into nearby EOs 67 and 27 following a disturbance event such as a wildfire.

Five years of HIP monitoring has documented biological soil crust cover from 34 percent to about 60 percent within slickspots for EO 27 in the vicinity of railroad ROW IDI-012527. However, loss of biological crust cover is thought to have already occurred within the railroad ROW during site construction, and the Amendment ranks slickspot peppergrass habitat condition for biological soil crust cover as low quality within the ROW.

Two years of available HIP monitoring at transect 027E in the vicinity of railroad ROW IDI-012527 document native forb cover from less than 1 percent to about 6 percent. However, railroad ROW IDI-012527 is heavily overgrown with invasive nonnative plants. The Amendment ranks slickspot peppergrass habitat condition for native forb cover in railroad ROW IDI-012527 as low quality.

Effects of the Action

Significant ground disturbance has already occurred in ongoing railroad ROW IDI-012527, including permanent loss of slickspot microsites, associated with construction of structures and access roads for the single railroad ROW authorization. As construction of tracks and associated infrastructure has already occurred, potential effects of the action are limited to effects associated with ongoing maintenance and operations activities. Direct mechanical effects to individual plants, native forbs, biological soils crust, and slickspot microsites caused by maintenance activities and vehicle access in the ROW are expected to be minimal as maintenance activities occur within previously disturbed areas of railroad ROW IDI-012527. Impacts from soil movement associated with maintenance activities are expected to be low because existing remnant vegetation is able to filter sediment in undisturbed habitat within and adjacent to the

ROW. Additional habitat fragmentation associated with shrub removal is not anticipated as ongoing maintenance activities will occur within previously disturbed areas.

The greatest risk of impacts to the slickspot peppergrass from railroad ROW IDI-012527 is associated with railroad operations-related fire ignitions. Trains have been documented to ignite fires along a nearby nondiscretionary railroad ROW as the result of sparks generated by friction between train wheels and steel tracks, increasing the potential for adverse effects to the slickspot peppergrass and its habitat. Ongoing railroad maintenance and associated travel along existing railroad access roads by both maintenance crews and the general public also increase the potential for fires, as heat from vehicles or maintenance equipment can ignite fine fuels along railroad access roads, particularly in areas with high cheatgrass cover. Vehicles and maintenance equipment may also disseminate and disperse noxious weeds and invasive nonnative annual plants (such as cheatgrass) along railroad access roads.

No conservation measures for slickspot peppergrass are incorporated into the existing railroad ROW IDI-012527 authorization, and as this authorization has been issued in perpetuity, there is no opportunity to incorporate conservation measures into the individual permit when it is reissued in the future. However, the BLM has prioritized both wildfire suppression and weed control in the vicinity of EOs for the conservation of the slickspot peppergrass including EOs associated with railroad ROWs. In addition, the IDARNG partners with the BLM to suppress wildfires in the vicinity of the OTA, including fires ignited within railroad ROW IDI-012527, which further reduces, but does not eliminate, the risk of railroad ROW-related wildfire impacts to the slickspot peppergrass. Nevertheless, adverse effects to individual slickspot peppergrass plants and slickspot microsites due to operations or maintenance-related wildfire ignitions and dispersal of noxious weeds and invasive nonnative annual plants are reasonably certain to occur.

Effects of Interrelated and Interdependent Activities

None are anticipated.

Cumulative Effects

See discussion on pages 61–62 under oil, gas, and water pipeline ROWs section.

Overview of Effects

Overall, the analysis of effects of railroad ROW IDI-012527 indicated that slickspot peppergrass habitat conditions may degrade over time under five of the eight habitat framework indicators. While some adverse impacts may occur, existing BLM conservation measures for prioritization of wildfire suppression and weed control near EOs reduce effects from railroad operation and maintenance activities that could adversely affect slickspot peppergrass and its habitat. The likelihood of fire starts that would burn off-site is considered moderate to high based on the probability of continued ignitions from railroad ROW operations. The risk of these fires spreading to adjacent EO 27 is reduced, but not eliminated, by BLM prioritized fire suppression near EOs and IDARNG fire suppression efforts at the OTA, both of which prioritize protection of EO 27. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ROW maintenance activities. The risk of impacts to the species is further reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (about 18 ac of the 0.5 mi pollinator buffer that surrounds EO 27). For the above reasons, railroad ROW IDI-012527 is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area

over the remaining term of the action (authorized in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for the EO in the vicinity of railroad ROW IDI-012527.

5.2.1.2.6. Orchard Training Area Military Use Rights-of-Way and Memorandum of Understanding

Description of the Action Area

The BLM and the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1979 to authorize military training activities on the 143,300-ac Orchard Training Area (OTA). The Assessment indicates that the action area used in this analysis includes occupied habitat for EOs 27, 53, and 67 inclusive of the slickspots, surrounding matrices, and 0.5-mi EO buffer within the project area in CCA MA 7 in the Snake River Plain physiographic region. Currently, EO 27 is composed of EOs 27, 35, 59, and 100. Similarly, EO 53 is composed of a combination of EOs 53 and 71 (BLM 2009, p. IV-330).

Description of the Action

Military training first occurred on the western Snake River Plain in 1941 during World War II when the Army Air Corps established three practice bombing ranges. In 1953, the IDARNG began using the OTA from June through September under a 5-year permit. When this permit expired in 1958, a 1-year renewable permit was signed. In the early 1970s, the size of the training area was reduced to protect sensitive nesting habitat near the Snake River Canyon. In 1979, the BLM and the IDARNG entered into an MOU to authorize future military training in the OTA. This MOU was amended in 1985, 2002, and 2007, and is valid for a term of 30 years. The MOU provides for future amendments as necessary to reflect changing conditions or new requirements.

The OTA consists of a 53,000-ac Impact Area into which live rounds from small arms, tanks, artillery, and helicopters are fired. Surrounding the Impact Area is a 90,000-ac Maneuver Area, within which tracked and wheeled vehicle training occurs. IDARNG has been granted numerous ROWs for administrative facilities, tank and combat training ranges, roads, and telephone and power lines on the OTA (see Figure 3 below). Ongoing training activities are authorized under either the MOU or individual ROWs. The MOU provides for training activities involving vehicle maneuvers and other activities that do not require physical developments or permanent facilities, such as temporary assembly and bivouac areas. The ROWs authorize facilities and other activities that require physical developments associated with administrative sites and some of the live firing ranges.

Since most of the ROWs were granted prior to 2004, they contain no specific slickspot peppergrass terms and conditions or conservation measures. However, pursuant to 43 CFR 2801.2(b), slickspot peppergrass conservation measures from the 2003 CCA (State of Idaho et al. 2003) and the 2006 CA (State of Idaho et al. 2006) will be imposed if and when the ROWs are renewed, amended, or assigned. In addition, as a signatory to the 2003 CCA and the 2006 CCA Amendment, the IDARNG implements slickspot peppergrass conservation measures associated with military training activities. These conservation measures, as well as those that the IDARNG has implemented for the last 12 years, have also been implemented by the IDARNG through self imposed management and their Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan

(IDARNG INRMP). Continued implementation of the IDARNG's INRMP and CCA conservation measures has resulted in one of the highest quality occupied slickspot peppergrass populations rangewide. Expiration dates of the military training ROW permits range from November 12, 2012 to December 31, 2025. The military training MOU expires in 2032.

The specific ROWs for facilities associated with the IDARNG's operations at the OTA that also contain occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat are listed in Table 12 below.

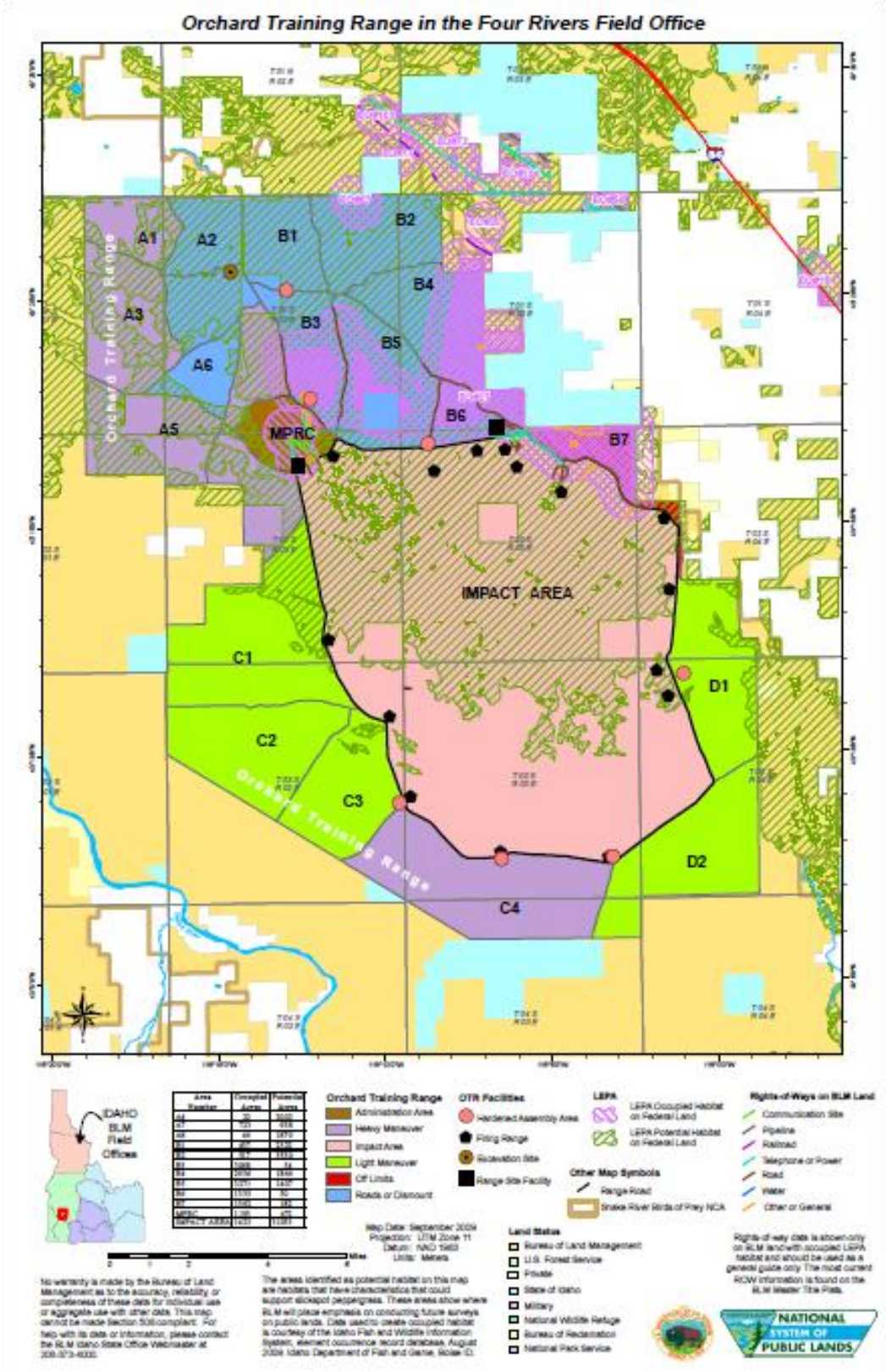

Figure 3. Orchard Training Area (OTA) in the Four Rivers Field Office

Table 12. Rights-of-Way (ROW) associated with the Idaho Army National Guard's military operations at the Orchard Training Area (OTA) that contain occupied habitat

ROW/MOU Serial Number - Description	Expiration Date	Conservation Value of ROW or MOU (High. Medium. Low) and EO #s Associated with Occupied Habitat within the ROW	Slickspot Peppergrass Stipulations Included in the ROW or MOU? (Y/N)	Occupied Habitat Acres within the ROW
IDI-026399 - Tank Firing Range ROW	Nov. 14, 2013	Medium EO 53	N	4.3
IDI-026347 - Christmas Mountain Range 1 Tower Complex ROW (Also included in Communication Site ROWs section)	March 14, 2018	Medium EO 53	N	5.5
IDI-027691 - Ammunition Supply Point ROW	Aug. 5, 2017	High EO 27	N	59.4
IDI-029440 - Tank Assembly and Maintenance Area ROW	July 15, 2013	High EOs 27 and 53	N	13.6
IDI-029513 - Range 1 Maintenance and Storage Yard ROW	July 16, 2013	Medium EO 53	N	8.5
IDI-034884 - Fire Break ROW	Dec. 31, 2025	High EO 27	N	5.6
IDI-034118 - Pistol Firing Range ROW	Nov. 12, 2012	High EO 27	N	3.9
IDI-026348 - Snake River Support Facility ROW (Also included in road ROWs section)	Nov. 14, 2013	High EO 27	N	13.6
OTA Military Training MOU	2032	High EOs 27, 53, and 67	Y	14,294
TOTAL	—	—	—	14,408 (total includes about 114 ac of ROWs that are also included in the MOU acreage (i.e., some ROW acres are double-counted)

Administrative Areas

Ammunition Supply Point

Within the 73-ac Ammunition Supply Point (ASP), authorized under BLM ROW IDI-027691, the IDARNG receives, stores, sorts, and issues all munitions and explosives used in the OTA and on other IDARNG ranges throughout the state. Access to the area is by Orchard Road. All activity occurs within the security fence. This high-security, fully fenced, lighted, and guarded facility contains 15 ammunition storage bunkers, ranging in size from 144 to 2,193 ft^2; one 2,160 ft^2administration building; one 11,800 ft^2operations building; one potable well with a 400 ft^2 equipment building; and on 2,500 ft^2 covered storage building.

Snake River Support Facility

The approximately 14-ac Snake River Support Facility (SRSF) is a training center authorized by BLM ROW IDI-026348. The site contains an administration building with running water, bathroom facilities, telephone and computer hookups, indoor and outdoor briefing areas, electrical power hookups for various simulation devices, three sleeping huts, and a large graveled parking area. Access to the facility is via a maintained gravel road. The site contains a potable water well; one 10,000-gallon fire fighting water storage tank; one 3,200 ft^2 cinder block classroom; one 5,000 ft^2 fabric-covered concrete pad simulation building; three 600 ft^2 temporary wood sleeping shelters; one concrete loading dock with a 120 ft^2 support building; one 800 ft^2 pavilion; and one 400 ft^2 covered bleacher area.

Christmas Mountain Range 1 Tower Complex

Christmas Mountain Tower, authorized by BLM ROW IDI-026347, is the safety, target, communication, and personnel control center for the Range 1 Multi Purpose Range Complex—Heavy. This range tower complex supports one of IDARNG's largest automated tracked vehicle, helicopter, and convoy training ranges. Access to the complex is by graveled roads to a cindered parking area at the base of the tower, within a security fence. This approximately 3-ac fenced area contains a 15 by 15 ft, five-story range control and communications tower; bleachers; and a 10 by 20 ft communication equipment facility.

Range 1 Maintenance and Storage Yard

BLM ROW IDI-029513 authorizes approximately 5 ac of fenced storage area, including 8 storage and maintenance buildings, ranging in size from 576 to 2,300 ft^2. The facility is built around an earthen covered ammunition storage bunker. The site is the repair, maintenance, and storage facility that supports the upkeep of all of the firing ranges on the OTA. Traffic to and within the maintenance yard is via graveled roads, and all activity occurs within the security fence.

Cinder Cone Butte Communication Site

The Cinder Cone Butte Communication Site is authorized by BLM ROW IDI-015554. The site consists of a 13 by 18 ft cinder block structure and an 80-ft high tri-pole antennae tower. The communication building houses remote radio, microwave, and cell phone communications relay equipment essential for safely operating the OTA ranges. Access to the facility is via a cindered road. Communications site ROW IDI-015554 is not addressed further in this Opinion as this

ROW does not include any acreage located within EO boundaries or within the 0.5 mile pollinator buffer surrounding EOs.

Mobilization and Training Equipment Site

The Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) complex occupies about 80 ac of Idaho State land on Orchard Road adjacent to, but outside the northeast boundary of the OTA. While this facility is not included within the area authorized under the BLM /IDARNG MOU, it is discussed in this Opinion since the MATES site represents an interdependent action associated with the BLM authorization (an interdependent action is defined by the Service as an activity that has no independent utility apart from the action under consultation). This facility stores and maintains approximately 300 heavy vehicles (tanks, personnel carriers, and trucks) for units that come to the OTA for training. The fuel dispensing facility can accommodate drive-up or bulk fueling operations. All vehicles coming to the OTA from more than 50 mi away are required to go through the central vehicle wash facility to help prevent the introduction and spread of noxious and invasive plants. Vehicles also are run through the wash facility on their return from training. This closed loop facility separates the petroleum contaminates, dirt, and weed seed for disposal in suitable land fill locations. The storage ponds also serve as a water source for wildland fire trucks and helicopter water bucket refill. The primary vehicle maintenance, supply, and administration building is more than 79,000 ft^2. Seven additional maintenance and storage buildings range from 2,400 to 21,000 ft^2. The site also has a potable water well and storage tank; distribution system and tanker fast fill facility; 60,000-gallon underground fuel storage and dispensing facility; a central vehicle wash facility; a sewage treatment facility; and more than 20 ac of fenced hard surface and graveled secure storage yards.

Assembly and Bivouac Areas

Assembly areas are temporary sites that may be located in non-shrub areas throughout the Maneuver Area, where a few to several hundred soldiers and their equipment gather for a few hours to several weeks. Some of the more often used assembly areas have been hardened with gravel and/or cinders to reduce dust emissions and subsequent soil disturbance. Depending on the size, purpose, and duration of occupancy, assembly areas are known by many names: brigade support area, brigade tactical operation center, battalion support area, bivouac area, range support area, communication relay site, forward area rearm and petroleum site, tactical operations center, holding area, and staging area.

The larger assembly areas often contain hundreds of soldiers, vehicles, tents, and other temporary shelters. These assembly areas are occupied for more than three days and contain designated sleeping, working, maintenance, food preparation, feeding, and parking areas. Small assembly areas are occupied by 10 to 50 soldiers and a dozen vehicles, often for less than 24 hours when in a tactical training mode. Holding and staging area operations consist of small groups of soldiers, wheeled or tracked vehicles, helicopters, or combinations of all, stopping along or adjacent to roads or trails for short periods, normally less than 1 hour to check equipment, confer, and to await further instructions.

Live Fire Activities

Firing Ranges

The OTA has 20 designated live fire ranges dispersed along the 34-mi perimeter of the 53,000-ac Impact Area. Ranges include stationary firing points for small arms (less than 50 caliber), large arms (greater than 50 caliber), tank, grenade and mortar, direct artillery, engineering, and other ranges where weapons, ranging in size from pistols (Pistol Firing Range ROW IDI-034118) to tanks (Tank Firing Range ROW IDI-26399), fire at stationary, pop up, or moving targets from a designated fixed position or firing line.

One of these stationary ranges, Range 4, is a demolition/explosives training range (Demolition / Explosives Training Range ROW IDI-033879). The remaining ranges are a combination of fixed firing points and firing lanes where weapons are fired from stationary or moving vehicles travel down designated improved lanes (roads), firing at fixed, pop up, and moving targets (Firing Range ROW IDI-034887). Demolition / Explosives Training Range ROW IDI-033879 and Firing Range ROW IDI-034887 are not addressed further in this Opinion as they contain no acreage located within EO boundaries and are not located within the 0.5 mile pollinator buffer surrounding EOs.

Helicopters fire lasers, machine guns, rockets, and missiles from designated positions or air corridors within and into the Impact Area. Artillery is fired into the Artillery Impact Area from designated artillery firing areas located outside the boundary of the Impact Area. Mortars fire from Range 30 fixed positions into the Artillery Impact Area.

Range support areas are located at nearly all of the 15 ranges and usually support up to 200 soldiers and several dozen vehicles for 12 to 72 hours. Most consist of an improved cindered or graveled area, a two- to three-story communication and safety control tower, an ammunition storage area, an administrative area, a portable latrine area, a maintenance area, and a firing line. Some ranges have 600–800 ft^2 temporary wooden shelters or tent pads within the hardened area.

Impact Area

Live fire ranges, with the exception of artillery firing areas, are located within the Impact Area's approximate 34-mi perimeter road, known as Range Road, and are oriented into the interior of the Impact Area. Any bullet, grenade, missile, or rocket, as well as all non-eye safe laser target range finders or designators, must be aimed into the Impact Area.

Artillery Impact Area

The 3,300-ac high explosive Artillery Impact Area is located in the heart of the Impact Area, and is the area into which all exploding projectiles must land. This fenced area is considered very dangerous because of the potential for unexploded projectiles, and no personnel are permitted to enter without escort from an explosive ordnance specialist.

Off-Road Maneuvers

Soldiers conduct both day and night off-road maneuver training in wheeled and tracked vehicles to improve navigation; inter-vehicle coordination; and control, movement, and observation skills. Off-road maneuver training can range from one vehicle doing individual crew training for several miles to over 100 vehicles doing combat team training. The majority of the off-road

training entails fewer than one dozen vehicles participating in a 1- to 2-mi maneuver training exercise.

The OTA is administratively divided into five primary maneuver areas: Alpha (A), Bravo (B), Charley (C), Delta (D), and Echo (E); and further divided into 22 sectors: A1-8, B1-7, C1-4, D1-2, and E-1. Off-road maneuvers generally fall into three categories: heavy (tracked and some wheeled), light (mostly wheeled), and dismount (on foot). Heavy off-road maneuvers are conducted in sectors A1, A3, and A5, and in the non-shrub portions of sectors A2, A4, A6, and A8. They also occur in sectors C4, D2, and E-1, but these three sectors do not support potential or occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat. Maneuver sectors that support heavy maneuver training have been degraded over time by wildfire and past off-road maneuver activity and now support mostly weeds and invasive nonnative grasses (cheatgrass) with few native grasses or shrubs. As such, the IDARNG restricts heavy maneuvers to those areas that have already been heavily impacted, thus reducing future impacts to slickspot peppergrass in other less degraded areas on the OTA. According to the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey NCA RMP, off-road maneuver training is limited to those areas supporting less than 10 percent shrub canopy cover.

Excavation

Earth moving excavation training occurs on one 5-ac site on State of Idaho lands in sector A2 (SW¼ of Section 16, T1S, R2E). An additional 50-ac site in the Charley maneuver area was approved through the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey NCA RMP, and additional earth moving or excavation training can be conducted if authorized by the BLM. The 5-ac excavation site is addressed in this Opinion because the activities occurring on the site represent an interdependent action associated with the BLM's OTA MOU authorization.

Training is conducted on equipment that ranges from large caterpillars that dig and fill in trenches to graders, front end loaders, and small wheeled excavators that dig underground protective bunkers, individual and crew fighting positions, utility trenches, contouring, and leveling.

Conservation Measures

The following conservation measures from the 2003 CCA were developed for slickspot peppergrass CCA MA 7 and specifically address military training activities in the OTA. The measures are being implemented under the IDARNG's 2004–2008 INRMP. Preparation and implementation of the INRMP is required by law under the Sikes Act (see 16 U.S.C. § 670 *et seq.*).

- Continue to prevent damage to and fragmentation of the late seral sagebrush-steppe habitat in which slickspot peppergrass occurs on the OTA by controlling IDARNG vehicle traffic through "off limit" areas and restricted travel.
- Continue to annually monitor vegetation trends in the late seral sagebrush habitat to determine if the vegetation composition remains stable under current uses and management.
- Continue to monitor previously established transects and Habitat Integrity Index plots.
- Continue to use only native species and broadcast seeding methods for any habitat restoration projects.

- Continue to manage military activities to protect slickspot peppergrass populations and surrounding habitat from training damage.
- Continue to review plans for military training exercises in the management area and position them so they do not affect slickspot peppergrass populations and surrounding habitat.
- Continue to require troops to view environmental briefings before training and emphasize the importance of protecting slickspot peppergrass.
- Continue to install and maintain signs designating population centers.
- Continue to monitor the management area to ensure off-limits areas have been respected.
- Continue to minimize opportunities for the introduction of invasive and noxious plants on the OTA by requiring pre-washing of non-local military vehicles entering the area.
- Continue to report to the BLM areas of invasive and noxious plants as they are located.
- Continue to cooperate with the BLM in the control of noxious weeds.
- Continue to disallow the development of new roads through slickspot peppergrass habitat.
- Continue the mutual support agreement with the BLM for the suppression of wildfires in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA.
- Continue to inform firefighters of the location of important slickspot peppergrass habitat and implement minimum impact suppression tactics in those areas.
- Continue to provide a high level of rapid response fire protection during fire season when military activities are occurring on the OTA.
- Continue to implement the IDARNG INRMP for the OTA.

The BLM and the Service have reached agreement on slickspot peppergrass conservation measures included as a part of the 2006 CA. These conservation measures, listed in the Appendix of this Opinion, will be incorporated into affected decisions, as well as future amendments to the BLM /IDARNG MOU for the OTA. Conservation measures potentially affecting IDARNG activities include those in the following LUP programs:

- Special Status Animal and Plant Management
- Upland Vegetation Management: Rangelands (includes weed management)
- Recreation Management: Travel Management
- Fire Management (includes fire suppression, emergency stabilization and rehabilitation, and non-fire fuels management)
- Lands and Realty Management: Rights-of-Way

The IDARNG's INRMP is the Department of Defense's implementing document for all of IDARNG's natural resources management on the OTA, including slickspot peppergrass management. The current INRMP pre-dates the latest definitions for slickspot peppergrass habitat and divides the OTA into Level I and Level II LEPA MAs. These management areas do not conform to the definition of occupied habitat as described in the CA between the BLM and the Service used in the BLM's Assessment and Amendment.

Description of Level I Management Areas

Intensive MAs (Level I) include EOs 27, 53, and 67, and part of their associated 0.5 mi pollinator buffers in the northern half of the OTA, including the MATES section. Military training is restricted in Level I MAs. However, the restrictions do not affect all currently defined occupied habitats. Off-limits areas are signed by IDARNG, designated on military maps, and noted in pre-training briefings. Military vehicles may drive through these areas on a designated road. IDARNG Natural Resources staff monitor Level I MAs year-round to ensure that signage is maintained and MA boundaries are respected by military personnel.

Description of the Level II Management Areas

The Level II MA surrounds the Level I MAs. In general, the area consists of an extensive stand of Wyoming big sagebrush with some areas of old patchy burns. The sagebrush stand varies in condition from fair (with an understory dominated by bur buttercup with few native grasses) in the Alpha maneuver areas, to excellent (with an understory dominated by native grasses and forbs plus nearly continuous biological soil crust cover) in the easternmost Bravo maneuver areas. Some old burns lack shrubs and are dominated by Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*) and bottlebrush squirreltail, or a mixture of these grasses, and exotic mustards with bur buttercup. Other old burns are dominated by rubber rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus ssp. consimulis*) and native grasses with exotic mustards. A few small sites are virtually barren, supporting primarily bur buttercup and/or Russian thistle.

Military training is limited in the Level II MAs. The slickspot peppergrass occurs in a handful of scattered slickspots in this large area. IDARNG Natural Resources staff manages military training to avoid these small occupied sites. Heavy maneuvers, excavation training, and bivouacking are limited to non-shrub areas. Light maneuvers are permitted in shrubs and if the soil is wet, off-road maneuvers do not occur. Vehicle staging, bivouacking, and heavy maneuvers are not allowed in shrub stands. Digging is limited to the traditional 5-ac excavation site.

Conservation measures are contained in the IDARNG INRMP to protect, maintain, and enhance occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat in the OTA (Table 13).

Table 13. Orchard Training Area (OTA) slickspot peppergrass *(Lepidium papilliferum)* conservation implementation summary table

Task	Description and Associated Conservation Measures
Objective 1: Maintain and enhance slickspot peppergrass habitat on the OTA	
1.1	Prevent damage to and fragmentation of the large sagebrush stand (approximately 23 square miles) in which slickspot peppergrass occurs on OTA • Annually monitor vegetation trends in this large sagebrush stand to determine if the vegetation composition is stable under current uses and management
1.2	Maintain and, when possible, improve the quality of slickspot peppergrass habitat • Restore damaged habitat using native species and broadcast seeding • Ensure minimal impacts to slickspot peppergrass and its habitats during habitat restoration projects
Objective 2: Mitigate negative effects to slickspot peppergrass from military training and other Army-related activities.	
2.1	Mitigate negative effects to slickspot peppergrass from military training • Continue reviewing plans for military training exercises and site them so they do not affect slickspot peppergrass or its habitat • Maintain signage for military-restricted areas • Monitor slickspot peppergrass populations to ensure that military-restricted areas have been respected. • Continue to monitor sagebrush habitat to determine if current management practices are being effective in promoting ecological health and preventing deterioration. • Continue to provide a high level of rapid response fire protection for military-related (and other) fires
2.2	Mitigate negative effects to slickspot peppergrass from other military-related activities • Minimize opportunities for the introduction of nonnative plants onto OTA by requiring pre-washing of non-local vehicles entering the training area • Directly control noxious weeds, using non-herbicide means in the OTA, as they are located • Cooperate with other agencies, particularly the BLM, in the control of noxious weeds in the general area of OTA • Maintain military-restricted status for slickspot peppergrass population centers in OTA • Continue to relocate military training exercises away from slickspot peppergrass–occupied slickspots and other slickspots and surrounding habitat where slickspot peppergrass seeds might exist in the soil seed bank • Do not allow the construction of new roads through LEPA Level I MAs.
Objective 3: Mitigate negative effects to slickspot peppergrass from fire.	
3.1	Suppress fires • Suppress fires, regardless of origin, on OTA and surrounding areas if requested • Maintain fire crews on alert during summer training exercises • Maintain the mutual support agreement with the BLM for the suppression of wildfires in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA
3.2	Restore areas damaged by fires • Continue to restore fire-damaged areas using native species and broadcast seeding

Objective 4: Monitor slickspot peppergrass populations and conduct management-oriented research on the OTA	
4.1	Monitor slickspot peppergrass populations • Annually monitor slickspot peppergrass populations and big sagebrush habitat on the OTA • Monitor slickspot peppergrass habitat annually to ensure that military-restricted areas have been respected and that trends in the ecological health of the habitat are not unfavorable • Use monitoring to assess the effectiveness of mitigation and other management actions on slickspot peppergrass over time
4.2	Conduct management-oriented slickspot peppergrass research when funding permits • Use research projects on slickspot peppergrass to develop and assess the effectiveness of mitigation and other management actions over time • Use research data/findings to modify management objectives and enhance future management programs • Provide results of research on slickspot peppergrass with other agencies involved with its protection and recovery • Continue to participate in interagency groups involved with research, problem solving, and recovery of slickspot peppergrass

For additional details on the project description for the ongoing military training activities on the OTA, see the Amendment (BLM 2011, pp. V-1 through V-12).

General Vegetation Characteristics in the Impact Area

The northern portion of the Impact Area is potential slickspot peppergrass habitat, with a very small amount of occupied habitat in the extreme northeast corner. This northern portion historically supported Wyoming big sagebrush with an understory of native perennial bunchgrasses. South of a line from near Range 30 on the west side of the Impact Area to Range 10 on the east, the shrubs transition to a sagebrush/winterfat mosaic and then to a winterfat/shadscale mosaic as the soils and precipitation patterns change.

More than 90 percent of the Impact Area has burned during the past 50 years. However, the northern portion of the Impact Area continues to have good perennial grass cover with a few small scattered remnant patches of sagebrush. Nonnative invasive annual plants, primarily clasping pepperweed, bur buttercup, and cheatgrass, dominate in the more disturbed areas. Russian thistle is more common in the southern portion, which has even fewer shrubs and perennial grasses. Two exotic perennials, rush skeletonweed and bulbous bluegrass (*Poa bulbosa*), have also been documented within the Impact Area.

General Vegetation Characteristics in the Maneuver Area

Potential and occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat is found only on the northern half of the OTA. Existing areas that support slickspot peppergrass populations are characterized by Wyoming big sagebrush with an understory of native grasses. Little cheatgrass is present, but bur buttercup is common in some years and absent in others. Portions of the areas are in very good ecological condition, and other areas are in fair ecological condition, with small localized areas of disturbed ground. The areas are traversed by a few regularly maintained roads and several small, occasionally maintained dirt roads. Slickspot peppergrass populations in the Maneuver Area have been surveyed over the last 20 years by IDARNG staff annually, with additional populations added as they were identified.

The eastern portions of maneuver sectors A2, A4, and A7 support Wyoming big sagebrush habitat with soils that favor slickspot peppergrass (Harkness 2000 as cited in BLM 2011, p. V-9). The western portions of these sectors and sectors A1, A3, and A5 are primarily native grasses with cheatgrass in the western and northwestern portion of the OTA. The southern portion of the OTA is salt-desert shrub habitat that does not support slickspot peppergrass (Harkness 2000 as cited in BLM 2011, p. V-9, IDARNG 2004, pp. 68, 70).

Environmental Baseline

Status of the Species in the Action Area

Three slickspot peppergrass populations occur in the OTA (EOs 27, 53, and 67), which is located in the Snake River Plain physiographic region. The Amendment uses HIP monitoring transect data for EO 27 (transects 027A, 027B, 027C, 028B, and 071A) and EO 53 (transects 053B) to be representative of the range of habitat conditions on the OTA. Six years of HIP monitoring for EO 27 has documented 490 to 5,336 plants within HIP transect 27A, 185 to 632 plants within HIP transect 27C, no plants within HIP transect 28B, and 144 to 502 plants within HIP transect 071A. HIP monitoring has also documented a range between 176 and 274 plants to 971 plants in HIP transect 053B for EO 53 (Colket 2009, p. 31, Kinter et al. 2010, Appendix M). The INHP has classified EOs on the OTA as B- (EOs 27 and 67) and C-ranked (EO 53).

The OTA has been identified as containing some of the highest quality remaining sagebrush steppe habitat for slickspot peppergrass, and the OTA is home to one of the largest and most expansive EOs (EO 27) known for the species (Sullivan and Nations 2009, p. 22). Two HIP monitoring transects in EO 27 on the OTA (HIP Transect 027A and HIP Transect 027D) documented over 5,300 plants during 2008 HIP monitoring efforts (Colket 2009, p. 31).

EO 27 consists of several previously-identified separate slickspot peppergrass populations. The highest quality habitat (previously EOs 27 and 100) consists of about 3,000 acres of Wyoming big sagebrush with excellent cryptogamic soil crust, an understory of native grasses including Thurber's needlegrass, and invasive nonnative plants. Ecological conditions in this area range from fair to excellent. Cheatgrass appears to be moving into this area from a stand of cheatgrass outside the OTA to the east.

The portion of EO 27 that was previously identified as EO 35 occupies more than 2,000 acres of small hills and flats with Wyoming big sagebrush, moderate amounts of native grasses, and areas of invasive nonnative plants. Portions of the area have burned several times in the past 40 years, but not in the past 20 years. The three fenced Ammunition Supply Point slickspots and the small MATES population are contiguous with and are part of this population. The area is in fair to poor ecological condition.

The portion of EO 27 that was previously identified as EO 59 is a small (approximately 5 acres) population that occurs in a small stand of Wyoming big sagebrush with some native grasses and nonnative weeds. The area is in fair to poor ecological condition.

EO 53 consists of a few very small microsites in an area that was partially burned in the early 1980s. Although over 2,000 acres are included in the Christmas Mountain Administrative Military-restricted Area, only one acre contains the slickspot peppergrass. The area is in fair to poor ecological condition. A portion of the area is dominated by invasive nonnative plants; part is dominated by native grasses; and part is Wyoming big sagebrush with a reduced amount of

native grasses, but few exotic weeds, other than bur-buttercup. Previously-identified EO 71 is now a part of EO 27, and occurs in about 100 acres of Wyoming big sagebrush with small amounts of nonnative weeds and some native grasses. This area is in good ecological condition. EO 67 is an isolated population inside the northern boundary of the Impact Area that occurs on about 30 acres of Wyoming big sagebrush habitat, and is in good ecological condition.

Occupied habitat for 3 EOs within the OTA is located partially within the boundaries of OTA ROWs associated with military training activities. Military training activities ROWs bisect 1 EO (EO 27) encompassing a total of approximately 2 ac, which constitutes about 0.01 percent of the total acreage of EOs located on Federal lands. The military training ROWs on the OTA also encompass an additional 23 ac of 0.5 mile pollinator buffers that surround the 3 EOs, which represents about 0.002 percent of the total occupied habitat acreage on Federal lands. This 23 ac of occupied habitat is located entirely within MA 7.

Factors Affecting the Species in the Action Area

Threats to slickspot peppergrass associated with the OTA military training MOU and ROWs include wildfire, invasive nonnative plants, fire rehabilitation activities, herbicide and pesticide use, recreation, military training, and livestock use. With few exceptions, EOs 27, 53, and 67 have been relatively free of major fire events. As a result, associated occupied habitat is dominated by relatively intact stands of Wyoming big sagebrush, with scattered pockets of invasive nonnative annual plants.

Since 1994, the IDARNG has documented wildland fires within and adjacent to the OTA boundaries. The OTA has 22 firing ranges, all located inside Range Road loop; which is also an effective firebreak. Tanks, artillery, mortar, large and small arms (including grenades), and air-to-ground helicopter firing take place inside the Impact Area on these ranges. Slickspot peppergrass does not occur on these firing ranges or within the Impact Area. At points of impact, some munitions are capable of causing fires, and each year munitions-caused fires occur within the Impact Area. The average size of these fires is less than 0.25 ac, and these small fires occur in habitat that has burned many times during the past 45 years.

To address military-related fire ignitions, IDARNG firefighters are stationed on firing ranges during all live fire exercises throughout the entire fire season. As they can respond to a fire in moments, the IDARNG contains nearly all fires inside the Impact Area and extinguishes most fires within a few minutes. IDARNG firefighters respond to all fires in the OTA, regardless of the cause. There have been no training-caused wildfire in OTA Level I Habitat Management Areas since before 1987, which is in great contrast to lands just outside OTA, where tens of thousands of acres of slickspot peppergrass habitat (including lands with similarly ranked EOs) have burned over that period. In the OTA Level II Habitat Management Area, since 1987 there has been one fire set by a member of the general public, which burned fewer than five ac of weedy habitat (prior to 1994), one lightning-strike fire in sagebrush that burned fewer than 10 ac (1999), and one lightning-strike fire that burned fewer than 20 ac of rabbitbrush (2007).

Most of the human-caused wildfire ignitions in the OTA have been associated with live-fire military training activities confined to the Impact Area. The Amendment indicates that habitat conditions within the Impact Area of the OTA are degraded from past and ongoing military training activities. Additional adverse effects to vegetation and soil in the Impact Area have been

caused by "dudded" (explosive potential) and "non-dudded" (no explosive potential) ordinance. In addition to the existing resources and conservation measures implemented by the IDARNG, future impacts from military training–related fires both within and outside of the Impact Area are expected to be minimized by IDARNG's construction of more than 70 mi of fire breaks in and around the Impact Area. Along with prescribed fires around target areas and along fence lines, these BLM-authorized fire breaks will restrict most fires to less than 1.0 ac. The fire breaks are also used as access routes, which shortens reaction times by IDARNG fire suppression crews. The IDARNG has on-site firefighting equipment and facilities when they are conducting live fire exercises and have been successful over the past 24 years in avoiding fires in shrublands that support the slickspot peppergrass. However, fires do occur and if they spread to EOs, occupied habitat could be lost. Conservation measures for wildfire control have been effective thus far in minimizing the frequency of fire-related effects associated with military training, as well as civilian and lightning-caused wildfires within the OTA. While there is still a risk that a future military training–related fire could impact the slickspot peppergrass, there is a much greater probability that a lightning or civilian-caused wildland fire would affect Level 1 MAs within the OTA based on historic wildland fire occurrences.

HIP slickspot monitoring data for EOs in the OTA military training MOU and ROWs document invasive nonnative plant cover from less than 1 to about 21 percent. No noxious weed infestations are currently known to occur within occupied habitat in CCA MA 7. While some cheatgrass is present on the OTA, it is present at much lower levels than other areas of the Boise District. Conservation measures such as requirements to wash off site equipment at the MATES sites prior to entering the OTA reduce the risk of introduction and spread of invasive nonnative plants on the OTA.

Areas with high levels of ground disturbing activities, such as in heavy maneuver areas, the Impact Area, and the excavation training area have been used for decades so any damage to slickspots from military training in these sites has previously occurred. Few parts of the OTA maneuver area contain soils that do not exhibit some evidence of off-road military maneuver training. However, the most ecologically degrading maneuver activities (heavy maneuvers) have long been restricted to historically impacted areas, which reduce impacts to higher quality and less-affected habitat. Although light maneuvers are less impacting, by their very nature, they still impact vegetation and soils. The IDARNG minimizes the impacts of both light and heavy maneuvers by limiting the areas where these activities occur. In addition, the IDARNG hardens administrative areas and heavily used access routes. With the exception of evidence of historic tank tracks in one HIP transect recorded in 2004, no military training–related ground disturbance has been documented within HIP monitoring transects on the OTA.

Slickspot peppergrass habitat fragmentation within the action area is determined by shrub cover. The Amendment states that, according to vegetation maps generated by ground-truthed satellite imagery and HIP monitoring photos, approximately 90 percent of occupied habitat in the OTA contains native shrub cover. Fragmentation has occurred in parts of the action area due to past wildfires, which has resulted in a landscape containing large pockets of shrubs with smaller pockets of invasive nonnative annual plants located within both potential and occupied habitat. Areas with low shrub cover associated with military training activities, such as in the Impact Area, administrative sites, ROWs, and the excavation training area, have been used for decades, and the risk of any additional loss of shrub cover from military training in these areas is

considered to be low due to on-site fire protection and active conservation measures implemented via the IDARNG's INRMP. Military training activities are restricted from known EOs, and no slickspot peppergrass is known to occur within these military training areas.

Six years of HIP monitoring has documented biological soil crust cover from about 5 to about 69 percent within slickspots for the six representative HIP transects associated with EOs on the OTA. Twenty-seven of the 36 HIP monitoring data points (75 percent) exhibited biological soil crust cover greater than 25 percent. Biological soil crust cover is high in shrub-dominated areas of the OTA but is anticipated to be low in cheatgrass-dominated areas. As approximately 90 percent of occupied habitat in the OTA contains native shrub cover, crust cover is anticipated to be high throughout the action area, except in areas of relatively high ground disturbance such as in the Impact Area, Maneuver Area, and the excavation training site.

Two years of available HIP monitoring of the six representative HIP transects associated with EO areas in the vicinity on the OTA document native forb cover from 0 to about 15 percent, with all but one of the HIP data points documenting less than 1 percent forb cover in the vicinity of HIP transects. Habitat quality based on the percent cover of native forbs is categorized as low to moderate in the Amendment. Although no military training activities occur within the EOs, there is some potential for military training–related wildfire or the spread of nonnative exotic annual plants that could impact native forb cover. However, conservation measures such as restricting military training within known EOs, using on-site firefighting equipment and facilities when conducting live fire training exercises, and requiring military training equipment that enters the OTA from areas at least 50 mi away to be pressure washed considerably reduce the risk of military-related effects from fire ignitions and invasive nonnative plant introduction or spread.

The OTA lies within two grazing allotments and is used for livestock grazing. All three EOs located within the OTA are entirely within the Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotment #00825. Past livestock trampling in slickspots has been documented in the OTA, both within and outside of existing HIP monitoring transects. Livestock grazing uses in the Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotment #00825 have been previously addressed in the BLM's Assessment (2009, pp. IV-330 to IV-370) and in the Service's 2010 biological opinion on 27 ongoing BLM grazing allotments (Service 2010, pp. 161–171).

The general public also uses the northern portion of the OTA (which overlaps with occupied habitat and EO locations) for recreation, including shooting of firearms, hiking, and off-road vehicle travel. Vehicle travel by the general public can impact slickspots, damage the seed bank, and introduce invasive nonnative plant species. Recreational activities in the OTA may also increase wildfire risk, through ignition of fuels through recreational shooting and off-road vehicle activity.

Higby Cave is located within EO 27 and is surrounded by slickspot peppergrass habitat. Higby Cave has historically been a favorite recreation spot for the general public and is located in the large sagebrush stand south of Standifer Road. Fires associated with dispersed public recreation in the area are considered a threat to existing slickspot peppergrass habitat. During the past 5 years, there has been an increase in recreational activity in the vicinity of Higby Cave. Because of ongoing impacts to the cave and the surrounding sagebrush habitat, the BLM published an emergency closure of the cave in the Federal Register (69 FR 48516) and has taken steps to reduce human activity in the vicinity of the cave. This closure was made final in the 2007 Snake

River Birds of Prey NCA Resource Management Plan. The BLM also worked with a volunteer caving group to construct a permanent gate that prevents human access but allows wildlife ingress/egress. While these measures limit access to the cave, the closure has resulted in no perceptible change in use of the areas for other recreational activities, including shooting and camp fires.

Effects of the Action

Military training activities on the OTA are restricted from known slickspot peppergrass EOs. Training and maneuver areas also do not occur in areas with large concentrations of slickspots. Impacts from military training can be significant but are generally limited to heavier used sites, including the Impact Area, Maneuver Area, and the excavation training site. However, with the exception of the Bravo maneuver areas, which are restricted to light on-road maneuvers only, none of these heavier used sites are located in or near known EOs. In addition, areas with high levels of ground disturbing activities, such as in heavy maneuver areas, the Impact Area, and the excavation training area, have been used for decades so any damage to slickspots from military training in these sites has already occurred. Training and maneuver areas constitute a relatively small segment of occupied habitat within the action area. Damage to slickspots from vehicle traffic in occupied habitat outside of EOs may occur; however, these impacts are anticipated to be minimal due to the limited area where training activities occur and ongoing IDARNG efforts to avoid, reduce, minimize, or mitigate impacts to the slickspot peppergrass and slickspot microsites. Therefore, any new direct military training effects associated with ongoing ground-disturbing activities are unlikely or remote and discountable.

Live-fire military training in the Impact Area has the greatest potential for adversely impacting slickspot peppergrass and its habitat due to the risk of wildfire ignition. The IDARNG has firefighting equipment and facilities located onsite when they are conducting live fire exercises, and, over the past 24 years they have successfully avoided the escape of military-ignited fires into shrublands that support the slickspot peppergrass. However, military training could ignite fires and habitat could be lost. For example, in 1996, a military training-related fire within the Impact Area burned over 29,000 ac. Areas that have burned may subsequently be dominated by invasive nonnative annual plants such as cheatgrass. Although the IDARNG has a very good record of keeping fires relatively small, the potential for large wildfires and associated invasion by nonnative annual and perennial plants still exists. Disturbance from military training activities outside of EOs may also spread invasive nonnative plants. The risk of effects due to dissemination of weeds by military training activities is reduced by conservation measures that require all vehicles from outside the area, including tanks, to be washed at the MATES facility prior to entry and exit from the training areas to remove weed seeds and plant parts and avoid additional entry of weeds into the OTA. Therefore, effects are reasonably likely to occur but at a reduced level since conservation measures have been demonstrated to reduce but not eliminate adverse effects to the slickspot peppergrass.

Effects of Interrelated and Interdependent Activities

While the MATES facility is not included within the area authorized under the BLM /IDARNG MOU, the MATES site represents an interdependent action associated with the BLM authorization. This facility stores and maintains approximately 300 heavy vehicles (tanks, personnel carriers, and trucks) for units that come to OTA for training. Direct impacts to

slickspot peppergrass and its habitat related to the construction of the facility have previously occurred. Wildfire ignition, environmental contamination from petroleum or chemical spills, and the introduction of invasive nonnative plants may occur from ongoing operation or maintenance of this facility. For example, hot machinery may ignite fine fuels in the area or weed seeds may be introduced in gravel or cinders imported onto the site. However, existing conservation measures, such as graveling/hardening of high use and parking areas to minimize fire ignitions, implementing weed control measures to reduce nonnative plant invasion, and implementing HAZMAT prevention measures are anticipated to minimize the risk of fire, invasive nonnative plant introduction, and environmental contamination at the MATES site.

The MATES facility potentially benefit slickspot peppergrass and its habitat on the OTA since all vehicles coming to the OTA from more than 50 mi away are required to go through a central vehicle wash facility to help prevent the introduction and spread of noxious and invasive plants. Vehicles also are run through the wash facility on their return from training. This closed loop facility separates the petroleum contaminates, dirt, and weed seed for disposal in suitable land fill locations. In addition, the water storage ponds at the MATES facility also serve as a water source for wildland fire trucks and helicopter water bucket refill. Operating this vehicle washing station at the facility may be beneficial, and could contribute to the survival and recovery of the species and its habitat on the OTA. The risk of adverse effects to slickspot peppergrass from military training–related activities at the MATES site are expected to be minimal and are not anticipated to affect the rangewide survival and recovery of slickspot peppergrass.

Cumulative Effects

See discussion on pages 61–62 under oil, gas, and water pipeline ROWs section.

Overview of Effects

Overall, the analysis of effects of the military training MOU and ROW authorizations indicated that slickspot peppergrass habitat conditions may degrade over time under five of the eight habitat framework indicators. However, the overall trend associated with slickspot peppergrass habitat conditions within the OTA is considerably better than the habitat trend outside of the OTA, which is attributed to the IDARNG's long-term slickspot peppergrass conservation program. While some adverse impacts may occur, effects are expected to be localized. Habitat quality within slickspot peppergrass–occupied habitat in the military training ROWs and MOU area are not expected to change with continued military training activities and associated conservation measures. Because military training activities occur in defined areas outside of slickspot peppergrass locations with prioritized fire suppression measures in place, the likelihood of fire starts that would burn into EOs is considered low. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression, active conservation measures, and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire and ground disturbance impacts over the past 20 years. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with military training activities. For the above reasons, these actions are not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the OTA over the term of the military training ROW actions (from 1 to 14 more years, depending on the ROW action) and the term of the military training MOU action (24 more years). Thus, each of these individual actions is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within

the individual military training ROW action areas and within the military training MOU action area.

5.2.1.3. Boise District Ongoing Mineral Authorizations

5.2.1.3.1. Mineral Authorizations

Description of the Action Area

No leasable or locatable mineral sites occur within or near occupied habitat in the Four Rivers FO, and no known potentially valuable quantities of any leasable or locatable materials occur within occupied habitat. As such, the minerals program in areas affected by occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat is limited to the disposal (by sale or free use permit) of salable minerals, including rock, sand, clay, cinders, and gravel. Mineral materials are extracted from designated pits, and as such, potential impacts may be mitigated by restricting activities to areas already disturbed by mineral development or by limiting extraction-related activities to areas that do not support slickspot peppergrass. There are five mineral material permits for sites within 333 ac of occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat in the Four Rivers FO.

Description of the Action

Three types of permitted activities within designated mineral material sites (e.g., gravel pits, rock pits, and cinder pits) occur: (1) commercial mineral material sales to contractors, (2) free use permits (FUPs) to local government or quasi-governmental entities, and (3) community pits. Typical medium-to-large commercial mineral material sales, such as the two sites located to the west of BLM wild horse corrals in the north-central portion of CCA MA 5, usually involve the operation of a rock crusher and screen, a scale, an office trailer, front-end loader(s), a bulldozer, and approximately 5 to 10 dump trucks. Such an operation would be considered medium sized and would have the equipment on-site throughout the year.

Typical Free Use Permits (FUPs) to a government agency such as a city, county, or highway district, usually involve the operation of a rock crusher and screen on-site long enough to crush a stockpile of material that will last for 2 to 3 years. After a stockpile has been established, a front-end loader and several trucks will use the stockpile as needed, usually during the spring and summer, to repair gravel roads that have been damaged during the winter and spring run-off. This equipment is typically not kept on-site.

The average mineral material sale from a community pit is for small quantities (1 ton or 1 cubic yard or less), with the permittee using hand tools to load the material into a pickup truck. Occasionally, larger sales are permitted in community pits and the permittee will use a skid-loader or front-end loader to load a trailer or larger truck.

Expiration dates of the mineral materials authorizations range from August 9, 2011 to in perpetuity. Mineral authorizations that also contain slickspot peppergrass occupied habitat are listed in Table 14 below.

Table 14. Mineral authorizations located in the Boise District that contain occupied habitat for the slickspot peppergrass

Permit Serial Number—Type	Expiration Date	Conservation Value of ROW (High. Medium. Low) and EO Associated with Occupied Habitat within the Authorization	Slickspot Peppergrass Stipulations Included in the Authorization? (Y/N)	Occupied Habitat Acres within the Authorization
IDI-34214—Sand/Gravel	Jan. 8, 2013	Medium EO 24	N	37.9
IDI-22816 — Pumice/Volcanic Cinders Community Pit	N/A (expires when pumice/volcanic cinders pit is depleted)	Medium EO 18	N	19.9
IDI-013012 — Sand/Gravel	In perpetuity	Medium EO 32	N	36.6
IDI-33802—Cinder	Aug. 9, 2011	High EO 27 (includes old EO 71)	N	158.9
IBL-0053419— Sand/Gravel	In perpetuity	Medium EO 24	N	79.4
TOTAL	—	—	—	332.7

For additional details on mineral authorizations on the Boise District, see the Amendment (BLM 2011, pp. III-1 through III-13).

Commercial mineral material sales, FUPs, and community pit sales are temporary authorizations that the BLM may modify or revoke at its discretion. The above authorizations do not contain slickspot peppergrass stipulations since they were issued prior to the development of slickspot peppergrass conservation measures.

Environmental Baseline

Status of the Species in the Action Area

A total of four EOs (18, 24, 27[5], and 32) are associated with the mineral material sites located within approximately 333 ac of occupied habitat. These mineral authorizations are located within the Snake River Plain physiographic region. No mineral authorizations are located within the

[5] This Opinion discusses EO 27 as being an EO associated with mineral material authorizations rather than EO 71 as described in the Amendment since EO 71 has been incorporated into EO 27.

boundary of existing EOs. The INHP has classified EOs in the vicinity of the mineral authorizations as B- (EO 27) and C-ranked (EOs 18, 24, and 32).

Occupied habitat for four EOs is located partially within the boundaries of the four mineral material use authorization areas. Although no EOs are bisected by mineral material use authorization areas, these mineral material use authorization areas encompass 333 ac of 0.5 mile pollinator buffers that surround the four EOs, which represents about 0.03 percent of the total occupied habitat acreage on Federal lands. The four mineral material use authorization areas are located within three different MAs.

The scale of the satellite vegetation data is too coarse to estimate vegetation conditions for current or future opportunities for slickspot peppergrass conservation outside of known EOs in the mineral materials sites. However, based on knowledge of mineral materials sites, the following information has been estimated based on professional judgment by BLM resource specialists:

- Less than 10 percent of occupied habitat located in mineral material sites is expected to contain native shrub habitat.
- Approximately 90 percent or more of occupied habitat located in mineral material sites is expected to either no longer be habitat because of excavation of the pits or would be dominated by noxious and invasive plant species from ground disturbance associated with mineral excavation activities.

Factors Affecting the Species in the Action Area

Threats to slickspot peppergrass in the vicinity of the mineral authorization sites include wildfire, invasive nonnative plants, fire rehabilitation activities, herbicide and pesticide use, development, military training, and livestock use. Significant ground disturbance has already occurred in the footprint of the mineral authorization sites, making the continued presence of slickspots, individual slickspot peppergrass plants, and seed banks unlikely in previously disturbed ground in the immediate area of the excavations. Although the majority of damage to slickspots associated with the mineral authorization sites has already occurred, some new slickspot areas may be disturbed.

The two primary factors affecting the slickspot peppergrass in the mineral material use authorization areas would be ground disturbance associated with development of the sites and the spread of noxious and invasive plants associated with mining activities. Remnant native vegetation at these sites is extremely limited as shrubs and forbs have been lost as a result of previous activities on these sites. Mineral pit areas are also used for dispersed recreation that may impact the slickspot peppergrass. For example, OHV use in mineral pit areas may migrate into adjacent habitat areas, spreading invasive nonnative plants or igniting fires. In contrast, risk of fire ignition from mineral material use authorizations is low as operations primarily occur within the totally de-vegetated area inside the pits and vehicle ingress/egress is by access roads.

Dust generated by mineral materials extraction or transportation on access roads may cover native forbs, possibly affecting insect pollinators upon which slickspot peppergrass depends for seed production. Dust generated from mining-related activities may also act as fertilizer and encourage vegetation growth, including growth of invasive nonnative plants such as cheatgrass. Due to the limited area of mineral material use authorization actions in relation to the slickspot

peppergrass, effects to the species and its habitat related to dust generated from ongoing sand and gravel and cinder extraction activities is expected to be minimal.

Salable mineral development activities could potentially directly impact slickspot peppergrass by displacing overburden (both vegetation and soils) needed to reach the target minerals. Related direct impacts may result if overburden is moved to an area that buries slickspot peppergrass plants or habitat. Additional direct impacts may be caused by road construction/maintenance and heavy equipment maneuvering. Since existing mineral material sites have been operating for many years, most potential direct effects have occurred in existing mineral material sites. However, expanding existing pits into previously unexcavated areas could result in localized impacts to the slickspot peppergrass and its habitat. Using and maintaining these sites also may affect the species through spread of weeds or ignition of wildfire from hot equipment contacting dry fuels.

Six years of HIP slickspot monitoring data document invasive nonnative plant cover from less than 2 percent to about 68 percent within EOs in the vicinity of the mineral materials sites. Occupied habitat associated with EO 32 contains infestations of at least two noxious weed species: whitetop (observed from 1996–2006) and Scotch thistle (observed from 1996–1999). Whitetop infestations have become rampant along Ten Mile Creek Road, which borders EO 32 on the south side. At least three noxious weed species have been documented within occupied habitat in CCA MA 6: Canada thistle, spotted knapweed, and whitetop. Habitat condition quality is categorized as low to moderate due to the presence of intact sagebrush overstory in two EOs (portions of EOs 27 and 32), noxious weeds near two EOs, high levels of cheatgrass in the understory of two EOs, and a lack of perennial forbs in the understory of all EOs. While HIP data indicate that the surrounding occupied habitat should be categorized as moderate to high quality overall, high levels of disturbance and habitat modification within the minerals materials sites makes the habitat quality in these areas low for the slickspot peppergrass, and much of the area in these mineral materials sites no longer supports the species.

Varying levels of habitat fragmentation due to wildfire have occurred within the action areas, although BLM fire history data do not indicate that these fires were related to operations or maintenance of mineral material use authorization areas. Slickspot peppergrass habitat fragmentation within the action areas is determined by shrub cover. The Amendment indicates that, according to vegetation maps generated by ground-truthed satellite imagery and HIP monitoring photos, the amount of occupied habitat with shrub cover varies widely, from less than 5 percent in CCA MA 6 (EO 24) to 90 percent in CCA MA 7 (EO 27). The habitat associated with the mineral material sites is fragmented from wildfire, with pockets of shrubs in both potential and occupied habitat within the action areas. Indirect effects resulting from increased recreational use such as OHV activity and target shooting may result in additional habitat fragmentation as these activities may ignite fires and/or spread invasive nonnative plants. Ground-truthed satellite data indicate that the surrounding habitat should be categorized overall as moderate quality for the slickspot peppergrass; however, the Amendment states that slickspot peppergrass habitat quality for the habitat fragmentation parameter within mineral material sites is low due to the high levels of shrub removal associated with mineral material activities.

Six years of HIP monitoring have documented biological soil crust cover from about 14 percent to about 76 percent for slickspots within EOs in the vicinity of the mineral materials sites. Loss

of biological crust cover within the mineral materials site excavation footprints occurred during mineral excavation at the sites. While HIP data indicate that the surrounding habitat should be categorized as moderate quality overall, high levels of disturbance and habitat modification within the mineral materials sites make the slickspot peppergrass habitat quality in these areas low to moderate for the biological soil crust cover parameter. Due to the high levels of ground disturbance, many of these minerals sites are not expected to currently support the species.

Two years of available HIP monitoring of EOs in the vicinity of the mineral materials sites have documented native forb cover as less than 1 percent. Slickspot peppergrass habitat quality, based on the percent cover of native forbs, is categorized as low for mineral sites as described in the Amendment.

Effects of the Action

Significant ground disturbance has already occurred in the mineral authorization sites, including permanent loss of slickspot microsites associated with excavating materials. However, expanding existing pits into previously unexcavated areas could potentially impact the slickspot peppergrass and its habitat. Impacts to additional slickspots in the mineral materials use authorization areas may occur due to expanding excavation activities that may crush individual plants or cause ground disturbance. Ground disturbance, particularly when soils are wet, may negatively impact slickspots, the seed banks, or individual plants. However, the risk of localized direct mechanical effects to individual plants, native forbs, biological soils crusts, and slickspot microsites caused by maintenance activities and vehicle access in the mineral materials use authorization areas are expected to be low as the majority of excavation activities occur primarily within previously disturbed areas of the sites. Similarly, localized effects to nearby slickspot peppergrass plants or forbs from dust generated during excavation or materials transport activities are expected to be of low to moderate risk to the species.

Spread of invasive nonnative plants through mineral excavation or materials transport activities poses the highest potential for impact to the slickspot peppergrass and its habitat. Vehicles and excavation equipment used onsite and on associated access roads could disseminate and disperse noxious weeds and invasive exotic annuals and spread invasive nonnative plants subsequent to a wildfire ignited by excavation activities. In addition, OHV use in mineral pit areas may migrate into adjacent habitat areas, spreading invasive nonnative plants.

Fire ignitions associated with mineral sites may also impact the slickspot peppergrass. Vehicles and excavation equipment used onsite and on associated access roads may ignite fine fuels that come into contact with hot equipment or sparks generated from metal striking rocks. Dispersed recreational activity in mineral sites also increases the potential for fire ignition, as heat generated by vehicles can ignite fuels along roadsides or off roads, particularly in areas with high cheatgrass cover. Target shooters using mineral pit areas may also inadvertently ignite a fire as bullets hitting rocks or targets may generate sparks and ignite fine fuels. Based on 19 years of BLM fire history data, the incidence of wildfire ignitions related to operation and maintenance of the four mineral material use authorization areas is expected to be low, although there is a chance that wildfire ignitions may occur due to public use of these areas.

The majority of effects to native forbs occurred during previous excavation of mineral pits. Some new areas may be impacted as pits are expanded into previously unexcavated areas. Native forbs

may also be impacted by staging areas located in the permitted mineral material sales sites. Potential effects to native forbs from mining activities may include impacts from dust generation and weed invasion associated with operation and maintenance activities. Indirect effects to native forb cover may also occur from recreational activities in mineral material sites, such as OHV activity and target shooting and their associated impacts (i.e., illegal trash dumping, introduction and spread of invasive nonnative plants, wildfire ignitions).

The risk of wildfire and spread of invasive nonnative plants is reduced, but not eliminated, through implementation of land use plan level conservation measures from the CA developed between the BLM and the Service prioritizing suppression of fires and control of invasive nonnative plants that threaten EOs. Although no conservation measures for the slickspot peppergrass are incorporated into the existing mineral materials authorizations, conservation measures may be incorporated into permits that are being updated or will be renewed in the next several years. Despite implementation of these conservation measures, ongoing mineral materials sales may still result in localized adverse impacts to the slickspot peppergrass due to ground disturbance, the potential for fire ignition, and spread of invasive nonnative plants. Therefore, localized adverse effects from ongoing mineral excavation activities on individual slickspot peppergrass plants and slickspot microsites from wildfire and dispersal of noxious weeds and invasive nonnative annual plants are reasonably certain to occur.

Effects of Interrelated and Interdependent Activities

None are anticipated.

Cumulative Effects

See discussion on pages 61–62 under oil, gas, and water pipeline ROWs section.

Overview of Effects

Overall, the analysis of effects of the mineral materials authorization indicated that slickspot peppergrass habitat conditions may degrade over time under five of the eight habitat framework indicators. While some adverse impacts may occur, effects are expected to be localized. Habitat quality within occupied habitat for the slickspot peppergrass in the mineral materials authorization sites is not expected to change with continued mineral materials excavation and removal and associated conservation measures. Because the extent of mineral materials excavation and removal sites is limited and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, including financial incentives for operators to avoid operations-related fire ignitions, the likelihood of fire starts that will burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the localized spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with mineral materials excavation and removal activities. For some authorizations, impact risk is further reduced by the term of the action less than 1 year for one of the five authorizations). For the above reasons, these mineral material authorization actions are not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action areas over the remaining term of the action (from 1 year to in perpetuity, depending on the authorization). Thus, these actions are compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the individual mineral materials authorization action areas.

5.3. Effects Summary

5.3.1. Summary of Ongoing Actions Effects Determinations

Table 15 below summarizes the effects of the 114 ongoing ROWs, military training, and mineral material use authorization actions on the current conservation value of EOs and associated slickspot peppergrass occupied habitat located within the individual action areas.

Conservation measures designed to reduce wildfire threats and invasive nonnative plant competition are expected to be especially important for the survival and recovery of the species. Conservation measures designed to reduce wildfire and invasive nonnative plants include placing a high priority on protecting slickspot peppergrass during fire suppression efforts; using pesticides in a manner that conserves or minimizes risk of exposure to slickspot peppergrass and its habitat; and promoting the diversity, richness, and heath of native plant communities to support pollinators and slickspot peppergrass habitat. Future recovery and critical habitat planning efforts may identify conservation actions and essential factors appropriate for consideration when ongoing actions are reauthorized.

Many of the actions analyzed in this Opinion are described as having "localized effects" on the slickspot peppergrass. Localized effects are those that are anticipated to occur within a relatively small area in relation to slickspot peppergrass occupied habitat within an action area. HIP monitoring data and project descriptions within the Amendment indicate that some potential impacts are typically patchy in distribution and/or frequency across the action area and may be limited in size. Thus, while some adverse impacts may occur within a small portion of an action area, localized effects are not expected to occur across the extent of occupied habitat within an action area. For example, ground disturbance associated with replacing electric power line poles may occur within a very small area in relation to the occupied habitat within an individual ROW.

Table 15. Summary of effects of 114 ongoing BLM Rights-of-Way (ROW), military training, and mineral materials use authorization actions on the slickspot peppergrass.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Pipeline ROW IDI-014443—Pipeline ROW Maintenance, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
Medium to High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 26 is located within the action area (0 ac of the EO). Based on the degraded condition of the occupied habitat within the actual ROW, the area was categorized as medium to high value rather than high value.	Wildfire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during occasional pipeline maintenance activities. Impacts to the LEPA from fires ignited by ROW maintenance activities are likely to be low due to the limited amount of maintenance activities that are likely to occur, and the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with vehicle travel to the site or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities are not expected to occur more than every 5 to 10 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Pipeline ROW IDI-001958—Pipeline ROW Maintenance, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
Low to Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 48 is located within the action area (0 ac of EO). Based on the degraded condition of the occupied habitat within the actual ROW area, the area was categorized as low to medium value rather than medium value.	Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, weed control, and requirements to seed disturbed areas within the ROW are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during occasional pipeline maintenance activities. Impacts to the LEPA from fires ignited by ROW maintenance activities are likely to be low due to the limited amount of maintenance activities that are likely to occur, and the fire prevention and suppression conservation measures in place. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with vehicle travel to the site or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities are not expected to occur more than every 5 to 10 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Pipeline ROW IDI-030166—Pipeline ROW Maintenance, Expires 01/23/2024 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
Low—Occupied habitat associated with D-ranked EO 10 is located within the action area (0 ac of EO).	Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, weed control, and requirements to seed disturbed areas within the ROW are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during occasional pipeline maintenance activities. Impacts to the LEPA from fires ignited by ROW maintenance activities are likely to be low due to the limited amount of maintenance activities that are likely to occur, and the fire prevention and suppression conservation measures in place. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with vehicle travel to the site or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities are not expected to occur more than every 5 to 10 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (6<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for the EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Pipeline ROW IDI-031008—Pipeline ROW Maintenance, Expires 06/26/2015 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
Low to Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 48 is located within the action area (0 ac of EO). Based on the degraded condition of the occupied habitat within the actual ROW area, the area was categorized as low to medium rather than medium value.	Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, weed control, and requirements to seed disturbed areas within the ROW are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during occasional pipeline maintenance activities. Impacts to the LEPA from fires ignited by ROW maintenance activities are likely to be low due to the limited amount of maintenance activities that are likely to occur, and the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with vehicle travel to the site or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities are not expected to occur more than every 5 to 10 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (4 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Pipeline ROW IDI-0000602—Pipeline ROW Maintenance, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 6 EOs (473 Acres)				
Medium to High—Occupied habitat associated with the following EOs is located within the ROW area: MA 2C: B-ranked EO 76 (0 ac of EO). MA 8: B-ranked EO 30 (46 ac of EO). MA 9: C-ranked EO 62 (0 ac of EO). MA 10: B-ranked EOs 8 (33 ac of EO) and 26 (5 ac of EO) and D-ranked EO 63 (0.25 ac of EO). Based on the degraded condition of the occupied habitat within the actual ROW, the area was categorized as medium to high value rather than high value.	Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, weed control, and requirements to seed disturbed areas within the ROW are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during occasional pipeline maintenance activities. Impacts to the LEPA from fires ignited by ROW maintenance activities are likely to be low due to the limited amount of maintenance activities that are likely to occur, and the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with vehicle travel to the site or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities are not expected to occur more than every 5 to 10 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Pipeline ROW IDI-0006421—Pipeline ROW Maintenance, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 11 EOs (70 Acres)				
Medium to High—Occupied habitat associated with the following EOs is located within the ROW area: MA 1: B-ranked EO 70 (0 ac of EO). MA 5: C-ranked EOs 22, 32, and 48 (all with 0 ac of EO) and D-ranked EO 102 (0 ac of EO). MA 8: C-ranked EO 20 (0 ac of EO). MA 8B: C-ranked EO 104 (0 ac of EO) and F-ranked EO 54 (0.16 ac of EO). MA 9: C-ranked EO 62 (0 ac of EO). MA 10: B-ranked EOs 8 and 26 (16 ac and 30 ac of EOs respectively). Based on the degraded condition of the occupied habitat within the actual ROW, the area was categorized as medium to high value rather than high value.	Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, weed control, and requirements to seed disturbed areas within the ROW are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during occasional pipeline maintenance activities. [If fire history data are available, use that information to determine the likelihood and extent of fire-related impacts.] There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with occasional ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities are not expected to occur more than every 5 to 10 years and are likely to involve a localized area. [Based on past maintenance actions, determine if such effects are likely or not; discuss if weed control actions will adequately mitigate for these effects.]	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Pipeline ROW IDI-030409—Pipeline ROW Maintenance, Expires 04/25/2014 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (< 1 Acre)				
Medium to High— Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 70 is located within the action area (0 ac of EO). Based on the degraded condition of the occupied habitat within the actual ROW, the area was categorized as medium to high value rather than high value.	Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, weed control, and requirements to seed disturbed areas within the ROW are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during occasional pipeline maintenance activities. Impacts to the LEPA from fires ignited by ROW maintenance activities are likely to be low due to the limited amount of maintenance activities that are likely to occur, and the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with vehicle travel to the site or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities are not expected to occur more than every 5 to 10 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre) and the short term of the action (3 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (3 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Pipeline ROW IDI-0008402—Pipeline ROW Maintenance, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (16 Acres)				
Low to Medium—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 26 is located within the action area (about 5 ac of EO). Based on the degraded condition of the occupied habitat within the actual pipeline facility ROW, the area was categorized as low to medium to high value rather than high value.	Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, weed control, and requirements to seed disturbed areas within the ROW are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during occasional pipeline maintenance activities. Impacts to the LEPA from fires ignited by ROW maintenance activities are likely to be low due to the limited amount of maintenance activities that are likely to occur, and the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with vehicle travel to the site or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities are not expected to occur more than every 5 to 10 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Pipeline ROW IDI-024227—Pipeline ROW Maintenance, Expires 09/21/2017 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (1 Acre)				
Medium to High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 30 is located within the action area (1 ac of EO). Based on the degraded condition of the occupied habitat within the actual ROW area, the area was categorized as medium to high value rather than high value.	Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, weed control, and requirements to seed disturbed areas within the ROW are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during occasional pipeline maintenance activities. Impacts to the LEPA from fires ignited by ROW maintenance activities are likely to be low due to the limited amount of maintenance activities that are likely to occur, and the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with vehicle travel to the site or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities are not expected to occur more than every 5 to 10 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (6 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Pipeline ROW IDI-002971—Pipeline ROW Maintenance, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (3 Acres)				
Low—Occupied habitat associated with D-ranked EO 10 is located within the action area (0 ac of EO).	Wildfire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, weed control, and requirements to seed disturbed areas within the ROW are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during occasional pipeline maintenance activities. Impacts to the LEPA from fires ignited by ROW maintenance activities are likely to be low due to the limited amount of maintenance activities that are likely to occur, and the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with vehicle travel to the site or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities are not expected to occur more than every 5 to 10 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (3 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (authorized in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDBL-054046—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 12/17/2031 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (3 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 26 (about 0.5 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the relatively small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (3 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (20 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-000334—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 02/20/2017 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (4 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 24 (0 ac of EO) and D-ranked EO 43 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the relatively small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (4 acres) and the short term of the action (6 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (6 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-0008798—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 12/31/2037 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (1 Acre)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 26 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (26 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-0009155—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 12/31/2037 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 26 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (26 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-013074—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 9/27/2012 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 4 EOs (7 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EOs 72 (0.2 ac of EO) and 104 (0 ac of EO), D-ranked EO 103 (0 ac of EO), and F-ranked EO 54 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the relatively small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (7 acres) and the short term of the action (1 more year). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (2 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-013236—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 02/11/2013 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (4 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 48 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the relatively small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (4 acres) and the short term of the action (2 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (2 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-013610—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 01/23/2013 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (1 Acre)				
Low—Occupied habitat associated with F-ranked EO 42 (0.06 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the relatively small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (1 acre) and the short term of the action (2 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (2 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-0015024—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 06/20/2015 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (23 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 26 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the relatively short remaining term of the action (4 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (4 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-015804—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 12/03/2014 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (2 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 32 (0 ac of EO) and EO 48 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (2 acres) and the short term of the action (3 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (3 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-0017143—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 05/19/2016 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (3 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EOs 32 (3 ac of EO) and F-ranked EO 49 (0.28 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (3 acres) and the short term of the action (5 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (5 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-002763—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 04/15/2019 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (1 Acre)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 32 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (8 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-002890—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 06/10/2019 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (7 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 18 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the relatively small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (7 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (8 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-005963—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 03/31/2026 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (9 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 66 (0.7 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the relatively small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (9 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (9 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-008875—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 09/13/2029 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 4 EOs (89 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 67 (0 ac of EO), C-ranked EO 31 (0 ac of EO) and EO 104 (0 ac of EO), and F-ranked EO 41 (7.33 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (18 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-008913—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 02/19/2025 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (10 Acres)				
Low—Occupied habitat associated with D-ranked EOs 43 (0 ac of EO) and 105 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the relatively small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (10 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (14 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-009195—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 10/29/2025 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (15 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 32 (14 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the relatively small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (15 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (14 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-009280—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 10/19/2026 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
Low—Occupied habitat associated with D-ranked EO 19 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (15 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-009759—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 12/31/2038 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 26 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (27 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-014146—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 12/31/2037 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 29 (0.4 ac of EO) is located within the ROW area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (26 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-014749—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Authorized in perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 3 EOs (24 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with the following EOs is located within the ROW area: MA 8: C-ranked EO 20 (0 ac of EO). MA 9: BC-ranked EO 51 (0 ac of EO). MA 10: B-ranked EO 26 (0 ac of EO).	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Native Vegetation Protection, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, native vegetation protection, including shrubs, requirements to seed disturbed areas, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within peppergrass-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-014749-03—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Authorized in perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 5 EOs (43 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with the following EOs is located within the ROW area: MA 5: C-ranked EO 48 (0 ac of EO) and D-ranked EO 102 (0 ac of EO). MA 8: C-ranked EOs 54 (0 ac of EO), 72 (0 ac of EO), and 104 (0.12 ac of EO).	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, requirements to seed disturbed areas, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-014868—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 09/29/2031 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 4 EOs (65 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with the following EOs is located within the ROW area: MA 8: B-ranked EO 30 (7 ac of EO). MA 9: C-ranked EO 29 (0 ac of EO). MA 10: B-ranked EOs 8 (2.7 ac of EO) and 26 (0 ac of EO).	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (20 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-016256—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Authorized in perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (3 Acres)				
Low—Occupied habitat associated with D-ranked EO 10 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (3 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-016259—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (14 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 18 (1.41 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, fuels management, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-020025—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 07/08/2012 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (6 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EOs 8 (3 ac of EO) and 26 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (6 acres) and the short term of the action (1 more year). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (1 more year). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-020829—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (3 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 29 (0.42 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, fuels management, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (3 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-020976—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 02/18/2035 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (<1 Acre)				
High— Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 76 (0 ac of EO) and C-ranked EO 52 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (24 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-023966—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 09/14/2017 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 104 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (6 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-025555—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 04/24/2018 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
High— Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 76 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre) and the short term of the action (7 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (7 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-025639—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 03/14/2018 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (1 Acre)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 30 (1 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, requirements to seed disturbed areas, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (1 acre) and the short term of the action (7 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (7 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-025910—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 03/23/2019 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 76 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, requirements to seed disturbed areas, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (8 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-026291—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 01/24/2019 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 5 EOs (19 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with the following EOs is located within the ROW area: MA 8: D-ranked EO 60 (0 ac of EO). MA 8B: F-ranked EO 54 (0 ac of EO). MA 9: C-ranked EO 29 (0 ac of EO). MA 10: B-ranked EOs 8 (3 ac of EO) and 26 (0 ac of EO).	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (8 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-026346—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 11/14/2013 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (8 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 27 (0.62 ac of EO) and C-ranked EO 53 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (8 acres) and the short term of the action (2 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (2 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-026724—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 07/31/2019 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (1 Acre)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 68 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (8 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-027555—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 07/09/2020 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (3 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 70 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (3 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (9 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-0208090—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 02/11/2021 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (3 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 24(0 ac of EO) and D-ranked EO 43 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (3 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (10 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-029176—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 07/28/2012 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 3 EOs (4 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 30 (0 ac of EO), C-ranked EO 20 (0 ac of EO), and D-ranked EO 15 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (4 acres) and the short term of the action (1 more year). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (1 more year). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-030911—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 12/11/2014 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (2 Acres)				
Low—Occupied habitat associated with D-ranked EO 15 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (2 acres) and the short term of the action (2 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (2 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-031196—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 07/16/2025 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 76 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (14 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-033074—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 03/23/2020 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (3 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 30 (1 ac of EO) and C-ranked EO 20 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, requirements to seed disturbed areas, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (3 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (9 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-033767—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 10/01/2011 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 4 EOs (<1 Acre)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with the following EOs is located within the ROW area: MA 8: B-ranked EO 30 (0 ac of EO), C-ranked EO 20 (0 ac of EO), and D-ranked EO 15 (0 ac of EO). MA 9: C-ranked EO 29 (0 ac of EO).	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre) and the short term of the action (<1 more year). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (1 more year). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-033797—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 10/23/2011 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 29 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre) and the short term of the action (<1 more year). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (<1 more year). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-034001—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 04/18/2012 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (1 Acre)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 68 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (1 acre) and the short term of the action (1 more year). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (1 more year). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-034014—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 01/08/2033 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (9 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 24 (0 ac of EO) and D-ranked EO 43 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (9 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (22 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-034098—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 10/09/2022 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 76 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, requirements to seed disturbed areas, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (11 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-035510—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 12/31/2015 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 3 EO (4 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 30 (1 ac of EO), C-ranked EO 20 (0 ac of EO), and D-ranked EO 15 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (4 acres) and the short term of the action (4 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (4 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-035651—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 12/31/2025 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (1 Acre)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 104 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Native Vegetation Protection, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, native vegetation protection, including shrubs, requirements to seed disturbed areas, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (14 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-036023—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 12/31/2037 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (2 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EOs 72 (0 ac of EO) and 104 (0.12 ac of EO) is located within the ROW area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (2 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (26 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-056096—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 09/13/2029 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (2 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 31 (0 ac of EO) is located within the ROW area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (2 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (28 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-026986—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 02/13/2020 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 76 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (9 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-032508—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 12/31/2028 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (2 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EOs 32 (2 ac of EO) and 66 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, fuels management, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (2 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (17 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Electric Power and Telephone Line ROW IDI-0013808—Electric Power and Telephone ROW Maintenance, Expires 04/01/2013 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (2 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 26 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during electric power and telephone line maintenance activities or from fire ignitions associated with line operations. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur every 3 to 5 years and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (2 acres) and the short term of the action (2 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (2 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-028281—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Expires 10/09/2012 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (1 Acre)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 70 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (1 acre) and by the short term of the action (1 more year). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (1 more year). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDBL-0049316—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (8 Acres)				
Medium to High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 70 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area. Based on the degraded condition of the occupied habitat within the actual ROW area, the area was categorized as medium to high value rather than high value.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the relatively small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (8 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDBL-0053630—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (59 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 61 (1.15 ac of EO) and D-ranked EO 10 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDBL-0054134—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (15 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 61 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-001416—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (110 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 29 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, fuels management, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-013933—Road ROW Maintenance, Expires 12/31/2036 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (13 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EOs 18 and 25 (0 ac of EO) are located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (25 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-020029—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 4 EOs (103 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EOs 8 (13.6 ac of EO) and 26 (0.2 ac of EO),C-ranked EO 61 (0 ac of EO), and D-ranked EO 10 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-020038—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 8 EOs (99 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 27 (20 ac of EO); C-ranked EOs 18, 24 (0 ac of EO), 25 (0 ac of EO), 32 (0 ac of EO), and 52 (0 ac of EO); and D-ranked EOs 18 (0 ac of EO) and 43 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-020042—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Expires 04/14/2013 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (5 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 26 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (5 acre) and by the short term of the action (2 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (2 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-021406—Road ROW Maintenance, Expires 05/05/2016 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (11 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with BC-ranked EO 51 (0.01 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the short term of the action (5 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (5 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-026348— Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Expires 11/14/2013 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (9Acres) **See also OTA Military Training–Snake River Support Facility ROW IDI-026348— Military Training below**				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 27 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the relatively small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (9 acre) and by the short term of the action (2 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (2 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-0228879—Road ROW Maintenance, Expires 07/28/2023 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 76 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (12 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-029438—Road ROW Maintenance and Road Use, Expires 07/16/2013 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (75 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 27 (0 ac of EO) and C-ranked EO 53 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the short term of the action (2 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (2 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-030340—Road ROW Maintenance, Expires 08/30/2024 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 30 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (13 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-030639—Road ROW Maintenance, Expires 10/05/2014 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
Low—Occupied habitat associated with D-ranked EO 15 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre) and by the short term of the action (3 more years). . For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (3 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-30643—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Expires 08/04/2014 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (2 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 30 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Native Vegetation Protection, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, native vegetation protection, including shrubs, requirements to seed disturbed areas, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (2 acres) and by the short term of the action (3 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (3 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-033012—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Expires 12/31/2036 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (4 Acres)				
Low—Occupied habitat associated with D-ranked EO 60 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Native Vegetation Protection, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, native vegetation protection, including shrubs, requirements to seed disturbed areas, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (4 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (25 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-033796—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Expires 07/17/2031 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 48 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (20 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-034811—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Expires 05/22/2025 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (1 Acre)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 48 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (14 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-034871—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Expires 11/14/2034 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (10 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 48 (0 ac of EO) and D-ranked EO 102 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (14 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-035108—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Expires 12/31/2024 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (2 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 30 (2 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (2 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (13 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-035121—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Expires 12/31/2015 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (5 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 30 (3.5 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued operation of the line and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (5 acres) and by the short term of the action (4 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (4 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-035367—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Expires 12/31/2035 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (31 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 30 (0.5 ac of EO) and C-ranked EO 20 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (24 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-0000759—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 3 EOs (137 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 30 (0 ac of EO), C-ranked EO 20 (0 ac of EO), and D-ranked EO 15 (8 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, fuels management, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-0007111—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (13 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 76 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-0009669—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (53 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 68 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-0010280—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (2 Acres)				
Low—Occupied habitat associated with D-ranked EO 15 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (2 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-0009494—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (4 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 21 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (4 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-021406A—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Expires 05/05/2016 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (3 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with BC-ranked EO 51 (0 ac of EO) and C-ranked EO 20 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (3 acres) and by the short term of the action (5 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (5 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-0104749 02—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 104 (0.06 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-020004—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Expires 05/04/2012 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EOs (<1 Acre)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 52 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.7	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre) and by the short term of the action (1 more year). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (1 more year). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-020716—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (<1 Acre)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 66 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Road ROW IDI-035898—Road ROW Maintenance and Use, Expires 12/31/2036 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EOs (<1 Acre)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 20 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Slickspot Protection	Prioritized fire suppression, function of the ROW as a fuel break and as a fire suppression access route, slickspot protection requirements, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during road maintenance activities or vehicle use of the road. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with use of the road or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur annually and are likely to involve a localized area. These effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures. Dust generated from road maintenance activities or use of roads may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/native forbs when ROW soils are dry. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued use of the road and implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. While daily use of the road increases the risk of fire ignitions, conservation measures in place for fire suppression and weed control are expected to reduce potential impacts to the LEPA. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (<1 acre). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (25 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Communication Site ROW IDI-013442—Communication Site ROW Maintenance, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (6 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 26 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a low risk for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during annual communication site maintenance activities or during vehicle travel to the site. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the limited amount of maintenance activities likely to occur and the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with vehicle travel to the site or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur up to 3 times per year and involve a localized area. These localized effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (6 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Communication Site ROW IDI-026347—Communication Site ROW Maintenance, Expires 11/14/2018 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (6 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 53 (0 ac of EO) are located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, requirements to seed disturbed areas, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a low risk for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during annual communication site maintenance activities or during vehicle travel to the site. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the limited amount of maintenance activities likely to occur and the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with vehicle travel to the site or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur up to 3 times per year and involve a localized area. These localized effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (6 acres) and by the short term of the action (2 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (7 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Communication Site ROW IDI-028281—Communication Site ROW Maintenance, Expires 10/10/2012 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (8 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 70 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a low risk for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during annual communication site maintenance activities or during vehicle travel to the site. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the limited amount of maintenance activities likely to occur and the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with vehicle travel to the site or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur up to 3 times per year and involve a localized area. These localized effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (8 acres) and by the short term of the action (1 more year). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (1 more year). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Communication Site ROW IDI-028719—Communication Site ROW Maintenance, Expires 08/11/2012 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (8 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 53 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a low risk for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during annual communication site maintenance activities or during vehicle travel to the site. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the limited amount of maintenance activities likely to occur and the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with vehicle travel to the site or ground-disturbing maintenance activities; these activities may occur up to 3 times per year and involve a localized area. These localized effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because only a limited amount of maintenance activities are likely to occur within the action area, and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the short term of the action (1 more year). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (1 more year). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.
Railroad ROW IDI-012527—Railroad ROW Maintenance, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (18 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 27 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression, Weed Control	Prioritized fire suppression, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a medium to high risk for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during annual railroad maintenance activities or sparks generated from trains operating on tracks. Impacts to the LEPA from fires originating from ROW-related ignition sources are likely to be minimized due to the continued implementation of fire prevention and suppression conservation measures. There is potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with vehicle travel to the site or ground-disturbing maintenance activities. These localized effects are likely to be reduced by weed control conservation measures.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with implementation of maintenance activities and associated conservation measures. Because fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered moderate. Weed control activities are expected to reduce the spread of exotic plants caused by maintenance activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for the EO within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
OTA Military Training–Tank Firing Range ROW IDI-026399—Military Training, Expires 11/14/2013 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO, (4 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 53 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Avoidance of Military Training Activities in EOs, Wildfire Prevention, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Hazardous Materials Containment	Mechanical damage to individual plants or slickspot microsites is likely to be avoided by restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EOs. Rapid-response fire suppression, restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EOs, requirements to seed disturbed areas, use of native plant species in habitat restoration efforts, requirements for pre-washing non-area military vehicles prior to entry of the OTA, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA. Use of a hazardous materials reaction plan in response to petroleum or chemical spill incidents is likely to protect localized sagebrush steppe habitat quality.	There is a low risk for impacts to the EO due to wildfire ignition associated with use of the facility or the explosion of ammunition or ordinance associated with the military training ROW facility. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. There is some potential for the spread of invasive nonnative plant seeds in occupied habitat from plants already located on the OTA through military training-related vehicle or foot traffic, although no military training activities occur within EOs. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with weed seeds being imported onto site in gravel or cinders used for facility maintenance. There is minimal potential for impacts to native sagebrush steppe vegetation or slickspot microsites due to habitat contamination from petroleum product or chemical spills.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with implementation of military training activities and associated conservation measures. Because military training activities occur in defined areas outside of LEPA locations with prioritized fire suppression measures in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn into EOs is considered low. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with military training activities. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (4 acres) and by the short term of the action (2 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (2 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
OTA Military Training–Christmas Mountain Range 1 Tower Complex ROW IDI-026347—Military Training, Expires 11/14/2018 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (6 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 53 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Avoidance of Military Training Activities in EOs, Wildfire Prevention, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Hazardous Materials Containment	Mechanical damage to individual plants or slickspot microsites is likely to be avoided by restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EOs. Rapid-response fire suppression, restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EOs, requirements to seed disturbed areas, use of native plant species in habitat restoration efforts, requirements for pre-washing non-area military vehicles prior to entry of the OTA, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA. Use of a hazardous materials reaction plan in response to petroleum or chemical spill incidents is likely to protect localized sagebrush steppe habitat quality.	There is a low risk for impacts to the EO due to wildfire ignition associated with the use or maintenance of the military training ROW facility. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. There is some potential for the spread of invasive nonnative plant seeds in occupied habitat from plants already located on the OTA through military training-related vehicle or foot traffic, although no military training activities occur within EOs. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with weed seeds being imported onto site in gravel or cinders used for facility maintenance. There is minimal potential for impacts to native sagebrush steppe vegetation or slickspot microsites due to habitat contamination from petroleum product or chemical spills.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with implementation of military training activities and associated conservation measures. Because military training activities occur in defined areas outside of LEPA locations with prioritized fire suppression measures in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn into EOs is considered low. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with military training activities. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the relatively small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (6 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (7 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
OTA Military Training–Ammunition Supply Point ROW IDI-027691—Military Training, Expires 08/05/2017 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (59 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 27 (2.04 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Avoidance of Military Training Activities in EOs, Wildfire Prevention, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Hazardous Materials Containment	Mechanical damage to individual plants or slickspot microsites is likely to be avoided by restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EO. Rapid-response fire suppression, restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EO, requirements to seed disturbed areas, use of native plant species in habitat restoration efforts, requirements for pre-washing non-area military vehicles prior to entry of the OTA, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA. Use of a hazardous materials reaction plan in response to petroleum or chemical spill incidents is likely to protect localized sagebrush steppe habitat quality.	There is a low risk for impacts to the EO due to wildfire ignition associated with use of the facility or the explosion of ammunition or ordinance associated with the military training ROW facility. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. There is some potential for the spread of invasive nonnative plant seeds in occupied habitat from plants already located on the OTA through military training-related vehicle or foot traffic, although no military training activities occur within EO. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with weed seeds being imported onto site in gravel or cinders used for facility maintenance. There is minimal potential for impacts to native sagebrush steppe vegetation or slickspot microsites due to habitat contamination from petroleum product or chemical spills.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with implementation of military training activities and associated conservation measures. Because military training activities occur in defined areas outside of LEPA locations with prioritized fire suppression measures in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn into EOs is considered low. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with military training activities. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (67 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
OTA Military Training–Tank Assembly and Maintenance Area ROW IDI-029440—Military Training, Expires 07/15/2013 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (14 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 27 (0 ac of EO) and C-ranked EO 53 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Avoidance of Military Training Activities in EOs, Wildfire Prevention, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Hazardous Materials Containment	Mechanical damage to individual plants or slickspot microsites is likely to be avoided by restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EOs. Rapid-response fire suppression, restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EOs, requirements to seed disturbed areas, use of native plant species in habitat restoration efforts, requirements for pre-washing non-area military vehicles prior to entry of the OTA, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA. Use of a hazardous materials reaction plan in response to petroleum or chemical spill incidents is likely to protect localized sagebrush steppe habitat quality.	There is a low risk for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire ignition associated with use of the facility or the explosion of ammunition or ordinance associated with the military training ROW facility. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. There is some potential for the spread of invasive nonnative plant seeds in occupied habitat from plants already located on the OTA through military training-related vehicle or foot traffic, although no military training activities occur within EOs. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with weed seeds being imported onto site in gravel or cinders used for facility maintenance. There is minimal potential for impacts to native sagebrush steppe vegetation or slickspot microsites due to habitat contamination from petroleum product or chemical spills.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with implementation of military training activities and associated conservation measures. Because military training activities occur in defined areas outside of LEPA locations with prioritized fire suppression measures in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn into EOs is considered low. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with military training activities. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the short term of the action (2 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (2 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
OTA Military Training–Range 1 Maintenance and Storage Yard ROW IDI-029513—Military Training, Expires 07/16/2013 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 2 EOs (9 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 53 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Avoidance of Military Training Activities in EOs, Wildfire Prevention, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Hazardous Materials Containment	Mechanical damage to individual plants or slickspot microsites is likely to be avoided by restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EOs. Rapid-response fire suppression, restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EOs, requirements to seed disturbed areas, use of native plant species in habitat restoration efforts, requirements for pre-washing non-area military vehicles prior to entry of the OTA, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA. Use of a hazardous materials reaction plan in response to petroleum or chemical spill incidents is likely to protect localized sagebrush steppe habitat quality.	There is a low risk for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire ignition associated with use of the facility or the explosion of ammunition or ordinance associated with the military training ROW facility. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. There is some potential for the spread of invasive nonnative plant seeds in occupied habitat from plants already located on the OTA through military training-related vehicle or foot traffic, although no military training activities occur within EOs. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with weed seeds being imported onto site in gravel or cinders used for facility maintenance. There is minimal potential for impacts to native sagebrush steppe vegetation or slickspot microsites due to habitat contamination from petroleum product or chemical spills.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with implementation of military training activities and associated conservation measures. Because military training activities occur in defined areas outside of LEPA locations with prioritized fire suppression measures in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn into EOs is considered low. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with military training activities. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the relatively small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (9 acres) and by the short term of the action (2 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (2 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
OTA Military Training–Fire Break ROW IDI-034884—Fuel Break Maintenance, Expires 12/31/2025 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (6 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 27 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Avoidance of Military Training Activities in EOs, Wildfire Prevention, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Hazardous Materials Containment	Mechanical damage to individual plants or slickspot microsites is likely to be avoided by restricting military training activities and construction of new facilities, including this fuel break, to areas located outside of EOs. Rapid-response fire suppression, restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EOs, requirements to seed disturbed areas, use of native plant species in habitat restoration efforts, requirements for pre-washing non-area military vehicles prior to entry of the OTA, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a low risk for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire ignition associated with fuel break maintenance. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. There is some potential for the spread of invasive nonnative plant seeds in occupied habitat from plants already located on the OTA through fuel break maintenance, although fuel breaks are not located within EOs. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. The risk of wildfire related impacts to LEPA is reduced due to the presence of fuel breaks within the OTA.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with implementation of military training activities and associated conservation measures. Because military training activities occur in defined areas outside of LEPA locations with prioritized fire suppression measures in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn into EOs is considered low. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with military training activities. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the relatively small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (6 acres). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (14 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
OTA Military Training–Pistol Firing Range ROW IDI-034118—Military Training, Expires 11/12/2012 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (4 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 27 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Avoidance of Military Training Activities in EOs, Wildfire Prevention, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Hazardous Materials Containment	Mechanical damage to individual plants or slickspot microsites is likely to be avoided by restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EOs. Rapid-response fire suppression, restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EOs, requirements to seed disturbed areas, use of native plant species in habitat restoration efforts, requirements for pre-washing non-area military vehicles prior to entry of the OTA, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA. Use of a hazardous materials reaction plan in response to petroleum or chemical spill incidents is likely to protect localized sagebrush steppe habitat quality.	There is a low risk for impacts to the EO due to wildfire ignition associated with use of the facility or the explosion of ammunition or ordinance associated with the military training ROW facility. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. There is some potential for the spread of invasive nonnative plant seeds in occupied habitat from plants already located on the OTA through military training-related vehicle or foot traffic, although no military training activities occur within EOs. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with weed seeds being imported onto site in gravel or cinders used for facility maintenance. There is minimal potential for impacts to native sagebrush steppe vegetation or slickspot microsites due to habitat contamination from petroleum product or chemical spills.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with implementation of military training activities and associated conservation measures. Because military training activities occur in defined areas outside of LEPA locations with prioritized fire suppression measures in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn into EOs is considered low. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with military training activities. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the small area of occupied habitat located within the ROW (4 acres) and by the short term of the action (1 more year). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (1 more year). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
OTA Military Training–Snake River Support Facility ROW IDI-026348—Military Training, Expires 11/14/2013 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (14 Acres) See also Road ROW IDI-026348— Road ROW Maintenance and Use above				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 27 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Avoidance of Military Training Activities in EOs, Wildfire Prevention, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Hazardous Materials Containment	Mechanical damage to individual plants or slickspot microsites is likely to be avoided by restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EOs. Rapid-response fire suppression, restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EOs, requirements to seed disturbed areas, use of native plant species in habitat restoration efforts, requirements for pre-washing non-area military vehicles prior to entry of the OTA, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA. Use of a hazardous materials reaction plan in response to petroleum or chemical spill incidents is likely to protect localized sagebrush steppe habitat quality.	There is a low risk for impacts to the EO due to wildfire ignition associated with use of the facility or the explosion of ammunition or ordinance associated with the military training ROW facility. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. Potential for the spread of invasive nonnative plant seeds in occupied habitat from plants already located on the OTA through military training-related vehicle or foot traffic, although no military training activities occur within EOs. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with weed seeds being imported onto site in gravel or cinders used for facility maintenance. There is minimal potential for impacts to native sagebrush steppe vegetation or slickspot microsites due to habitat contamination from petroleum product or chemical spills.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with implementation of military training activities and associated conservation measures. Because military training activities occur in defined areas outside of LEPA locations with prioritized fire suppression measures in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn into EOs is considered low. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with military training activities. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the short term of the action (2 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (2 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
OTA Military Training–Assembly and Bivouac Areas, Impact Area, Off Road Maneuvers, and Excavation Activities from MOU—Military training, MOU Expires in 2032 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 3 EOs (14,294 Acres)				
High—B-ranked EOs 27 and 67 (7,163 and 10 acres, respectively), and C-ranked EO 53 (364 acres) are located entirely within the action area.	Avoidance of Military Training Activities in EOs, Wildfire Prevention, Weed Control, Hazardous Materials Containment	Mechanical damage to individual plants or slickspot microsites is likely to be avoided by restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EOs. Rapid-response fire suppression, restricting military training activities to areas located outside of EOs, requirements to seed disturbed areas, use of native plant species in habitat restoration efforts, requirements for pre-washing non-area military vehicles prior to entry of the OTA, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA. Use of a hazardous materials reaction plan in response to petroleum or chemical spill incidents is likely to protect localized sagebrush steppe habitat quality.	There is a low risk for impacts to the EOs due to wildfire ignition associated with the explosion of ammunition or ordinance associated with the military training MOU. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. There is some potential for the spread of invasive nonnative plant seeds in occupied habitat from plants already located on the OTA through military training-related vehicle or foot traffic, although no military training activities occur within EOs. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. There is limited potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with weed seeds being imported onto site in gravel or cinders used for military training facility maintenance. There is minimal potential for impacts to native sagebrush steppe vegetation or slickspot microsites due to habitat contamination from petroleum product or chemical spills.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with implementation of military training activities and associated conservation measures. Because military training activities occur in defined areas outside of LEPA locations with prioritized fire suppression measures in place, the likelihood of fire starts that burn into EOs is considered low. Ongoing OTA prioritized fire suppression measures and soldier education programs have been demonstrated as being effective in protecting EOs from wildfire over the past 20 years. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with military training activities. Effectiveness of past weed control efforts is evident due to the lack of noxious weed infestations on the OTA. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (21 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Mineral Material Pit IDI-34214—Sand and Gravel Excavation/ Removal, Expires 010/8/2013 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (38 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 24 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Wildfire Prevention, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Dust Control	Prioritized fire suppression, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during mineral materials excavation and removal. Impacts to LEPA are likely to be low as extent of mineral materials excavation and removal sites is limited and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, including financial incentives to avoid fire ignitions, the likelihood of fire starts. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with materials excavation and removal activities; these activities involve a localized area, and effects are reduced by permit requirements for restoration of sites. Limited potential for impacts associated with loss of additional habitat as excavation areas expand or if overburden is moved to an area that may bury individual plants or slickspot microsites. As there is a low probability that the mineral materials sites contain LEPA or slickspot microsites due to the degraded condition of habitat in those sites, the effects material movement on the LEPA are likely to be minimal. Dust generated from mineral removal activities or transportation of materials may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators / native forbs during daily operations. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the permit area are not expected to change with continued mineral materials excavation and removal operation and associated conservation measures. Because the extent of mineral materials excavation and removal sites is limited and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, including financial incentives to avoid fire ignitions, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by mineral materials excavation and removal activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the term of the action (2 more years). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (2 more years). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Mineral Material Pit IDI-22816—Pumice/Volcanic Cinders Excavation/ Removal, Expires When Pit is Depleted EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (20 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 18 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Wildfire Prevention, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Dust Control	Prioritized fire suppression, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during mineral materials excavation and removal. Impacts to LEPA are likely to be low as extent of mineral materials excavation and removal sites is limited and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, including financial incentives to avoid fire ignitions, the likelihood of fire starts. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with materials excavation and removal activities; these activities involve a localized area, and effects are reduced by permit requirements for restoration of sites. Limited potential for impacts associated with loss of additional habitat as excavation areas expand or if overburden is moved to an area that may bury individual plants or slickspot microsites. As there is a low probability that the mineral materials sites contain LEPA or slickspot microsites due to the degraded condition of habitat in those sites, the effects material movement on the LEPA are likely to be minimal. Dust generated from mineral removal activities or transportation of materials may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators / native forbs during daily operations. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the permit area are not expected to change with continued mineral materials excavation and removal operation and associated conservation measures. Because the extent of mineral materials excavation and removal sites is limited and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, including financial incentives to avoid fire ignitions, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by mineral materials excavation and removal activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (until such time that the pumice/volcanic cinders pit is depleted). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Mineral Material Pit IDI-013012— Sand and Gravel Excavation/ Removal and Storage, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (37 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 32 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Wildfire Prevention, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Dust Control	Prioritized fire suppression, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during mineral materials excavation and removal. Impacts to LEPA are likely to be low as extent of mineral materials excavation and removal sites is limited and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, including financial incentives to avoid fire ignitions, the likelihood of fire starts. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with materials excavation and removal activities; these activities involve a localized area, and effects are reduced by permit requirements for restoration of sites. Limited potential for impacts associated with loss of additional habitat as excavation areas expand or if overburden is moved to an area that may bury individual plants or slickspot microsites. As there is a low probability that the mineral materials sites contain LEPA or slickspot microsites due to the degraded condition of habitat in those sites, the effects material movement on the LEPA are likely to be minimal. Dust generated from mineral removal activities or transportation of materials may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators / native forbs during daily operations. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the permit area are not expected to change with continued mineral materials excavation and removal operation and associated conservation measures. Because the extent of mineral materials excavation and removal sites is limited and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, including financial incentives to avoid fire ignitions, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by mineral materials excavation and removal activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Mineral Material Pit IDI-33802—Cinder Excavation/ Removal, Expires 08/09/2011 EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (159 Acres)				
High—Occupied habitat associated with B-ranked EO 27 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Wildfire Prevention, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Dust Control	Prioritized fire suppression, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during mineral materials excavation and removal. Impacts to LEPA are likely to be low as extent of mineral materials excavation and removal sites is limited and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, including financial incentives to avoid fire ignitions, the likelihood of fire starts. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with materials excavation and removal activities; these activities involve a localized area, and effects are reduced by permit requirements for restoration of sites. Limited potential for impacts associated with loss of additional habitat as excavation areas expand or if overburden is moved to an area that may bury individual plants or slickspot microsites. As there is a low probability that the mineral materials sites contain LEPA or slickspot microsites due to the degraded condition of habitat in those sites, the effects material movement on the LEPA are likely to be minimal. Dust generated from mineral removal activities or transportation of materials may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators/ native forbs during daily operations. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the ROW are not expected to change with continued mineral materials excavation and removal operation and associated conservation measures. Because the extent of mineral materials excavation and removal sites is limited and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, including financial incentives to avoid fire ignitions, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by mineral materials excavation and removal activities. The risk of impacts is also reduced by the term of the action (1 more year). For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (1 more year). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

Conservation Value	Conservation Measures	Beneficial Effects of Ongoing Action	Adverse Effects of Ongoing Action	Overall Effects on Conservation Value of EOs and Associated Occupied Habitat within Action Area
Mineral Material Pit IDI-0053419—Sand and Gravel Excavation/ Removal / Storage, Authorized in Perpetuity EOs Affected (Estimated Occupied Habitat): 1 EO (79 Acres)				
Medium—Occupied habitat associated with C-ranked EO 24 (0 ac of EO) is located within the action area.	Wildfire Prevention, Fire Suppression, Weed Control, Dust Control	Prioritized fire suppression, and weed control are likely to locally reduce the adverse effects of wildfire and nonnative invasive plants on the LEPA.	There is a potential for impacts to the EO due to wildfire started by the contact of hot machinery with dry vegetation during mineral materials excavation and removal. Impacts to LEPA are likely to be low as extent of mineral materials excavation and removal sites is limited and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, including financial incentives to avoid fire ignitions, the likelihood of fire starts. There is some potential for spread of invasive nonnative plants associated with materials excavation and removal activities; these activities involve a localized area, and effects are reduced by permit requirements for restoration of sites. Limited potential for impacts associated with loss of additional habitat as excavation areas expand or if overburden is moved to an area that may bury individual plants or slickspot microsites. As there is a low probability that the mineral materials sites contain LEPA or slickspot microsites due to the degraded condition of habitat in those sites, the effects material movement on the LEPA are likely to be minimal. Dust generated from mineral removal activities or transportation of materials may impact individual plants, slickspot microhabitats, or insect pollinators / native forbs during daily operations. Effects are likely to be reduced by dust abatement efforts associated with maintenance activities.	Habitat quality conditions within LEPA-occupied habitat in the permit area are not expected to change with continued mineral materials excavation and removal operation and associated conservation measures. Because the extent of mineral materials excavation and removal sites is limited and fire prevention and suppression conservation measures are in place, including financial incentives to avoid fire ignitions, the likelihood of fire starts that burn off-site is considered low. Weed control activities are expected to effectively address the spread of exotic plants caused by mineral materials excavation and removal activities. For the above reasons, this action is not likely to degrade the current condition and conservation value of the action area over the term of the action (in perpetuity). Thus, this action is compatible with maintaining the current conservation value for EOs within the action area.

5.4. Conclusion

After reviewing the current status of the slickspot peppergrass; the environmental baseline for the action areas; the direct and indirect effects of the 114 ongoing ROWs, military training, and mineral material use authorization actions (inclusive of the conservation measures described in the 2006 CA (see Table 3 and the Appendix of this Opinion) and the 2003 CCA (see Table 4)); and cumulative effects, it is the Service's biological opinion that continued implementation of the 114 individual ongoing actions is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the slickspot peppergrass. Critical habitat for the slickspot peppergrass was recently proposed, however, since no critical habitat has been designated for the slickspot peppergrass, none will be affected. The effects of these ongoing actions on proposed critical habitat for the slickspot peppergrass will be addressed in a future consultation.

The Service reached the no-jeopardy determination on the basis that the aggregate effects of the 114 ongoing ROWs, military training, and mineral material use authorization actions considered in this analysis (see summary Table 15), inclusive of applicable conservation measures set forth in the 2006 CA (as updated in 2009) and the 2003 CCA, taken together with cumulative effects, are compatible with maintaining and/or improving the ecological function of the higher quality (C- through A-ranked) EOs rangewide. As noted in the "Status of the Species" section of this document (section 4.1), the long-term conservation of slickspot peppergrass is likely to depend on the maintenance or improvement of ecological function of the higher quality (C- through A-ranked) EOs rangewide. This includes maintaining or improving the connectivity within and between EOs, which may involve maintaining or enhancing lower ranked EOs (D- through F-ranked), as necessary, to facilitate pollinator activity, maintain genetic diversity, and minimize the effects of activities that promote the establishment of invasive nonnative plant species.

The slickspot peppergrass conservation measures being implemented by the BLM in conjunction with the 114 ongoing ROWs, military training, and mineral material use authorization actions considered in this document are either specific measures designed to reduce impacts to the species and its habitat at the local level, or general measures designed to improve the ecological condition of native sagebrush-steppe vegetation at a landscape scale. The specific measures include management actions such as staging fire suppression resources for quick response, reducing the spread of nonnative plants, or avoiding military training activities within EOs. These specific conservation measures are intended to reduce the amount or extent of localized impacts, although localized adverse effects are not completely eliminated. The general conservation measures include management actions designed to maintain or increase the cover of native forbs and grasses, protect sagebrush through fire protection or suppression, and restore degraded habitats to improve connectivity between sites. The general conservation measures are intended to incrementally improve rangeland conditions across the range of the species. As these general conservation measures are implemented over the long term, their effectiveness will be evaluated and modified as appropriate through an adaptive management process. The 2009 CA provides direction for annual monitoring to assess effectiveness of conservation measures and an adaptive management program to respond to new information and ongoing actions as appropriate.

The effects of these 114 ongoing ROWs, military training, and mineral material use authorization are not expected to reduce the overall abundance of the slickspot peppergrass over

the remaining term of these actions. The conservation value assigned to the EOs of these ongoing actions is not likely to change over the remaining terms of these authorizations with continued implementation of these actions, inclusive of conservation measures, as described herein.

CHAPTER 6. INCIDENTAL TAKE STATEMENT

6.1. Incidental Take Statement

Because the "take" prohibitions detailed under section 9(a)(1) of the Act do not apply to listed plants, those sections of the Act dealing with incidental "take," Sections 7(b)(4) and 7(0)(2), generally do not apply to listed plants either. Therefore, we are not including an Incidental Take Statement for slickspot peppergrass in this Opinion.

However, section 9(a)(2) of the Act prohibits, among other actions, the removal and reduction to possession of plants listed as endangered or threatened from areas under Federal jurisdiction. The Act prohibits the malicious damage of federally listed endangered plants on areas under Federal jurisdiction, or the destruction of endangered plants on non-Federal areas in violation of State law or regulations or in the course of any violation of a State criminal trespass law. These protections may apply to slickspot peppergrass as well if State regulations are promulgated.

6.2. Conservation Recommendations

Section 7(a)(1) of the Act requires Federal agencies to use their authorities to further the purposes of the Act by carrying out conservation programs for the benefit of endangered and threatened species. Conservation recommendations are discretionary agency activities intended to minimize or avoid adverse effects of a proposed action on a listed species or critical habitat, help implement recovery plans, or develop information.

The Service recommends that the BLM implement the following conservation measures:

- Use the conservation measures and associated implementation actions in the 2009 CA as a basis for developing conservation measures for future revised LUPs in order to continue recovery of the slickspot peppergrass. Given new information resulting from implementation actions identified in the 2009 CA (e.g., completion of surveys) and additional site specificity due to smaller action areas, LUPs may be revised to include more stringent conservation measures and implementation actions as appropriate.
- Continue to implement conservation measures for the slickspot peppergrass, regardless of future listing status, to ensure continued species conservation and population expansion over time. The Service's interpretation of the signed 2009 CA is that the conservation measures apply to BLM actions regardless of the species' status under the Act.
- Continue annual monitoring efforts to ensure that conservation measures are implemented and to assist in determining if these measures are effective in the conservation of the species and report these annual findings to the Service.
- Conduct surveys in cooperation with the Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and other parties to determine slickspot peppergrass locations and densities in potential habitat and slickspot peppergrass habitat.
- Encourage research and projects to restore sagebrush-steppe habitat within the range of the slickspot peppergrass.

- Actively participate in upcoming critical habitat and recovery planning efforts for the slickspot peppergrass.
- Continue annual coordination meetings between the BLM and the Service to discuss new information, its relevance to this Opinion and our conclusions, and the adequacy/appropriateness of our conclusions.
- Continue to participate in the LEPA Technical Team and other cooperative forums for sharing information, developing partnerships, and encouraging research to facilitate the survival and recovery of the slickspot peppergrass, including restoration techniques for sagebrush-steppe habitat and methods to reintroduce the slickspot peppergrass into areas capable of supporting the plant.
- Conduct annual coordination meetings between the BLM and the Service to address new information; provide perspective regarding the relationship of new information to ongoing actions; use this information, as appropriate, to modify actions or conservation measures via the established adaptive management strategy; and consider whether this information may modify the analyses in this Opinion and/or the appropriateness of the Service's conclusions.
- Consider establishing conservation reserves for the slickspot peppergrass to maintain high quality sagebrush-steppe habitat and for use as research areas.
- Establish annual slickspot peppergrass monitoring transects to facilitate adaptive management efforts to maintain or enhance the conservation value of EOs over the long term, especially in EOs with high or medium conservation value.
- Exercise section 7(a)(1) of the Act to maintain or enhance plant communities in a manner compatible with the needs of the slickspot peppergrass, which includes maintaining a functional sagebrush-steppe ecosystem, minimizing ground disturbance in slickspot habitats, and providing native forb cover to maintain or enhance insect pollinator populations.
- Continue to prioritize fire suppression to protect remaining large sagebrush stands within the range of the slickspot peppergrass.
- Avoid or minimize ground-disturbing activities within EOs when soils are saturated and/or when the slickspot peppergrass is flowering (May–June).
- Avoid pesticide contact with slickspot peppergrass plants or insect pollinators near EOs.
- For upcoming BLM permit renewals and reissuances, cooperate with the Service, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, permit holders, and other parties to identify strategies for avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to the slickspot peppergrass.

To remain informed about actions minimizing or avoiding adverse effects or benefiting listed species or their habitats, the Service requests notification of the implementation of any conservation recommendations.

CHAPTER 7. REINITIATION

7.1. Reinitiation-Closing Statement

This concludes formal consultation on the effects of 114 ongoing ROWs, military training, and mineral materials use authorization actions authorized by the BLM on the slickspot peppergrass. As provided in 50 CFR §402.16, reinitiation of formal consultation is required where discretionary Federal agency involvement or control over the action has been maintained (or is authorized by law) and if (1) the amount or extent of incidental take is exceeded; (2) new information reveals effects of the agency action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not considered in this Opinion; (3) the agency action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in this Opinion; or (4) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action. In instances where the amount or extent of incidental "take" is exceeded, any operations causing such "take" must cease pending reinitiation. Because the "take" prohibitions detailed under section 9(a)(1) of the Act do not apply to listed plants, requirements for reinitiation of formal consultation associated with incidental "take" as described above are not applicable to listed plants, including the slickspot peppergrass.

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APPENDIX

CONSERVATION AGREEMENT

U.S. Bureau of Land Management – Idaho State Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service –
Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office

Idaho Bureau of Land Management Existing Land Use Plans and On-going Actions Affecting Slickspot Peppergrass

I. INTRODUCTION

This Conservation Agreement updates the August 2006 agreement between the Idaho State Office Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to provide for the conservation of slickspot peppergrass related to existing Idaho BLM land use plans (LUPs) and a subset of ongoing actions. The Conservation Agreement and associated conservation measures guide BLM management actions and serve as a basis for consultation or conference on these LUPs and on-going actions between the BLM and the USFWS regarding slickspot peppergrass, a proposed species for listing under the Endangered Species Act. This update of the Conservation Agreement reflects the Idaho District Court ruling that directs the USFWS to reconsider the USWS slickspot peppergrass status and make a listing determination by October 1, 2009.

Land use plans provide guidance and direction for managing public lands administered by the BLM. They ensure that public land is managed in accordance with the intent of Congress as stated in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.). Resource management planning is used by the BLM to allocate resources and select appropriate uses for public land. There are four LUPs that are addressed under the scope of this Conservation Agreement. The LUPs include the 1983 Kuna Management Framework Plan, 1987 Jarbidge RMP, the 1988 Cascade RMP, and the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey RMP. At the time these LUPs were prepared, there was no requirement to consult with the USFWS on slickspot peppergrass. Currently land use plan revisions are in progress for the Jarbidge Field Office and Four Rivers Field Office that will update and replace all but the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey RMP. The BLM and USFWS will consult on these revised LUPs when they are at the appropriate stage of development and depending on the impending listing decision for slickspot peppergrass.

This Conservation Agreement also addresses on-going actions currently authorized by the BLM including livestock gazing, rights-of way activities, and military training.

II. OBJECTIVE AND INTENT

This Conservation Agreement is intended to promote the conservation of slickspot peppergrass, a species proposed for listing which has not yet undergone consultation or conference at the LUP level or for ongoing actions. The conservation measures describe desired recovery and conservation objectives with corresponding implementation actions and will be analyzed in the associated Biological Assessment (BA). These conservation measures replace or create guidance within the LUPs regarding programmatic management direction for slickspot peppergrass. It is the intent of BLM and USFWS that specific conservation measures will be fully implemented and that this Conservation Agreement will remain in effect and binding on both parties until such time as new LUPs or amendments are prepared with completed section 7 compliance as appropriate, and Records of Decision signed. At that time, programmatic management direction for slickspot peppergrass will be included in the new or revised LUP or amendment, and this Conservation Agreement, or portions thereof in the case of programmatic amendments, will no longer apply to the planning area. Additionally, the conservation measures associated with this agreement may be modified based on the current USFWS analysis of new information and assessment of threats being conducted as part of the listing determination process.

While a high priority for BLM, both the BLM and USFWS recognize that funding constraints may affect the ability to implement specific conservation measures as planned. Where funding is lacking, BLM and USFWS will cooperate to set priorities and adjust dates for accomplishment. In addition, minor modifications to conservation measures may be necessary as the conference process progresses. Any modification must be agreed to by the BLM and the USFWS, and shall not materially alter the meaning or intent of a conservation measure as stated at the time of signature of this agreement.

III. PARTIES TO THE CONSERVATION AGREEMENT

U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Idaho; and
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office

IV. AUTHORITY FOR CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

The commitments and actions in this Conservation Agreement are within existing authorities of the signatory agencies. The primary authority for the USFWS and BLM to enter into this Conservation Agreement derives from the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

The primary purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend may be conserved. Section 7(a) directs Federal agencies to utilize their authorities (e.g., FLPMA) in furtherance of the purposes of this Act by carrying out programs for the conservation of endangered species and threatened species. Further, under Section 7(b), each Federal agency is expected to, in consultation and with the assistance of the USFWS, ensure that any action authorized, funded or carried out by the agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species.

Section 3 of the ESA includes the following definition for conservation as is intended under this Conservation Agreement:

> The terms "conserve," "conserving," and "conservation" mean to use and the use of all methods and procedures which are necessary to bring any endangered species or threatened species to the point at which the measures provided pursuant to this Act are no longer necessary. Such methods and procedures include, but are not limited to, all activities associated with scientific resources management such as research, census, law enforcement, habitat acquisition and maintenance, propagation, live trapping, and transplantation, and, in the extraordinary case where population pressures within a given ecosystem cannot be otherwise relieved, may include regulated taking.

Additional authorities for the USFWS derive from the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended; and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended.

In addition to the ESA, FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1701 et. seq) provides the BLM with the authorities required for this Conservation Agreement:

> The public lands be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use.

BLM Special Status Species Management Manual 6840 provides specific policy guidance as it pertains to the ESA, FLPMA and this Conservation Agreement. For listed species, the policy states the following:

1. Actions authorized by the BLM shall further the conservation and/or recovery of federally listed species and conservation of Bureau sensitive species.

2. The BLM shall retain in Federal ownership those habitats essential for the conservation of any listed species, particularly those that are part of a broader, logical public land ownership management unit. The BLM may dispose of lands providing habitat for listed species, including critical habitat, only following consultation with the FWS or NMFS and upon a determination that such action is consistent with relevant law.

3. Ensure that all actions authorized, funded, or carried out by the BLM are in compliance with the ESA. To accomplish this, the BLM shall:

   a. Evaluate all proposed actions to determine if individuals or populations of listed species or their habitat may be affected.

   b. Initiate consultation with the USFWS, including preparation of biological assessments, as appropriate, for those actions that may affect listed species or their habitats.

c. Until the consultation proceedings are completed and a final biological opinion has been issued, BLM shall not carry out any action that would cause an irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources such that it would foreclose the formulation or implementation of any reasonable and prudent alternative measure that might avoid jeopardy to listed species and/or prevent the adverse modification of critical habitat.

d. Ensure that BLM actions will not reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of a listed species.

4. Cooperate with the USFWS in planning and providing for the recovery of listed species. To accomplish this, the BLM shall:

a. Develop and implement activities that provide for the conservation and recovery of species listed pursuant to the ESA.

b. Undertake actions designed to maintain the integrity of the primary constituent elements of federally designated critical habitat on BLM-administered lands.

c. Ensure that BLM actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat.

d. Determine, to the extent practicable, the occurrence, distribution, population, and habitat condition of all ESA-listed species on BLM-administered lands, and evaluating the significance of BLM-administered lands in the conservation of those species.

e. Develop and implement agency land use plans, implementation plans, and actions in a manner consistent with conservation and/or recovery of listed species.

f. Monitor and evaluate ongoing management activities to ensure conservation objectives for listed species are being met.

g. Cooperate with the FWS and/or NMFS and other interested parties in species recovery and conservation as provided in species recovery plans. Such actions may include species reintroductions, which shall be carried out in conformance with BLM Manual 1745.

h. Implement conservation recommendations included in biological opinions if they are consistent with relevant law and policy and are technologically and economically feasible.

For species that are candidates for listing, the policy states the following:

States or offices may wish to seek technical assistance from the FWS and/or NMFS when it is determined to be advantageous to a species' conservation or BLM management options.

VI. CONSERVATION MEASURES

Conservation measures were developed for each LUP program and sub-program covered by this Conservation Agreement. They are discussed specifically for each Planning Area in the associated Biological Assessment. Each conservation measure describes a goal or general action and includes one or more specific BLM actions required to implement it. As mentioned previously, the conservation measures associated with this agreement may be modified based on the current USFWS analysis of new information and assessment of threats being conducted as part of the listing determination process. Responsibilities for implementing the actions are indicated, along with time frames for implementation. Most of the conservation measures will be implemented as standard operating actions conducted during day-to-day management activities. In addition, LUP conservation measure guidance and direction will be applied to ongoing actions. However, as site-specific information will be available for the ongoing actions, additional conservation measures may be considered.

Part 1: Programmatic Planning

Programmatic planning conservation measures include those that are needed for consultation at all planning levels including future LUPs, ongoing activities and proposed projects. In addition to the existing LUP conference activities, BLM will complete all necessary section 7 compliance for new or revised LUPs that may affect this species and its habitat.

Part 2: Projects / Activity Plans – Planning and Implementation

A. Ongoing Actions

This category includes all activities currently ongoing and permitted on BLM land. These include actions that have gone through the agency planning process and have a documented agency decision (decision memorandum, decision notice, or record of decision). The BLM will complete section 7 compliance for ongoing activities that have the potential to directly affect an element occurrence and associated occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat concurrent with the conference effort for existing LUPs. The BLM will also adaptively manage all ongoing activities as described in the associated Biological Assessment, and adjust the action as appropriate to ensure management objectives for slickspot peppergrass are met.

B. Proposed Actions

This category includes all new proposed projects or activities as well as all renewal actions. Project-level inventories will be completed as appropriate during project planning if inventory information is not available or adequate to determine if impacts to the species or habitat may occur. If direct or indirect negative impacts to the species or its habitat are anticipated as a result of new BLM actions, the activity will be modified to avoid or minimize anticipated negative impacts. BLM will complete all necessary section 7 compliance for new activities that may affect this species and its habitat.

Part 3: Monitoring

Conservation measures for slickspot peppergrass include a provision to implement adaptive management as needed to achieve conservation objectives. At the project level, this will be accomplished by conducting site-specific implementation and effectiveness monitoring to track progress toward achieving the conservation measures. BLM and USFWS Level 1 Teams will meet annually to review the implementation and effectiveness monitoring results for projects of concern, determine if current management actions are on a trajectory toward meeting management goals within the established time frames, and modify management actions as needed if progress toward goals is inadequate. Implementation of the programmatic and ongoing actions conservation measures will be monitored through the reporting and monitoring requirements of this Conservation Agreement (Section VII).

VII. CONSERVATION AGREEMENT MONITORING AND REPORTING

The agencies agree to a joint, annual review in October each year to assess progress in implementing this Conservation Agreement. Any recommendations will be presented to the Idaho BLM State Director and USFWS Field Office Supervisor by November of each year. This review could lead to the modification and exceptions discussed in Part VIII below. These modifications or exceptions will be formalized within the scope of this Conservation Agreement.

VIII. AMENDMENTS, EXCEPTIONS, AND DURATION OF AGREEMENT

Exceptions or amendments to this agreement may be jointly agreed to by the signatories on a case-by-case basis, where such changes would better provide for protection and conservation of species, where conflicts must be resolved between species, where priorities need to be adjusted due to funding constraints, or when new, relevant scientific information becomes available. Such exceptions or amendments shall be agreed to by modification. All modifications within the scope of this agreement shall be made by issuance of a modification executed by all parties prior to any changes being performed.

This agreement shall be considered fully executed when all signatories have signed. The agreement shall expire on December 31, 2012, at which time it will be reviewed for renewal or expiration.

IX. QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTACTS

This agreement in no way restricts any of the signatories from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals. This agreement is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this agreement will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for government procurement and printing. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This agreement does not provide such authority. Specifically, this agreement does not

establish authority for noncompetitive award to the cooperator of any contract or other agreement. Any contract or agreement for training or other services must fully comply with all applicable requirements for competition.

The principal contacts for this agreement are:

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X. SIGNATURES

THOMAS H. DYER
State Director
Bureau of Land Management

Date 8/26/09

JEFFERY L. FOSS
Field Supervisor
U.S Fish and Wildlife Service

Date 8/27/09

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
Special Status Animal and Plant Management Note: Common to All Programs	The conservation measures contained throughout this table implement important elements included in the Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) for slickspot peppergrass. The conservation measures reflect BLM's commitment to support species conservation.	The implementation actions reflect BLM's commitment to support species conservation and meet ESA objectives. Actions apply to BLM lands and activities only. Habitat terms used throughout this document are defined in **Appendix B: Definitions**.		
	1) In cooperation with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) Conservation Data Center (CDC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), the U.S. Air Force (USAF), and others:	**1)** Following actions to be completed in cooperation with others:	**1)** As stated below:	**1)** As stated below:
	a) Develop and use survey protocols consistent with the USFWS Rare Plant Survey Guidelines to conduct Stage 1, 2, and 3 surveys (see Figure III.C-1 at the end of this table for the general survey process).	a) Apply current survey methods, and assure that inventories are done at the appropriate time of the year by qualified botanists, or by persons who are under the guidance of botanists. Develop more specific survey protocols with reporting standards for slickspot peppergrass.	a) BLM State Office (SO), BLM Field Office (FO), USFWS, and CDC	a) SO Due Date (DD) for protocol = February 1, 2007
	b) Cooperate to refine slickspot peppergrass potential habitat maps (Stage 1 survey, Figure III.C-1), and to identify and map slickspot peppergrass occurrences (Stage 2 survey, Figure III.C-1).	b) Surveys, mapping, and data management (refer to Figure III.C-1, *Survey Flowchart for Slickspot Peppergrass*, at the end of this table):	b) FO, with CDC and USFWS	b) Standard operating action (SOA)
		i) Cooperate with CDC and USFWS to record, refine, and map all habitat features including potential habitat, slickspot peppergrass habitat, non-habitat, occupied habitat, and element occurrences (EOs), for BLM lands (see Appendix B, *Definitions*). Use current GIS standards for mapping and database management. In cooperation with CDC, maintain a spatial database of species population and habitat information for BLM lands.	*i)* FO	*i)* Update map annually

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		ii) BLM will continue to conduct Stage 1 and 2 surveys, report survey information to the CDC, and incorporate the information into the adaptive management strategy.	*ii)* FO	*ii)* SOA, annually
		iii) BLM's intent will be to conduct Stage 1 surveys (slickspot survey) for at least 50,000 acres of the potential habitat annually with a goal of completing Stage 1 surveys for all potential habitat within 10 years. BLM will work collaboratively with USFWS to prioritize surveys during the first 5 years to areas that have a high likelihood of species occurrence, or that are needed for BLM project purposes. BLM will also target at least 15,000 acres of Stage 2 surveys (slickspot peppergrass plant surveys) that can be done concurrently with the Stage 1 surveys. The amount of habitat to be surveyed each year will be based on available annual funding. Stage 3 plant surveys will be conducted as necessary and desired.	*iii)* Level 1 Team develops schedule; FO completes Stage 1 surveys	*iii)* Develop schedule for conducting priority Stage 1 surveys by February 1, 2007. Complete all Stage 1 surveys by 2017.
		iv) Prioritize Stage 2 surveys to address slickspot peppergrass habitat with a high likelihood of species occurrence. Surveys should be scheduled to complement other program needs. Coordinate annually with USFWS as Stage 1 surveys are completed to schedule the Stage 2 surveys.	*iv)* Level 1 Team develops schedule; FO completes Stage 2 surveys	*iv)* Develop Stage 2 survey schedules annually, beginning in 2007.
	c) Cooperate in regular monitoring of slickspot peppergrass population trends and land health conditions on BLM lands, and follow current monitoring protocols. Land health conditions include forb diversity to support pollinators and habitat for slickspot peppergrass.	c) Follow the Habitat Integrity and Population (HIP) monitoring protocol or other accepted methodology. BLM will cooperate with others to conduct annual monitoring within all EOs on BLM lands to assess the effectiveness of the conservation measures as part of the adaptive management strategy.	c) FO	c) SOA
		i) Establish permanent ecological reference areas (ERAs) in selected EOs to evaluate land health conditions associated with slickspot peppergrass.	*i)* FO, with SO, USFWS, and CDC	*i)* FO DD = 2008

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		ii) Use data from the ERAs to assist in completing land health assessments. This information will be used to evaluate permitted management actions and to design restoration projects for slickspot peppergrass.	*ii)* FO	*ii)* SOA
	d) Participate in research essential to conservation of the species.	d) BLM will participate in research as funding allows. Areas to focus on include, but are not limited to, the following: *i)* Elimination and control of invasive species. *ii)* Pollination, forb restoration, and effects of ground disturbance on the species. *iii)* Determination of specific limiting factors in terms of habitat needs and characteristics. *iv)* Population viability analyses.	d) FO and SO, with USFWS (all actions)	d) SOA (all actions)
	e) Continue to support seed banks in a long-term seed storage facility.	e) As needed, provide funding to a suitable repository to support a seed bank.	e) SO, with CDC and USFWS	e) SOA
	f) Support the establishment and maintenance of new populations in slickspot peppergrass habitat. The goal of these activities is to maintain or enhance viable populations.	f) Reintroduce slickspot peppergrass at selected experimental reintroduction or historic sites as funding allows.	f) FO and SO, with CDC and USFWS	f) SOA
	2) Ensure that ongoing Federal actions support or do not preclude species conservation in slickspot peppergrass habitat.	**2)** Ongoing BLM authorized activities: a) Based on the results of annual Stage 1 and 2 surveys, review ongoing activities in slickspot peppergrass habitat. The Level 1 Team will conduct these reviews in a manner consistent with streamlining procedures where local section 7 compliance	**2)** FO (all actions)	**2)** SOA, annual review

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		activities with USFWS (if necessary) have not yet been completed. b) If reviews indicate that direct or indirect negative impacts to the species or its habitat are occurring as a result of ongoing discretionary BLM actions, the activity will be modified to avoid or minimize anticipated negative impacts and, where feasible, promote species conservation. c) Where needed, complete section 7 compliance for ongoing activities that may affect this species and its habitat. Following the annual review of Stage 1 and 2 surveys outlined in **(2)**(a) above, initiate section 7 compliance activities for ongoing actions within 6 months, as appropriate. d) Where slickspot peppergrass habitat exists, BLM will conserve remaining stands of sagebrush and native vegetation in making activity plan and project level decisions.		
	3) Ensure that new Federal actions support or do not preclude species conservation in slickspot peppergrass habitat.	**3)** New proposed BLM authorized activities: a) Consistent with streamlining procedures, BLM will require project-level inventories for any project in slickspot peppergrass habitat and in potential habitat during project planning if inventory information is not available or adequate. BLM will use the protocols developed in **(1)**(a). b) If direct or indirect negative impacts to the species or its habitat are anticipated as a result of new BLM actions, the activity will be modified to avoid or minimize negative impacts and, where feasible, promote species conservation.	**3)** As listed below: a) FO and USFWS b) FO	**3)** See below: a) SOA b) SOA

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		c) Where needed, complete section 7 compliance for new activities that may affect this species and its habitat.	c) FO and USFWS	c) SOA
		d) Where slickspot peppergrass habitat exists, BLM will conserve remaining stands of sagebrush and native vegetation in making activity plan and project level decisions.	d) FO	d) SOA
	4) Implement adaptive management as needed to achieve conservation objectives.	**4)** Conduct site-specific implementation and effectiveness monitoring of management actions. Adjust management as needed to ensure that management objectives are met. See additional details within other programs.	**4)** FO, with USFWS	**4)** SOA
	5) Support programs to conserve and enhance slickspot peppergrass on non-Federal lands.	**5)** Take advantage of opportunities to support conservation of slickspot peppergrass through easements, cooperative management efforts, and other programs.	**5)** FO	**5)** SOA
	6) Include language in all land use authorizations to require rehabilitation of slickspot peppergrass habitat in case of trespass or permit violations, if damage occurs.	**6)** As a part of management authorizations, require rehabilitation to native vegetation in slickspot peppergrass habitat if trespass or permit violation occurs and the habitat is damaged. If ecological site conditions preclude the use of native species, use non-invasive, nonnative plant species for rehabilitation in trespass or permit violation situations.	**6)** FO	**6)** SOA
Air Resources	None	None	None	None
Soil and Water Resources: Riparian/ Wetland Areas (includes weed management)	None	None	None	None
Upland Vegetation Management:	**1)** Activities within the **Upland Vegetation Management: Rangelands (includes weed management)** program will implement	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table.	**1)** SO and FO	**1)** SOA

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
Rangelands (includes weed management)	relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation. As a part of promoting conservation, the goals are to promote habitat conservation, to avoid negative impacts, or to minimize impacts if avoidance is not possible.			
	2) Although non-chemical methods will be the preferred approach in occupied habitat, when appropriate, projects involving the application of pesticides (including herbicides, fungicides, and other related chemicals) in slickspot peppergrass habitat and potential habitat that may affect the species will be analyzed at the project level and designed such that pesticide applications will support conservation and minimize risks of exposure.	**2)** Site-specific stipulations will be developed locally using these criteria: a) Evaluate the benefits and risks of vegetation treatment including the following: application methods; pesticides, carriers, and surfactants used; needed treatment buffers; and use of non-chemical weed control (for example, bio-controls, hand pulling). b) Apply appropriate spatial and temporal buffers to avoid species' exposure to harmful chemicals. c) Explore opportunities to eradicate competing nonnative invasive plants in occupied habitat where slickspots are being invaded by such plants. d) Implement appropriate revegetation and weed control measures to reduce the risks of nonnative invasive plant infestations following ground/soil disturbing actions in slickspot peppergrass habitat. e) BLM will provide USDA APHIS with the location of slickspot peppergrass habitat. Mormon cricket, grasshopper, or other insect control in slickspot peppergrass habitat will only include those methods that minimize impacts to the plant's pollinators.	**2)** FO, with USFWS (all actions)	**2)** SOA

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
	3) Where needed and feasible, coordinate with adjacent land owners and local governments regarding control of invasive plants in upland areas through cooperative weed management programs. One of BLM's priorities within the cooperative weed management program is the protection of special status plants on BLM lands.	**3)** Take advantage of coordination opportunities as they arise.	**3)** FO	**3)** SOA
	4) BLM will promote diversity, richness, and health of native plant communities to support pollinators and habitat for slickspot peppergrass.	**4)** BLM will focus slickspot peppergrass habitat conservation and restoration efforts in or adjacent to occupied habitat to encourage connectivity among populations through the following measures: a) Where slickspot peppergrass habitat exists, BLM will conserve remaining stands of sagebrush and native vegetation in making activity plan and project level decisions. b) Vegetation treatment projects undertaken in slickspot peppergrass habitat will be compatible with species habitat restoration objectives, as described in item (d) below. c) BLM will select and implement specific projects to restore slickspot peppergrass habitat in degraded areas as funding allows, such as planting shrubs and forbs and controlling weeds, within and adjacent to occupied habitat. Apply methods described in item (d) below.	**4)** FO, with USFWS	**4)** SOA

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		d) When conducting vegetation treatment projects, BLM will use seeding techniques that minimize soil disturbance such as no-till drills and rangeland drills equipped with depth bands, use native plant materials and seed during restoration activities, and select native forbs that benefit slickspot peppergrass insect pollinators.		
Forest and Woodland Management (includes weed management)	None	None	None	None
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Management	**1)** Activities within the **Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Management** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table.	**1)** SO and FO	**1)** SOA
	2) Manage facilities installed for wildlife to promote maintenance of slickspot peppergrass habitat.	**2)** For review of ongoing actions, see **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(2)**. For new actions, see **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(3)**. As appropriate to avoid or minimize negative impacts, modify existing and avoid placement of new wildlife facilities in occupied habitat.	**2)** FO	**2)** SOA
	3) Restore wildlife habitat while promoting slickspot peppergrass conservation.	**3)** Any restoration efforts for wildlife within slickspot peppergrass habitat will be compatible with the species' habitat requirements.	**3)** FO	**3)** SOA
Fish and Aquatic Habitat Management	None	None	None	None

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
Livestock Grazing Management: Permits and Leases	1) Activities within the Livestock Grazing Management: Permits And Leases program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the Special Status Animal and Plant Management program section to promote conservation.	1) Apply relevant conservation measures from the Special Status Animal and Plant Management program section at the beginning of this table.	1) SO and FO	1) SOA
	2) Manage livestock grazing and trailing to conserve suitable habitat conditions for slickspot peppergrass while implementing rangeland health standards and guidelines (S&Gs). Apply the Implementation of Annual Grazing Adaptive Management (Figure III.C-2), located at the end of this conservation measures table, to adjust livestock use as appropriate.	2) Permit or lease renewal actions and annual authorizations: a) For review of ongoing actions, see Special Status Animal and Plant Management program section item (2). b) Schedule surveys in slickspot peppergrass habitat as needed for S&G assessments associated with permit and lease renewals. Use survey procedures and flowchart (Figure III.C-2, Implementation of Annual Grazing Adaptive Management) referenced in Special Status Animal and Plant Management program section 1(b). c) For new actions, see Special Status Animal and Plant Management program section item (3). d) As part of adaptive management to avoid or minimize negative impacts, modify livestock grazing activities as outlined in Figure III.C-2, Implementation of Annual Grazing Adaptive Management, located at the end of this conservation measures table. In addition, the following measures will be implemented, as appropriate: i) As part of range readiness assessments, delay livestock turnout when soils are saturated. ii) Minimize gathering livestock in EOs.	2) FO (all actions)	2) SOA (all actions)

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		iii) Avoid impacts to EOs from herd movement through rested and deferred pastures. iv) Trailing permits will not be authorized through EOs. v) Sheep grazing permits will be modified to restrict bedding, trailing, or watering herds within 1/2 mile of EOs. vi) Supplements will be placed at least 1/2 mile from EOs. Supplements will be placed so that livestock are drawn away from the EO and avoid trailing through the EO en route to the supplement or a water source. Management requirements will be adjusted to maintain an appropriate distance between supplements and existing EOs to avoid impacts. vii) No new domestic horse AUMs will be authorized in pastures containing EOs to avoid trampling impacts.		
	3) As part of adaptive management, BLM will conduct scheduled compliance inspections in pastures with occupied habitat as part of BLM range use supervision to minimize impacts.	3) BLM, in coordination with the USFWS, will create a schedule to prioritize compliance inspections associated with livestock grazing permits in occupied habitat areas. These compliance inspections are a complement to the HIP monitoring listed under Special Status Animal and Plant Management and where practical the efforts may be combined. BLM staff will conduct inspections as determined by the schedule. a) BLM range staff will conduct pre-season range readiness checks for soil moisture conditions in allotments with occupied habitat. b) BLM will conduct post-use monitoring for trampling in slickspots within EOs (could be done in conjunction with utilization compliance checks).	3) FO a) FO b) SO and USFWS, with FO input	3) SOA a) SOA b) DD for developing format: February 1, 2007

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		c) Monitoring results will be documented in a standard format (to be developed by BLM) in the grazing allotment files. Copies will be provided to the USFWS as completed.	c) FO	c) SOA
		d) Apply Grazing Adaptive Management Implementation Flowchart as outlined in Figure III.C-2, located at the end of this conservation measures table.	d) FO	d) SOA
	4) Provide adequate rest from livestock use for areas treated after major disturbances in slickspot peppergrass habitat. Major disturbances include fire, fire rehabilitation, or other soil-disturbing occurrences.	4) Protect treated areas by using temporary livestock closures or other measures. The length of rest will be determined by achieving certain goals associated with plant establishment outlined in the restoration, fire rehabilitation, or other plan.	4) FO	4) SOA
	5) BLM will work cooperatively with the livestock permittees to promote slickspot peppergrass conservation.	5) BLM will train permittees on slickspot peppergrass habitat and plant recognition. BLM will also work with permittees to use the CDC rare plant observation form to report survey information in a standard format.	5) FO	5) SOA
Livestock Grazing Management: Livestock Management Facilities	**1)** Activities within the **Livestock Grazing Management: Livestock Management Facilities** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table.	1) SO and FO	1) SOA
	2) Manage livestock facilities to promote slickspot peppergrass conservation while implementing rangeland health S&Gs.	**2)** For review of ongoing actions, see **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(2)**. For new actions, see **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(3)**. As appropriate to avoid or minimize negative impacts, modify existing and avoid placement of new livestock facilities in occupied habitat areas.	2) FO (all actions)	2) SOA (all actions)

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		a) Within pastures, place water facilities to support slickspot peppergrass conservation: *i)* Existing water troughs (includes troughs that are tied into pipelines, as well as both permanent and movable troughs to which water is delivered throughout the grazing season) will be moved at least 1/2 mile from EOs, when feasible. Where troughs cannot be moved (for example, because of topographical constraints, additional disturbance, or impacts to sensitive species), management will be adjusted to mitigate the impacts during the periods of critical concern for slickspot peppergrass (such as when soils are saturated and subject to trampling impacts). Management adjustments could include shutting the water off seasonally, changing pasture boundary fences, or other appropriate measures. *ii)* New water troughs (not including existing water troughs moved in **(2)**(a)(*i*), above) will be placed at least 1 mile from EOs. A deviation from this standard may be developed on a case-by-case basis through collaboration with the USFWS. New water troughs will be placed so that cattle are drawn away from the EO and avoid trailing through an EO en route to a water source. *iii)* Temporary water troughs (short-term, emergency, or single-season use) will be located at least 1 mile from EOs. A deviation to this standard may be developed on a case-by-case basis through collaboration with the USFWS. New water troughs will be placed so that cattle are drawn away from the EO and avoid trailing through an EO en route to a water source.		

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		b) Placement of new livestock infrastructure will be compatible with slickspot peppergrass habitat conservation. Avoid placement of new fences within EOs.		
Wild Horse Management	**1)** Activities within the **Wild Horse Management** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation. **2)** If the range of wild horses and slickspot peppergrass occupied habitat overlaps now or in the future, protect these areas from wild horses by including applicable conservation measures in herd management plans.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table. **2)** Manage wild horse herd size to minimize conflicts with slickspot peppergrass. Limit trampling in occupied habitat by implementing appropriate range management practices, such as fencing and water trough placement.	1) SO and FO 2) FO	**1)** SOA **2)** SOA
Recreation Management	**1)** Activities within the **Recreation Management** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation. **2)** Developed facilities (paved campgrounds, vault toilets, interpretive kiosks, etc.): Manage existing and new recreation facilities to promote conservation of species habitat.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table. **2)** Management of existing and new facilities: a) For review of existing facilities, see **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(2)**. As appropriate to avoid or minimize negative impacts, modify existing facilities. b) For new facilities, or for expansion of uses at existing facilities, see **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(3)**. In addition, avoid development of new recreation facilities or expansion of existing facilities in slickspot	**1)** SO and FO **2)** FO (all actions) 3) FO	**1)** SOA **2)** SOA (all actions)

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		peppergrass habitat if negative impacts are anticipated. c) BLM will educate recreationists on special status species and invasive weeds, focusing on occupied and selected habitat areas. BLM will develop and install educational signage at entry points and key recreational points regarding the biology and conservation of this species and other special status species.	**4)** FO (all actions)	
	3) Dispersed use areas (informal areas, including camping areas and tie-up areas for pack animals): Manage dispersed use sites to promote conservation of species habitat. This includes limiting disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.	**3)** For review of ongoing activities, see **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(2)**. In addition, minimize human activity in and adjacent to occupied habitat if negative impacts are occurring. Close areas, either seasonally or year-round, as needed to protect the species and its habitat.		**3)** SOA
	4) Commercial and noncommercial recreation permits, including hunting guides and outfitter camps: issue commercial and noncommercial recreation permits to promote conservation of slickspot peppergrass habitat. This includes management of physical facilities (such as camps), as well as disturbances to slickspot peppergrass habitat resulting from human uses.	**4)** Issuance and review of existing and new permits: a) For review of existing permits, see Special Status Animal and Plant Management program section item **(2)**. If needed, modify existing permits that negatively impact habitat for this species. b) For new permits, see Special **Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(3)**. Avoid issuing recreation permits in slickspot peppergrass habitat if negative impacts are expected. In particular, avoid permitting new recreation activities in and adjacent to occupied habitat. If a recreation permit is to be issued, apply stipulations to the permit to support or to not preclude species conservation and educate permit holders about species' biology and needs. c) BLM will not authorize organized recreation activities in		**4)** SOA (all actions)

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		slickspot peppergrass habitat if negative impacts are anticipated (for example, OHV races, equestrian events, and other events).		
Recreation Management: Travel Management	**1)** Activities within the **Recreation Management: Travel Management** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation. **2)** Manage roads, OHV routes and areas, as well as non-motorized trails, to promote species habitat conservation. This includes management of roads and trails, as well as ground disturbance resulting from human uses.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table. **2)** Review of existing and new roads, OHV routes, and areas and non-motorized trails: a) For existing roads, designated OHV routes and areas, and designated non-motorized trails, see **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(2)**. Modify roads and routes in and adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat if negative impacts are occurring. Implement restrictions to reduce ground disturbance. Seek opportunities to close and revegetate roads, OHV routes, or non-motorized trails and use areas in and adjacent to habitat if negative impacts are occurring. b) For new roads, OHV routes and areas, and non-motorized trails, see **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(3)**. Avoid creating new roads, trails, routes, and areas if negative impacts are expected in and adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat. c) Evaluate off-road vehicle use in occupied habitat, and where needed, limit access or close areas to motorized and mechanical vehicles to promote species conservation.	**1)** SO and FO **2)** FO and SO (all actions)	**1)** SOA **2)** SOA

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
	3) Perform compliance checks on OHV closures to protect occupied habitat, identify problems as soon as possible, and take immediate corrective measures.	**3)** See **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(2)**.	**3)** FO	**3)** SOA
Visual Resource Management	None	None	None	None
Special Designation Area Management	**1)** Activities within the **Special Designation Area Management** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation. **2)** Explore the potential for new designations that would enhance species conservation.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table. **2)** Evaluate establishing ACECs for several stronghold populations of slickspot peppergrass during land use plan amendments or revisions.	**1)** SO and FO **2)** FO	**1)** SOA **2)** SOA
Fire Management: Fire Suppression	**1)** Activities within the **Fire Management: Fire Suppression** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation. Human life and firefighter safety and property take priority over species protection. **2)** Fire suppression efforts will be conducted, as possible, to protect slickspot peppergrass habitat. Place a high priority on protecting slickspot peppergrass habitat.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table. **2)** Fire management activities: <u>a)</u> Fire Management Plans will include Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) that address conservation of slickspot peppergrass.	1) SO and FO 2) As listed below: a) SO in coordination with Fire Management	**1)** SOA **2)** See below: <u>a)</u> SO DD = 2007

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		i) BLM will provide adequate fire suppression coverage at all stations to meet management objectives with the intent to suppress 90 percent of fires to the acreages specified in the fire management plans for slickspot peppergrass. BLM will maintain existing remote fire guard stations easily accessible to occupied habitat (for example, Juniper Butte fire guard station) and explore opportunities to establish additional stations to provide better initial attack and reduced response times for wildfires in slickspot peppergrass habitat *ii)* Apply minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST) in slickspot peppergrass habitat, as appropriate. Consult with resource advisors to determine where MIST tactics should be applied to avoid or minimize negative impacts. *iii)* Although MIST are preferred, aggressive fire suppression tactics (e.g., blade lines, back fires, etc. in habitat) may be applied if EOs are threatened. <u>b)</u> Do not locate fire base camps, staging areas, and fueling areas within occupied habitat.	Office (FMO) and FO b) FMO and Incident Commander for fire	<u>b)</u> SOA

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
	3) As needed, coordinate with appropriate agency personnel regarding fire suppression activities in or adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat.	**3)** Ongoing interagency coordination. a) BLM and cooperators will expand on and continue to provide special status plant and habitat awareness training to fire resource advisors, Incident Commanders, Engine Operators, and Fire Operations Supervisors. b) BLM and cooperators will distribute maps and inform fire crews on locations of the EOs to maximize fire protection and to avoid or minimize impacts from fire suppression activities.	3) FMO with support from FO resource advisor	**3)** SOA
Fire Management: Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation	**1)** Activities within the **Fire Management: Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Managemen**t program section to promote conservation. **2)** Implement Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ES&R) activities to consider slickspot peppergrass in and adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat rehabilitation.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table. **2)** The following measures will be applied: a) All wildfires within slickspot peppergrass habitat will be evaluated for ES&R treatments, regardless of size. b) As needed, protect disturbed and recovering areas using temporary closures or other measures. BLM will continue to rest areas from land use activities to meet ES&R objectives, defined through the ES&R plans. c) BLM will initiate and complete ES&R efforts for slickspot peppergrass, such as planting shrubs and forbs, within slickspot peppergrass habitat. BLM will implement the following measures	**1)** SO and FO **2)** FO (all actions)	**1)** SOA **2)** SOA (all actions)

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		during fire ES&R efforts: *i)* BLM will use seeding techniques that minimize soil disturbance such as no-till drills and rangeland drills equipped with depth bands when ES&R projects have the potential to impact slickspot peppergrass habitat. *ii)* BLM will use native plant materials and seed during ES&R activities. BLM will include native forbs in seed mixtures that will benefit slickspot peppergrass insect pollinators. *iii)* If native plant materials and seed are not available, non-invasive, nonnative species may be used for stabilization activities in slickspot peppergrass habitat. iv) In areas adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat, if natives are not available, non-invasive nonnative species are acceptable for stabilization activities. Potentially invasive nonnative species such as intermediate wheatgrass and prostrate kochia may be used as a last resort for stabilization activities in areas adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat provided the benefits of their use are demonstrated to outweigh the risks to slickspot peppergrass and its habitat.		

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
	3) Fire rehabilitation projects involving the application of pesticides in slickspot peppergrass habitat will be analyzed and implemented in accordance with the approach described in the **Upland Vegetation Management: Rangelands (includes weed management)** program section.	**3)** See **Upland Vegetation Management: Rangelands (includes weed management)** program section.	**3)** SO and FO	**3)** SOA
Fire Management: Wildland Fire Use	**1)** Wildland fire use projects will not be allowed in slickspot peppergrass habitat.	**1)** When developing wildland fire use plans, do not allow wildland fire use in slickspot peppergrass habitat.	**1)** SO and FO	**1)** SOA
Fire Management: Prescribed Fire	**1)** Activities within the **Fire Management: Prescribed Fire** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table.	**1)** SO and FO	**1)** SOA
	2) Prescribed fire projects will be designed to conserve and enhance slickspot peppergrass habitat.	**2)** Prescribed fire in slickspot peppergrass habitat will only be used as a tool for assisting with species conservation (for example, a burn in preparation to decrease cheatgrass litter before herbicide application, or to clear fence lines of accumulated windblown weeds).	**2)** FO	**2)** SOA
Fire Management: Non-Fire Fuels Management	**1)** Activities within the **Fire Management: Non-Fire Fuels Management** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table.	**1)** SO and FO	**1)** SOA
	2) Implement projects involving the application of pesticides in accordance with	**2)** See **Upland Vegetation management: Rangelands (includes weed management)** program section.	**2)** FO	**2)** SOA

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
	the approach described in the **Upland Vegetation Management: Rangelands (includes weed management)** program section. **3)** Fuels management projects conducted in slickspot peppergrass habitat should have long-term benefits to slickspot peppergrass.	**3)** Avoid fuels management projects in occupied habitat, unless such projects would enhance species conservation or are necessary for hazardous fuels reduction near the urban interface. Implement protection measures to avoid or minimize negative impacts to the species. In slickspot peppergrass habitat, design native seed mixes that emphasize local stock and will promote species conservation. a) Because of potential negative impacts to slickspot peppergrass habitat from linear fuel breaks, which can act as weed dispersal corridors, the following measures will be applied in or adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat: *i)* BLM will evaluate the effectiveness of existing fuel breaks (location, dry fuel load, and weed composition) in protecting slickspot peppergrass habitat. *ii)* BLM may create and maintain fuel breaks where frequent fires can threaten slickspot peppergrass habitat. New fuel breaks in slickspot peppergrass habitat will be designed to conserve and enhance species habitat. Where appropriate and where objectives will be met, native vegetation should be emphasized in the creation of new fuel breaks. If native vegetation or seed is not available or if objectives would not be met through their use, fuel breaks may include nonnative, non-invasive, species that will not invade slickspots. In areas adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat, fuel breaks may include potentially invasive nonnative species such as intermediate wheatgrass and prostrate kochia as a last resort if the	**3)** FO (all actions)	**3)** SOA (all actions)

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		benefits of their use are demonstrated to outweigh the risks to slickspot peppergrass and its habitat. Apply conservation measure (2) in the **Fire Management: Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation** program section and conservation measure (4) in the **Upland Vegetation Management** program. *iii)* Consider actions to repair or restore fuel breaks so they function as desired. Apply conservation measure (2) in the **Fire Management: Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation** program section and conservation measure (4) in the **Upland Vegetation Management** program. b) In addition to the reduction in fuels associated with appropriately managed livestock grazing (see relevant conservation measures from **Livestock Grazing Management** section of this table), BLM may create fuel breaks using techniques such as mowing or targeted grazing to strategically reduce fuel loads where frequent fires can threaten slickspot peppergrass habitat if the benefit of these actions can be demonstrated to outweigh the risks to slickspot peppergrass and its habitat.		
Fire Management: Community Assistance	**1)** Activities within the **Fire Management: Community Assistance** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation. **2)** Follow all measures included throughout the Fire Management program sections.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table. **2)** See actions within Fire Management program sections. Incorporate into community assistance agreements.	**1)** SO and FO **2)** FO	**1)** SOA **2)** SOA
Lands and Realty Management: Land Tenure	**1)** Activities within the **Lands and Realty Management: Land Tenure Adjustment (land sale, exchanges, withdrawals, etc.)** program will implement relevant	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table.	**1)** SO and FO	**1)** SOA

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
Adjustment (land sale, exchanges, withdrawals, etc.)	conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation.			
	2) Where feasible and funding is available, acquire through land exchange or purchase private lands that contain slickspot peppergrass habitat.	**2)** BLM will opportunistically acquire slickspot peppergrass habitat, particularly occupied habitat, in land exchanges and purchases.	**2)** FO	**2)** SOA
	3) Retain occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat in Federal ownership unless such a transfer would result in a net benefit to the species.	**3)** Review each land tenure decision in terms of species habitat. Avoid the loss of occupied habitat from Federal ownership. If property with occupied habitat is being considered for transfer out of Federal ownership, ensure that the action will result in a greater net benefit for this species. BLM will coordinate with USFWS as early as possible to discuss methods to assure that the proposed land tenure adjustment benefits the species.	**3)** FO	**3)** SOA
Lands and Realty Management: Land Use Permits and Leases	**1)** Activities within the **Lands and Realty Management: Land Use Permits and Leases** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the Special Status Animal and Plant Management program section to promote conservation.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table.	**1)** SO and FO	**1)** SOA
	2) Issue new land use permits and leases and review existing permits and leases at renewal to conserve species habitat. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as ground disturbance resulting from human uses.	**2)** For new authorizations, as well as those being renewed, see **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(3)**. Avoid issuing new authorizations, or renewing existing authorizations, in or adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat if negative impacts are expected. If an authorization is to be issued or re-issued in such areas, apply stipulations to the authorization that support species conservation and that avoid or minimize negative impacts. BLM will require control of invasive nonnative	**2)** FO (all actions)	**2)** SOA (all actions)

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		or weed species on new, renewing, or amending land use permits and leases in slickspot peppergrass habitat. a) Conduct periodic project compliance inspections during implementation of projects involving soil disturbance. b) BLM will require that new or renewing permit or lease holders establish at least 50% perennial cover after all ground disturbing activities, unless ecological site conditions preclude that level of cover. If a native species component existed prior to the ground disturbance, then the native species component of the perennial cover should be restored.		
Lands and Realty Management: Rights-of-Way	**1)** Activities within the **Lands and Realty Management: Rights-of-Way** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation. **2)** Issue new rights-of-way and review existing rights-of-way at renewal to conserve species habitat. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table. **2)** For new rights-of-way and renewal of existing rights-of-way, see **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(3)** Avoid issuing new rights-of-way, or renewing rights-of-way, in or adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat if negative impacts are expected. In slickspot peppergrass habitat, only issue or re-issue rights-of-way with stipulations to avoid negative impacts to the habitat. BLM will require control of invasive nonnative or weed species on new, renewing, or amending right of way authorizations in slickspot peppergrass habitat. a) BLM will require that new or renewing permit or lease holders establish at least 50 percent perennial cover after all ground	**1)** SO and FO **2)** FO	**1)** SOA **2)** SOA

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
		disturbing activities, unless ecological site conditions preclude that level of cover. If a native species component existed prior to the ground disturbance, then the native species component of the perennial cover should be restored.		
Mineral Management: Locatable Minerals	**1)** Activities within the **Mineral Management: Locatable Minerals** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the S**pecial Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table.	**1)** SO and FO	**1)** SOA
	2) Approve plans of operations or allow notice level operations so as not to preclude species habitat conservation. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.	**2)** Approval of plans of operations and notice-level operations: a) For review of existing plans of operation and notice-level operations, see **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(2)**. To the extent allowed by law, modify plans of operation or notice-level operations that may have negative impacts on the species or its habitat. For notice-level operations, notify the operator that modifications to proposed activities will be required to avoid negative impacts. b) For new plans of operation and notice-level operations, see **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(3)**. To the extent allowed by law, avoid approving plans of operation or notice-level operations that may have negative impacts on the species or its habitat. For notice-level operations, notify the operator that modifications to proposed activities will be required to avoid negative impacts. If a plan of operations is to be approved in or adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat, apply stipulations to support or to not preclude species conservation. A notice will require modification by the operator until BLM determines that it will not result in undue or unnecessary degradation.	**2)** FO (all actions)	**2)** SOA

Table III.C–1 Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*): Conservation Measures and Implementation Actions for the Jarbidge and Four Rivers FOs

LUP Programs Evaluated	Conservation Measures	BLM Implementation Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframes
Mineral Management: Saleable and Leasable Minerals	**1)** Activities within the **Mineral Management: Saleable and Leasable Minerals** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table.	**1)** SO and FO	**1)** SOA
	2) Approve development of saleable or leasable minerals so as not to preclude species habitat conservation. This includes management of physical facilities, as well as disturbances to the species resulting from human uses.	**2)** Approval of saleable and leasable minerals: a) For review of existing mineral leases, see **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(2)**. Modify existing mineral leases if negative impacts are occurring. b) For new sales or leases, see **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section item **(3)**. Avoid development of saleable or leasable minerals in or adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat if negative impacts are expected. If a minerals lease or sale is to be issued in or adjacent to habitat, apply stipulations to support or to not preclude species conservation.	**2)** FO	**2)** SOA
Cultural Management	**1)** Activities within the **Cultural Management** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section to promote conservation.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table.	**1)** SO and FO	**1)** SOA
Paleontology	**1)** Activities within the **Paleontology** program will implement relevant conservation measures as described in the **Special Status Animal and Plant \Management** program section to promote conservation.	**1)** Apply relevant conservation measures from the **Special Status Animal and Plant Management** program section at the beginning of this table.	**1)** SO and FO	**1)** SOA