



# U.S. 95 CENTRAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN NYSSA JUNCTION with U.S. 20/26 TO WEISER RIVER

PINEHURST

NEW MEADOWS

COUNCIL

CAMBRIDGE

MIDVALE

WEISER



PAYETTE

FRUITLAND

PARMA

WILDER

HOMEDALE



JUNE 2014





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## Executive Summary

The U.S. 95 Central Environmental Scan (ES) covers 27.968 miles, and is one of three ES documents being prepared as a required component of the Oregon Line to New Meadows Corridor Plan. The U.S. 95 Central ES provides a summary of critical and potential environmental issues within the right-of-way boundaries of U.S. 95 in Idaho, beginning at the junction of U.S. 20/26 (1.5 miles east of the Oregon State Line at Nyssa, OR) at Milepost 53.557, and ending at the Weiser River Bridge south of the City of Weiser, ID at Milepost 81.525.

This ES identifies critical environmental resources within this section of the U.S. 95 corridor and addresses potential analysis/impacts and permit requirements for future projects outside the existing roadway but within the current right-of-way. Predictable future projects for this ES are limited to intersection improvements and minor roadway widening.

The proposed location, scope, and intensity of future transportation projects within the U.S. 95 corridor area will determine which environmental resources have the potential to be affected. The need for further evaluation and/or mitigation of each resource is also dependent on the location and scope of the project. A summary of existing environmental resources and relationship to future projects for this portion of the U.S. 95 Central corridor are shown in **Table 1**.

**Table 1 – Existing Identified Environmental Resources and Relationship to Future Projects**

Resource	Location Where Resource Exists	Relationship to Future Projects
Prime or Unique Farmlands	Environmental Scan Area	Prime farmland and farmland of statewide and local importance exists. May need to contact USDA to determine if a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form AD-1006 (03-02) and/or Form NRCS-CPA-106 would be required.
Air Quality	Canyon County	May require air quality analysis if the “Area of Concern” in an attainment area designation changes to a non-attainment area.
Sections 404 and 401	Payette County	There is one impaired waterway (Payette River) and multiple irrigation canals, ditches and drains and wetland areas. May need to contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine if a 404 permit is required; and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to determine if a 401 permit is required.



Resource	Location Where Resource Exists	Relationship to Future Projects
Floodplains	Canyon County, Payette County, Washington County	Any changes in floodplains would require review by the local jurisdiction to determine if a floodplain permit is necessary.
Wetland and Riparian Areas	Environmental Scan Area	There are multiple wetland areas that would need to be delineated for jurisdictional boundaries.
Hazardous Materials	Canyon County, Payette County, Washington County	Site-specific hazardous materials assessment would be necessary, especially in urban areas to evaluate potential contaminants or impacts to groundwater.
Threatened & Endangered (T&E) Species	Environmental Scan Area	The Snake River physa is listed as endangered and could be present in all three counties. Bull trout is listed as threatened and could be present in Payette and Washington counties. The Northern Idaho ground squirrel is listed as a threatened species in Washington County. A biological evaluation would be necessary to determine if the project would impact any T&E Species.
State Sensitive Species	Environmental Scan Area	Critically imperiled and at risk imperiled State Sensitive Species could be present in all three counties. A biological evaluation would be necessary to determine if the project would impact any State Sensitive Species.
Demographic Data	Environmental Scan Area	Low household income and population below poverty level areas would require review for any relocations.
Cultural Resources	Environmental Scan Area	Potential 4(f) and LWCF 6(f) properties in the ES area would necessitate a cultural resource survey.





Resource	Location Where Resource Exists	Relationship to Future Projects
Land Use and Zoning	Environmental Scan Area	Projects that would affect land use are not likely but any changes to the corridor would require review by the local jurisdiction.
Noise	Environmental Scan Area	If a setback of at least 200 feet from existing centerline and in certain cases a 50-foot setback cannot be maintained, a noise analysis may be required.

Any future projects should include the following during the planning phase:

- A qualified Biologist to study the project area and provide a biological evaluation for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and critical habitat; and prepare a wetland evaluation/delineation;
- A qualified Environmental Planner to evaluate the project area and determine the proper level of environmental documentation required for the project;
- A qualified Architectural Historian and Cultural Resource Specialist to evaluate the project area and identify any potentially eligible historic structures and/or archaeological sites.



## Introduction

The U.S. 95 Central Environmental Scan (ES) covers 27.968 linear miles, and is one of three ES documents being prepared as a required component of the Oregon Line to New Meadows Corridor Plan. The U.S. 95 Central ES provides a summary of critical and potential environmental issues within the right-of-way boundaries of U.S. 95 in Idaho, from the junction with U.S. 20/26 to 1.5 miles east of the Oregon State Line at Nyssa at Milepost 53.557, to the Weiser River Bridge south of the City of Weiser, ending at Milepost 81.525.

This ES identifies critical environmental resources within this section of the U.S. 95 corridor and addresses potential analysis/impacts and permit requirements for future projects outside the existing roadway but within the current right-of-way. Predictable future projects for this ES are limited to intersection improvements and minor roadway widening.

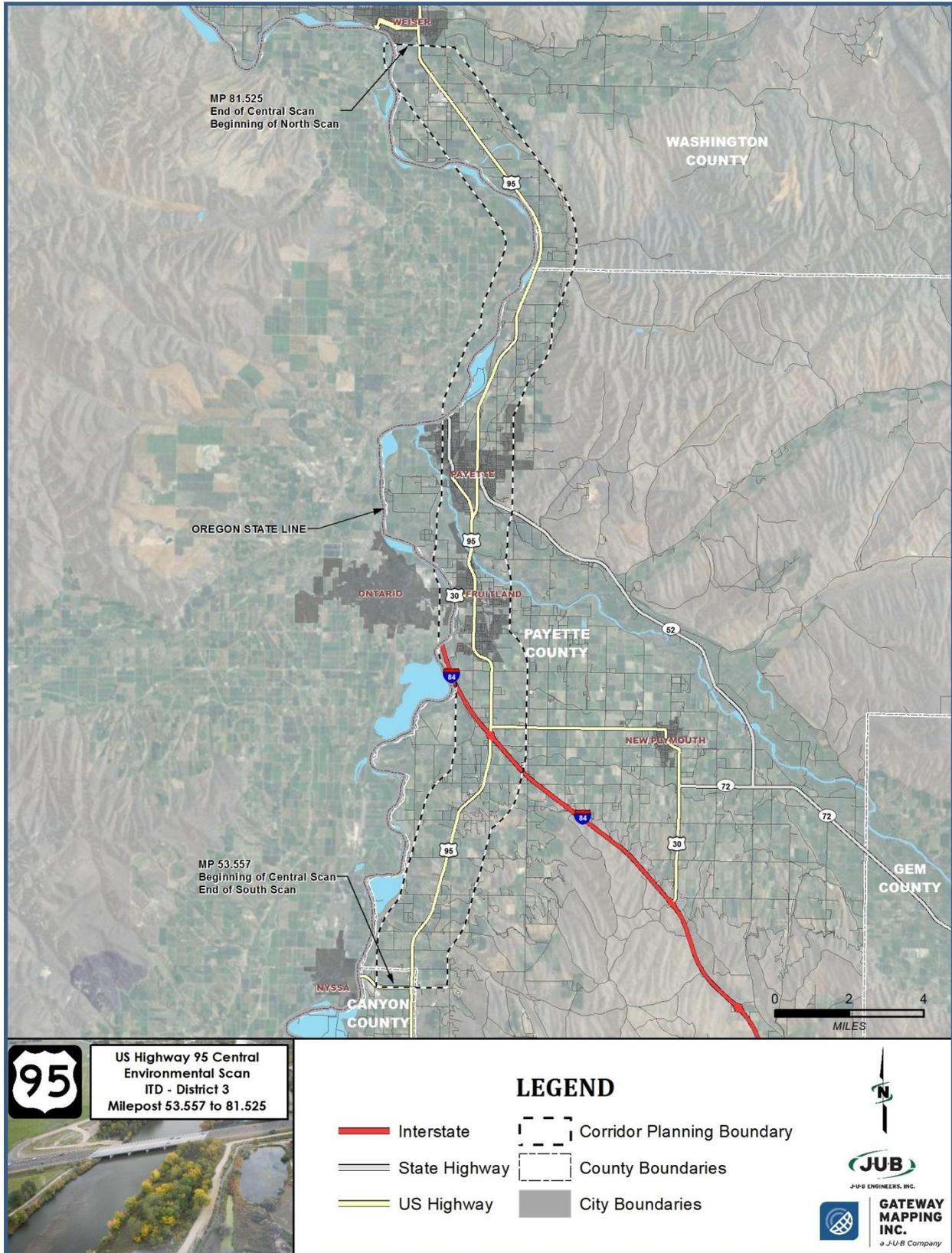
### ***Project Area***

The U.S. 95 Central corridor lies in Canyon, Payette, and Washington counties in Idaho. Two cities, Fruitland and Payette, are located within the corridor. The ES study area includes a total distance of 27.968 linear miles, from Milepost 53.557 near the Oregon State line (1.5 miles east of Nyssa, OR) to the Weiser River Bridge south of the City of Weiser, ID at Milepost 81.525. The lateral extent of the U.S. 95 Central ES study area includes a one-mile distance from the centerline of U.S. 95 on either side of the roadway, with the exception of two areas to the west of the corridor, where the one-mile buffer extends beyond the limits of the State of Idaho. **Figure 1** and **Appendix A.1** show the extent of the U.S. 95 Central ES corridor study area.





Figure 1 - Corridor Study Area





## Methodology and Data Sources

Methods used to prepare this ES included research and evaluation of local, state, and federal agency databases and resources; a helicopter flyover, and a vehicle windshield survey. **Table 2** outlines specific methodologies used for each resource to develop the U.S. 95 Central ES document. Data Sources for the tables and maps are located on pages 63 and 64.

**Table 2 – U.S. 95 Central Environmental Scan Methodology and Data Resources**

	Resource	Methodology	Assumptions
Physical Environment	Land Cover	Created a table of land cover using the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) 2012 Idaho Cropland Geographic Information System (GIS) data layer.	None
	Soil Resources and Prime Farmland	Created a GIS map and table of prime farmland using the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey Geographic database (SSURGO) data layer.	None
	Air Quality	Referenced the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Air Quality policy and reviewed the Idaho DEQ Administrative Boundaries for Areas with Sensitive Air Quality map.	None
	Hydrology – Surface Waters	Created a GIS map of surface waters, irrigation district boundaries, and impaired water bodies. Researched and listed water body impairments.	None
	Hydrology – Floodplains	A flood zone GIS data layer from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was used to map floodplains. In addition, online floodplain maps were obtained from FEMA’s website for reference purposes.	None
	Hydrology – Wetlands	Water features were approximated in GIS maps using information obtained through a review of existing National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps, a vehicle windshield survey, and a helicopter flyover.	Full wetland delineation did not occur.
	Hydrology – Ground Waters	Reviewed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Sole Source Aquifers map.	None
	Hazardous Materials	Researched EPA’s Enviromapper database, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) UST/LUST databases, and conducted a windshield survey to identify potential hazardous materials locations adjacent to the right-of-way along U.S. 95.	An initial site assessment was not conducted.





Resource		Methodology	Assumptions
Biological Resources	Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species	Obtained and reviewed the countywide Endangered Species Act (ESA) species listing.  Obtained an Official Species List for the ES area from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information, Planning and Conservation (IPAC) System.	A biological evaluation was not performed and no agency consultation occurred.
	Sensitive Species	The Idaho Conservation Data Center (CDC) database was queried and reviewed for Idaho Sensitive Species within the vicinity of the project area.	
	Wildlife and Fish Resources	Potential impacts to non-listed or proposed species are discussed. T&E Species habitat attributes are cross-referenced with the countywide ESA listing and briefly discussed in the ES.	
Human Environment	Demographic Information	Obtained GIS block group data from the 2010 U.S. Census for total population and minority populations by state, county, city, and corridor separated by county. Median household income and population below the poverty level was obtained from the 2007-2011 American Community Survey (ACS).	Census data was used at the block level. ACS data was used at the block group level.
	Environmental Justice	Researched 2010 U.S. Census data and performed a vehicle windshield survey to identify potential areas where environmental justice populations may exist.	None
	Cultural Resources	Researched the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database for historic properties in the ES area. Created a GIS map and conducted a windshield survey to document known and potentially eligible historic properties.	Only included properties within 100 feet of the roadway centerline.
	Visual Impacts	Reviewed potential visual impacts through a windshield survey.	A visual assessment did not occur.
	Section 4(f)/6(f)	Conducted a windshield survey, reviewed city and county zoning maps, aerial photography, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) database. Created tables and a GIS map of parks, schools, and LWCF properties.	A Section 4(f)/6(f) evaluation of properties did not occur.
	Land Use and Zoning	Obtained and reviewed current zoning and comprehensive land use plans and digital maps for the cities of Fruitland and Payette; and Canyon, Payette, and Washington counties.	GIS layers of current zoning and future land use designations are not included in the ES document.
	Noise	A ten-point transect analysis was conducted using the FHWA Traffic Noise Model software. A table of dBA levels for highway segments was prepared.	None
	FAA Airspace Intrusion	Local airports were researched and mapped in GIS.	No FAA Airspace GIS data layer available.



## Physical Environment

### Land Cover

The USDA 2012 Idaho Cropland GIS data layer was used to identify land cover types within the U.S. 95 Central ES study area. The study area covers a total 30,250.21 acres, which represents the acreage within the State of Idaho only. Approximately 1,800 additional acres of the one-mile buffer area reaches outside of the State of Idaho into Oregon. **Table 3** shows 43 land cover/cropland types within the ES study area. The three most common are alfalfa (21.46 percent), pasture/grass (15.49 percent), and developed/open space (8.29 percent).

**Table 3 – Corridor Land Cover within the U.S. 95 Central ES Area**

Land Cover/ Cropland Type	Acres	Percent of Corridor	Land Cover/ Cropland Type	Acres	Percent of Corridor
Alfalfa	6,490.44	21.46%	Radishes	53.72	0.18%
Pasture/Grass	4,684.69	15.49%	Barley	50.40	0.17%
Developed/Open Space	2,508.08	8.29%	Plums	47.93	0.16%
Corn	2,406.45	7.96%	Oats	34.97	0.12%
Winter Wheat	2,134.42	7.06%	Lettuce	29.38	0.10%
Fallow/Idle Cropland	2,100.42	6.94%	Sweet Corn	26.72	0.09%
Developed/Low Intensity	1,992.48	6.59%	Other Crops	23.59	0.08%
Open Water	1,256.85	4.15%	Peaches	17.34	0.06%
Shrubland	1,092.83	3.61%	Background	16.93	0.06%
Dry Beans	1,043.13	3.45%	Developed/High Intensity	15.14	0.05%
Pasture/Hay	990.81	3.28%	Barren	12.28	0.04%
Onions	975.69	3.23%	Clover/Wildflowers	6.68	0.02%
Developed/Med Intensity	568.28	1.88%	Carrots	5.49	0.02%
Sugarbeets	433.34	1.43%	Sorghum	4.23	0.01%
Herbs	274.08	0.91%	Evergreen Forest	2.00	0.01%
Apples	205.42	0.68%	Hops	1.78	0.01%
Peas	193.36	0.64%	Miscellaneous Vegetables & Fruits	1.34	0.00%
Potatoes	160.69	0.53%	Triticale	1.34	0.00%
Herbaceous Wetlands	152.32	0.50%	Grapes	0.89	0.00%
Other Hay/Non Alfalfa	105.71	0.35%	Turnips	0.45	0.00%
Spring Wheat	73.39	0.24%	Cherries	0.22	0.00%
Woody Wetlands	54.51	0.18%			
<b>Total Land Cover</b>				<b>30,250.21</b>	<b>100%</b>

Percent of corridor rounded to the nearest one-hundredth percent

Source: USDA 2012 Idaho Cropland data





### **Soil Resources and Prime Farmland**

Land is not considered farmland if it is developed, if the U.S. Census considers it urban, if it exists within the footprint of rights-of-way, or if it is land that is committed to urban development or water storage.

Congress enacted the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) as a subtitle of the 1981 Farm Bill. The purpose of the law is “to minimize the extent to which federal programs contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses, and to assure that federal programs are administered in a manner that, to the extent practicable, will be compatible with state, unit of local government, and private programs and policies to protect farmland” (P.L. 97-98, Sec. 1539-1549; 7 U.S.C. 4201, et seq.).

Farmland protected under the FPPA is defined in Section 4201 of the FPPA as prime farmland, farmland of statewide or local importance and unique farmland.

Prime farmland soils are those that have the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops, and are also available for these land uses. Prime farmland can be either non-irrigated land or land that would be considered prime if irrigated. Prime farmland makes up a large portion (60 percent), which represents 17,919.22 acres of the ES study area.

Farmland of statewide importance is land, other than prime and unique farmlands, that is of statewide importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. Farmland of statewide importance makes up approximately 23 percent or 6,912.24 acres of the ES study area.

Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops e.g. cranberries or citrus. Idaho does not have farmland categorized as unique (Hal Swenson, Idaho State Soil Scientist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service).

Information on soils were obtained from the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to determine the presence of prime, unique, statewide, or locally important farmland in the U.S. 95 Central ES study area. The soil survey data for Canyon, Payette, and Washington counties indicate that the predominant soil types within the ES area include silt, sandy, and various other types of loam. Prime farmland and farmland of statewide and local importance are listed in **Table 4** and shown in **Figure 2** and **Appendix A.2**.



**Table 4 – NRCS Prime Farmland**

Farmland Type	Acres	Percentage
Prime Farmland if irrigated	15,546.81	52%
Prime Farmland if irrigated and drained	2,372.41	8%
Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium	0	0%
<b>Total Prime Farmland</b>	<b>17,919.22</b>	<b>60%</b>
Farmland of Statewide Importance if irrigated	6,912.24	23%
<b>Total Farmland of Statewide Importance</b>	<b>6,912.24</b>	<b>23%</b>
Unidentified	1,845.96	6%
Not Prime Farmland	3,572.79	11%
<b>Total Corridor Study Boundary Limits</b>	<b>30,250.21</b>	<b>100%</b>

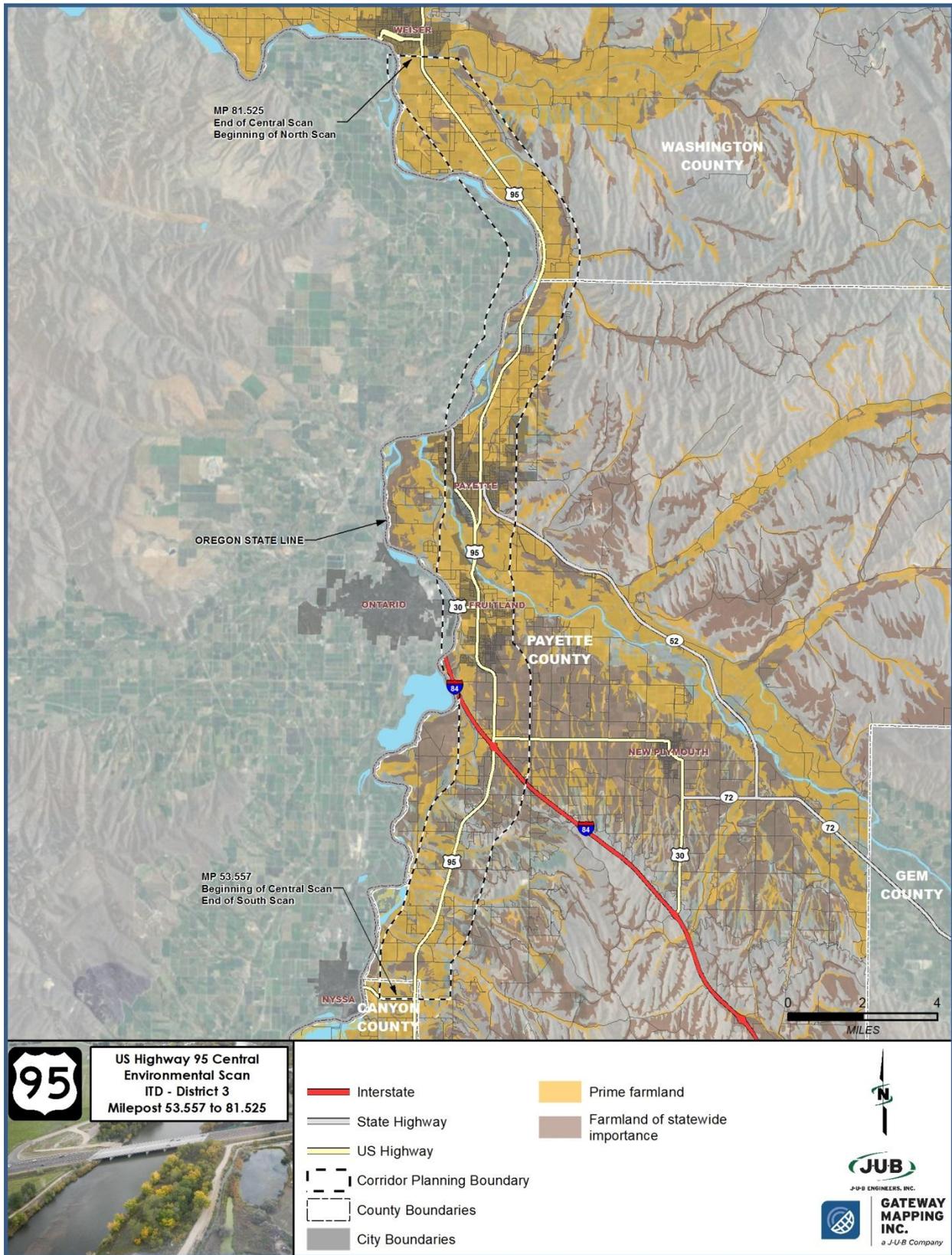
Source: NRCS SSURGO data

The USDA Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form AD-1006 (03-02) and Form NRCS-CPA-106 (for corridor type projects) are used by the NRCS to inventory and evaluate impacts to the prime and important farmlands within the state. Future projects associated with the construction of any potential alternative route may convert farmland as defined in the FPPA to nonagricultural uses. For projects located within existing rights-of-way, it is likely that one or both of these forms would need to be completed. The federal agency providing financial or technical assistance to a proposed project would need to coordinate with NRCS to determine potential farmland impacts.





Figure 2 - Prime Farmland





### **Air Quality**

Under the authority of the federal Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six criteria pollutants: ozone, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, and lead (EPA, 2012, [www.epa.gov/air/criteria.html](http://www.epa.gov/air/criteria.html) and <http://www.epa.gov/airdata/>). The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is required by the Idaho Environmental Protection and Health Act to supervise and administer a system to safeguard air quality in the State of Idaho. In Idaho, pollutants of concern include carbon monoxide, particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSAT) (EPA Air Quality Index Report, 2014, [www.deq.idaho.gov/air-quality.aspx](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/air-quality.aspx)). Air quality impacts are evaluated for all Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) federally funded transportation projects to determine if the project will cause or contribute to a violation of NAAQS.

All state air quality jurisdictions are divided into three classes of air quality protection, Class I, II, and III. Class I areas are subject to maximum limits on air quality degradation called air quality increments, often referred to as PSD increments. Class I areas are special areas such as national parks, national monuments, and wilderness areas. These air quality increments are more stringent than national ambient air quality standards. Most areas are designated as Class II areas, areas that are subject to maximum limits on air quality degradation. Class II has more stringent air quality increments than national ambient air quality standards but less than Class I. Class III areas have no air quality increments and may be degraded to levels correspondent to national ambient air quality standards.

A Nonattainment Area is an air quality jurisdiction which has formally been recognized by the U.S. EPA as violating a national ambient air quality standard.

A Maintenance Area is one where a nonattainment area now meets the standards and additional redesignation requirements in the Clean Air Act.

An Area of Concern is an area that has exceeded the threshold of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards in the past, but has not violated those standards (David Luft, Airshed Manager, Idaho DEQ).

An airshed is a geographical area that is characterized by similar topography and weather patterns. Idaho DEQ bases the boundaries of airsheds on meteorological data. Certain geographical regions that violate NAAQS are designated as non-attainment areas. Non-attainment areas receive special attention and mitigation efforts in order to improve the ambient air quality to the established standards. **Figure 3** shows attainment and non-attainment areas throughout the State of Idaho. Air quality is discussed in more detail below for each county within the U.S. 95 Central ES study area.

### **Canyon County**

Canyon County is part of the Treasure Valley airshed. The Treasure Valley airshed is considered an Area of Concern for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>. PM<sub>2.5</sub> is particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter; and O<sub>3</sub> is corrosive ozone. In the lower atmosphere, ozone is created by chemical reactions between air pollutants from vehicle exhaust, gasoline vapors, and other emissions. High concentrations of ozone are toxic to people and plants. Per the ITD Air Screening Policy, projects taking place in Canyon County may require an air quality analysis unless the project is an exempt type per 40 CFR 93.126.





### **Payette County**

Payette County is the smallest county in land area in Idaho. According to the Idaho DEQ, air quality in Payette County is generally good to excellent. Geographically, Payette County is classified by the EPA as an attainment area. Wild land fires that occasionally occur in the summer and fall, or prescribed fire and agricultural burning that generally occurs in the spring and fall, can cause poor air quality conditions.

### **Washington County**

Washington County falls within an attainment area. According to the Idaho DEQ, air quality in Washington County is generally good to excellent with few emissions sources except from agricultural activities. Wild land fires that occur occasionally in summer and fall, or prescribed fire and agricultural burning that generally occurs in spring and fall, can cause poor air quality conditions.

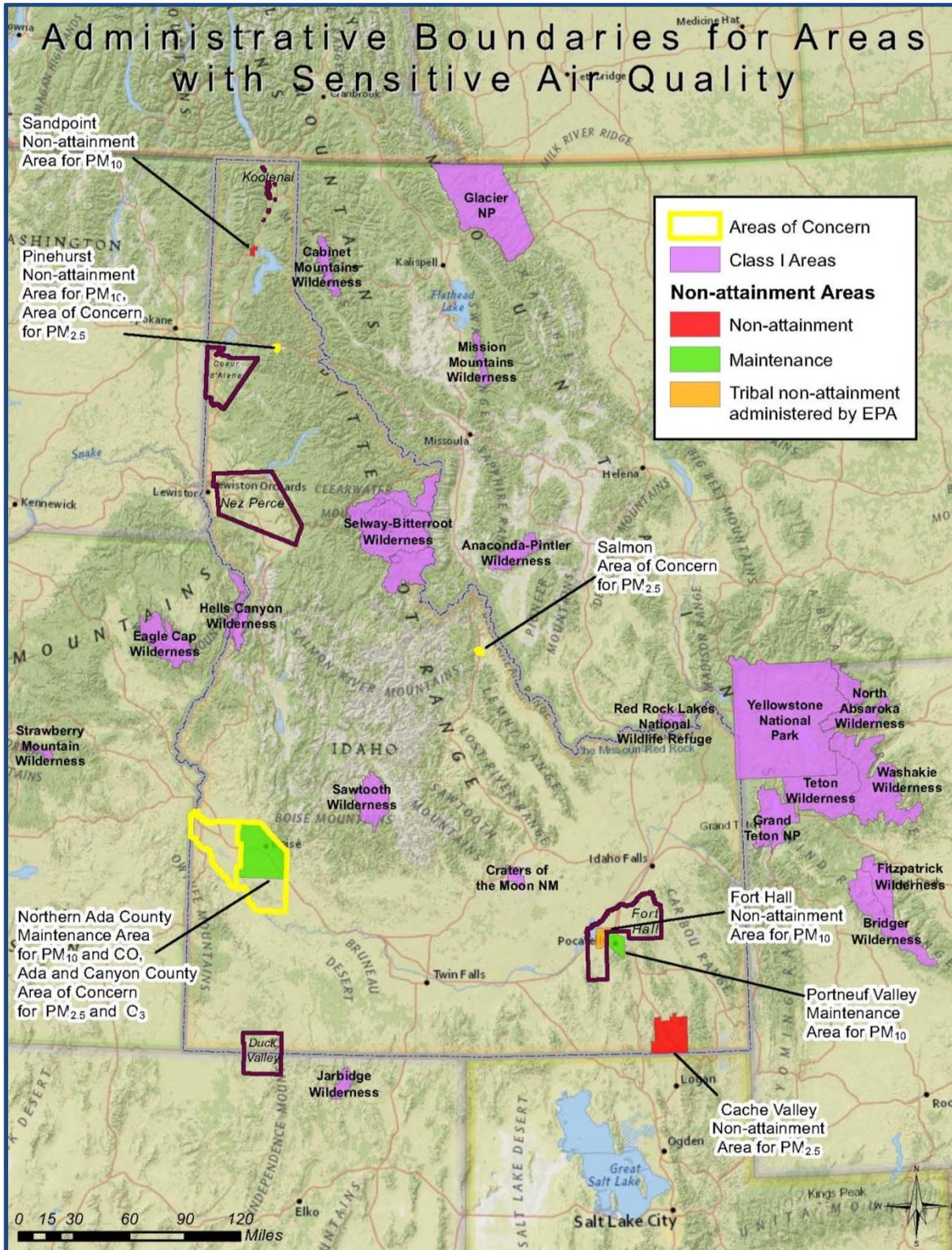
The following types of projects are considered to have the potential to impact air quality standards and would likely require an air quality analysis:

1. New or expanded highway projects that have a significant number of or significant increase in diesel vehicles (> 10,000 trucks per day);
2. Projects affecting intersections that are at a level of service (LOS) D or worse with a significant number of diesel vehicles, or those that will change to LOS D or worse because of increased traffic volumes from a significant number of diesel vehicles related to the project;
3. New bus and rail terminals and transfer points that have a significant number of diesel vehicles congregating at a signal point;
4. Expanded bus and rail terminals, and expanded transfer points, which significantly increase the number of diesel vehicles congregating at a single location; and
5. Projects in or affecting locations, areas, or categories of sites, which are identified in the PM-10 State Implementation Plan (SIP) as sites of violation or possible violation (of which Idaho currently has none).

Any future project would need to follow ITD's Air Screening Policy to determine whether the proposed project would require an air quality analysis for MSAT. According to ITD's Air Screening Policy, *it is not necessary to address air toxics impacts in all Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funded projects. The decision on whether or not to assess and document air toxics in conjunction with a project will depend on whether it is identified as an issue during the scoping process or subsequently through public comment. If MSAT is not identified as a potential issue, it DOES NOT need to be evaluated or documented in the project's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document.*



Figure 3 – Administrative Boundaries for Areas with Sensitive Air Quality



Source: [http://www.deq.state.id.us/media/662796-nonattainment\\_map.pdf](http://www.deq.state.id.us/media/662796-nonattainment_map.pdf)





## Hydrology

Surface waters, floodplains, wetlands, groundwater contaminants and sole source aquifers are discussed in detail below. Future construction projects including any alteration or other development work involving surface or groundwater would require various levels of regulatory compliance and/or permitting.

### Surface Waters

Three Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) sub-basins are located within the Central ES area: Middle Snake-Payette HUC 17050115, Payette HUC 17050122 (**Figure 4**), and the Weiser River sub-basin HUC 17050124.

**Figure 4 – Payette River, U.S. 95 at Killebrew Drive/Alden Road at Milepost 66**



Payette County and Washington County have a total of 10 irrigation canals, ditches, or drains – three are located within the ES area. Washington County has one and Payette County has two irrigation canals, ditches, or drains located within the ES area. The Lower Payette Ditch is shared by both counties. In certain instances, irrigation ditches and canals may be considered jurisdictional waterways and specific regulatory requirements under Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act would apply to future work within these facilities (Idaho “A” Canals, 2014, <http://idaho.hometownlocator.com/features/cultural/class/canal.cfm>).

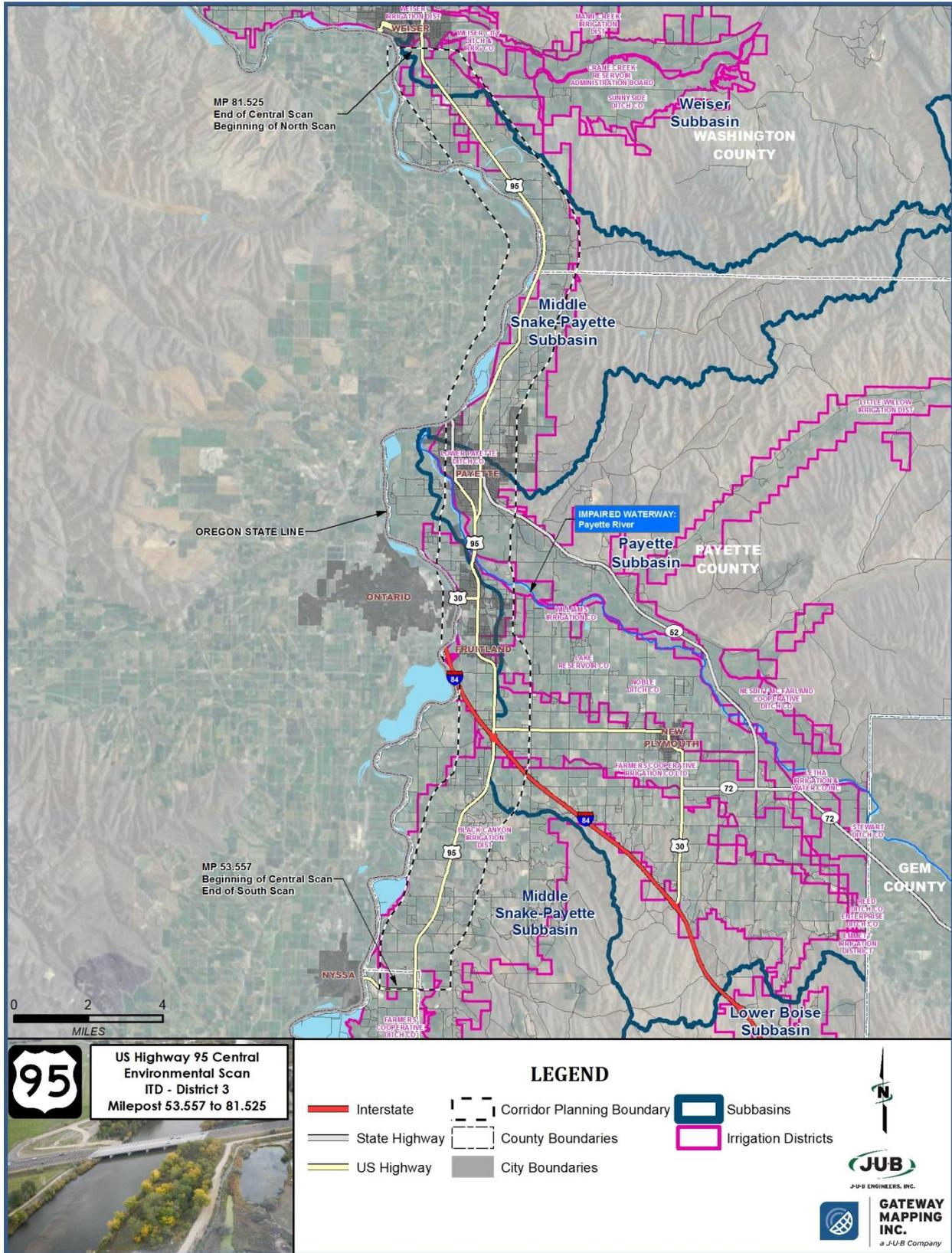
There is one impaired waterway in the ES area: the Payette River (EPA MyWATERS Mapper, 2014, <http://watersgeo.epa.gov>). **Figure 5** and **Appendix A.3** show the locations of surface waters within the ES area. The Payette River impaired waterway is discussed in more detail below.

### Payette River

U.S. 95 crosses the Payette River north of the City of Fruitland in Payette County. This impaired waterway segment is approximately 66.75 linear miles starting from the City of Emmett and flows through Fruitland and Payette to the Oregon state border. The Payette River is classified as impaired for salmonid spawning, cold-water aquatic life, and primary contact recreation. Temperature and pathogens are two main causes of impairment partially as a result of the City of Fruitland’s discharge of treated wastewater into the Payette River. See **Appendix B** for further information.



Figure 5 – Surface Waters





## **Floodplains**

Executive Order (EO) 11988: Floodplain Management requires federal agencies to avoid to the extent possible, long and short-term adverse impacts associated with modification and/or development of floodplains whenever a practicable alternative exists. EO 11988 and 23 CFR 650 Part A requires an evaluation of project alternatives to determine the extent of any encroachment into the base floodplain. The base floodplain, also referred to as the “100-year-flood,” is the regulatory standard used by federal agencies for administering new development. This is a flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in a given year. A “floodplain” is defined as a nearly flat plain along the course of a stream or river that is naturally subject to flooding.

As described in FHWA’s floodplain regulation (23 CFR 650 Part A), floodplains provide natural and beneficial values serving as areas for fish, wildlife, plants, open space, natural flood moderation, water quality maintenance and groundwater recharge. There is a 100-year and a 500-year floodplain within the ES area (Idaho Department of Water Resources, 2014, <http://maps.idwr.idaho.gov/FloodHazard/Map>).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued floodplain maps for Canyon, Payette, and Washington counties within the ES area. FEMA flood map index numbers for the U.S. 95 Central ES area are as follows: Canyon County – 16027C0075F and 16027C0025F; Payette County – 1601980375B, 1601980300B, 1601980143B , 1601980144B, 1601980141B, 1601980137B, 1601980142B, 1601980133B, 1601840001A, 1601980129B, and 1601980131B; Washington County – 1601980050B, 16087C0845C, 16087C0835C, 16087C0830C, 16087C0827C, 16087C0826C, and 16087C0831C (FEMA Map Service Center, 2014, <https://msc.fema.gov>).

### **Canyon County Floodplains**

There is a small section of the Central ES planning area that travels through Canyon County near the north Canyon/south Payette County line. The FEMA floodplain map (16027C0075F) for Canyon County indicates a 100-year floodplain along the Snake River but it is outside of the U.S. 95 Central ES study area.

### **Payette County Floodplains**

There are 10 FEMA floodplain maps for Payette County that show 100-year floodplains in the ES area:

- Homestead Gulch and Ashlock Gulch (1601980300B)
- Payette River, north of Fruitland (1601980144B, 1601980141B)
- North of the City of Payette (1601980131B), south of the City of Payette (1601980141B, 1601980137B, 1601980133B), east of the City of Payette (1601980142B), west of the City of Payette (1601980129B, 1601840001A)



### Washington County Floodplains

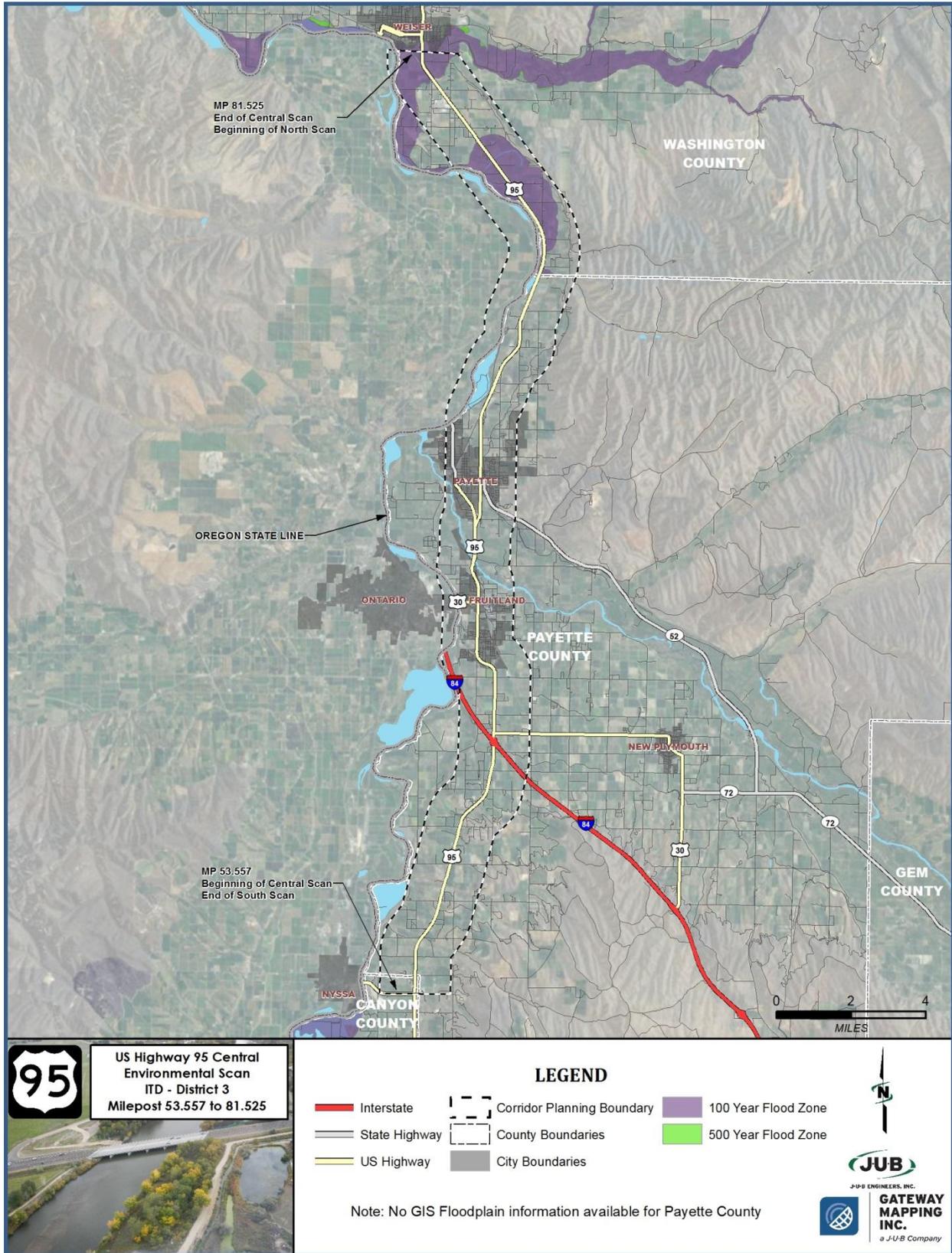
FEMA floodplain maps for Washington County (16087CIND0A) indicate a 100-year floodplain north of Payette that stretches along the U.S. 95 Central ES area (16087C0845C, 1601980050B, 16087C0835C, 16087C0830C) east of the Snake River and Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge (16087C0826C), where Buttermilk Slough falls within both sections, and south of the Weiser River (16087C0827C) through the City of Weiser.

Coordination with Canyon, Payette, and Washington counties and the cities of Payette and Fruitland should be conducted during project development processes to determine if floodplain permits are required. See **Figure 6** and **Appendix A.4** for floodplain locations in Canyon and Washington counties; there is no GIS data available for Payette County. See **Appendix C** for additional floodplain information.





Figure 6 - Floodplains





### **Wetlands**

Executive Order 11990 Protection of Wetlands requires all federal agencies to “minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands.” This Executive Order, along with U.S. Department of Transportation Order 5660.1A, directs federal agencies to avoid new construction in wetlands unless there is no practicable alternative and the proposed action includes all feasible measures to minimize harm to wetlands. These directives have a long-term goal of no overall net loss of the Nation’s remaining wetlands.

Wetlands have been defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the EPA, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) as: those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater (hydrology) at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation (hydrophytes) typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions (hydric soils) (USACE, <http://www.usace.army.mil/>). Wetlands generally include swamps, marches, bogs, and similar areas that are saturated by surface or groundwater and support vegetation adapted for life in saturated conditions [40 CFR 232.2(r)]. They provide important functions including groundwater recharge, erosion control, shoreline stabilization, and fish and wildlife food and habitat. **Figure 7** illustrates multiple types of wetlands: freshwater pond, freshwater emergent wetland, open water wetland, and forested wetland.

**Figure 7 – Wetlands, U.S. 95 at Milepost 59, looking east**



The following presents the federal definition of Waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Wetlands are a subset of Waters of the U.S. and receive protection under Section 404 of the CWA. The term “Waters of the U.S.” as defined in Code of Federal Regulations (33 CFR 328.3[a]; 40 CFR 230.3[s]) includes:

1. All waters that are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.
2. All interstate waters including interstate wetlands.



3. All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mud flats, sand flats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, the use, degradation, or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters
  - that are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes;
  - from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or
  - that are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.
4. All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as Waters of the U. S. under the definition.
5. Tributaries of waters identified in numbers one through four.
6. Territorial seas.
7. Wetlands adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified in numbers one through six.

Waters of the U.S. do not include previously converted cropland. Notwithstanding the determination of an area's status as prior converted cropland by any other federal agency, the final authority regarding CWA jurisdiction remains with EPA (328.3[a][8] added 58 FR 45035, Aug. 25, 1993).

Potential wetland areas were initially identified using existing National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps (<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>). This initial mapping was field verified by a helicopter flyover survey and windshield survey. Potential wetlands identified in the field were based solely on vegetation type and characterization. Formal wetland delineation in accordance with the 1987 USACE Manual and Arid West (2010) Regional Supplement would require a more detailed identification process, which would involve delineating hydric soils and hydrologic parameters. **Figure 8** and **Appendix A.5** show the approximate NWI and identified potential wetland boundaries based solely on vegetation type.

**Table 5** summarizes the potential wetland acreages located within 100 feet of the centerline of U.S. 95 on both sides of the U.S. 95 Central corridor. See **Appendix D** for further information.



**Table 5 – Identified Potential Wetlands and NWI Wetlands**

Identified Potential Wetlands			
Identified Potential Wetlands Map Code	Identified Potential Wetlands Description	Wetlands Map Book Pages	*Acres
EMW	Emergent Wetland	7, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 61, 65	2.14
FOR	Forested Wetland	65	.04
IC	Irrigation Canal	22, 23, 24, 30, 49, 52, 58	.33
OPW	Open Water Wetland	1, 2, 53, 54	.46
SSW	Scrub-Shrub Wetland	9, 59, 60	1.46
<b>Total</b>			<b>4.43</b>
NWI Wetlands			
NWI Map Code	NWI Description	Wetlands Map Book Pages	*Acres
PEMC, PEM1C	Freshwater Emergent Wetland	1, 2, 65	1.63
PSSC	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	9	.05
PUBHh, PABHh, PUBH	Freshwater Pond	1, 9, 53, 54	1.32
R3UBH	Riverine	36, 37	1.93
<b>Total</b>			<b>4.93</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>9.36</b>

Source: <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>

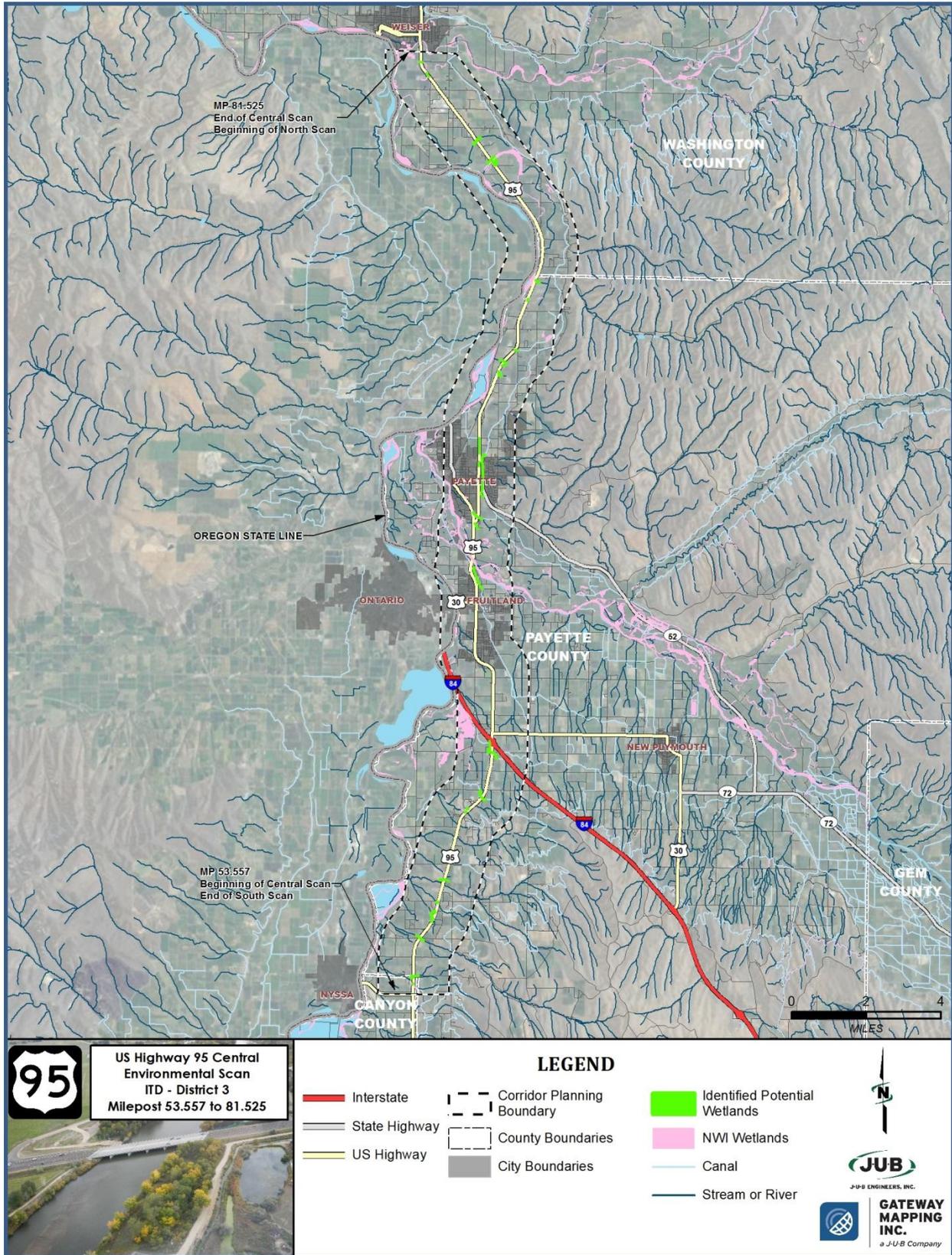
\*Acres are rounded to the nearest one-hundredth

For future projects, formal wetland delineations will need to be completed according to USACE defined procedures during the project development process. Jurisdictional determinations of wetlands must also occur during the project development process. Wetland impacts should be avoided to the extent practicable. All unavoidable wetland impacts will need to be mitigated as required by USACE. Coordination with USACE will be necessary to determine appropriate mitigation, as needed.





Figure 8 - Potential Wetlands

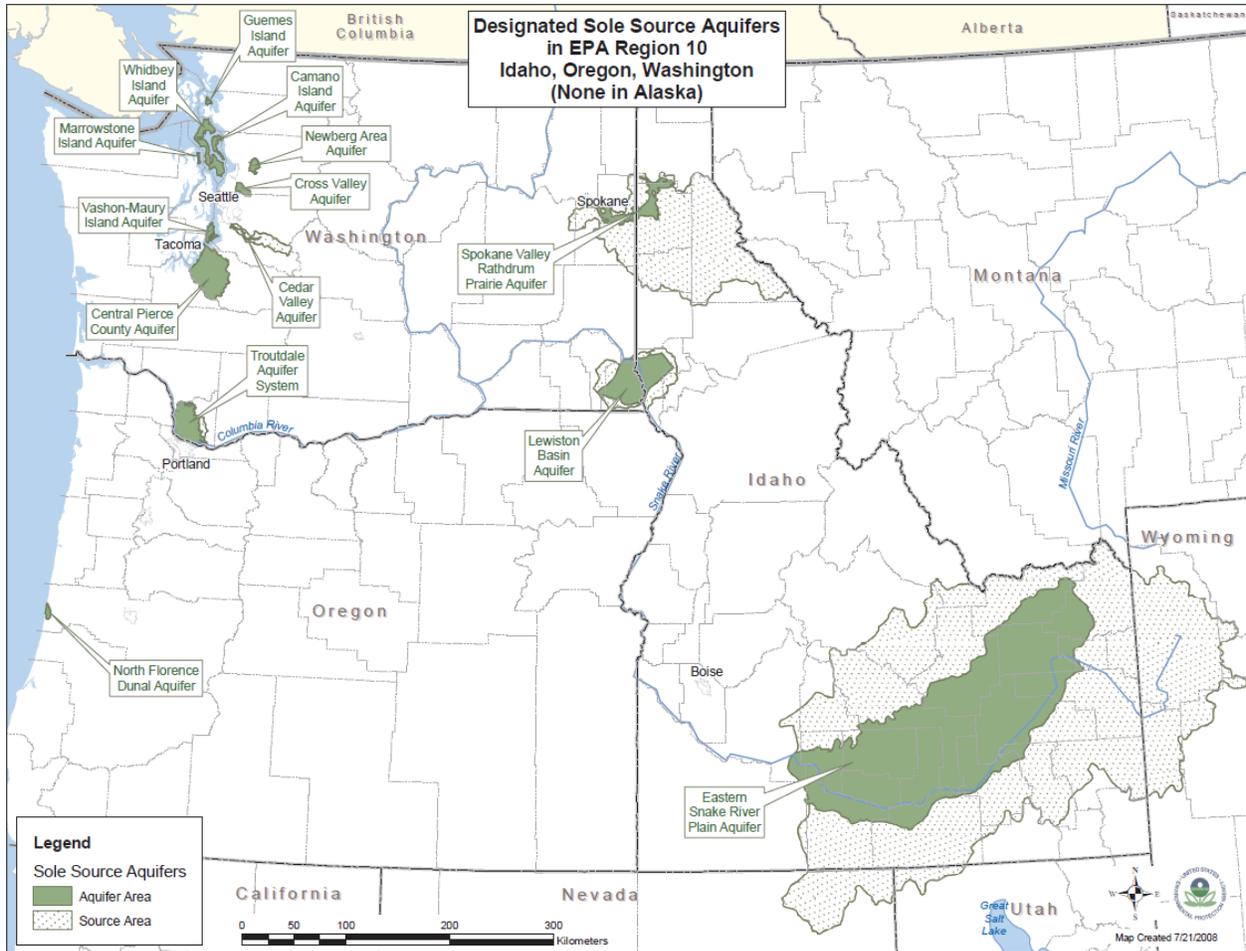




**Groundwater/Sole Source Aquifers**

A sole source aquifer is an underground water supply designated by the EPA as the “sole or principal” source of drinking water for an area. Projects that are to receive "federal financial assistance" and which have the potential to contaminate the aquifer "so as to create a significant hazard to public health" under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 201, 300 et seq., and 21 U.S.C. 349) are subject to EPA review and approval. As shown in **Figure 9**, there are no designated sole source aquifers within the ES area.

**Figure 9 – Sole Source Aquifers**



Source: [http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/462639-sole\\_source\\_aquifers\\_west\\_map.pdf](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/462639-sole_source_aquifers_west_map.pdf)





## Hazardous Materials

The EPA Envirofacts and Idaho DEQ databases were searched for the regulated hazardous facilities reporting to the EPA (Envirofacts, 2014, <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/index.html>). The databases contain information about environmental activities that may affect air, water, and land. The facilities reporting to the EPA may include reporting about waste, water quality, toxics, air quality, radiation and other information associated with different types of facilities. **Table 6** lists sites identified in EPA’s database including Underground Storage Tanks (USTs), Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUSTs), and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) sites.

RCRA, enacted in 1976, is an amendment to the Solid Waste Disposal Act to address volumes of municipal and industrial solid waste generated nationwide. Unlike the Comprehensive Environmental Respose, Compensation, and Liability Act that deals with cleaning up inactive and abandoned hazardous waste sites, RCRA deals with materials that are currently destined for disposal or recycling.

As shown in **Table 6**, there are a total of 43 UST sites, 11 of which are designated as LUSTs within the ES area. There is one LUST site in use and 16 RCRA sites. Additional unknown contaminated sites may be identified during the project development process and/or during future project construction. Hazardous Materials sites identified within the project study area are shown in **Figure 10** and **Appendix A.6**.

**Table 6 – Hazardous Materials Summary**

Facility ID	Facility Name	Street Address	City	Type	LUST ID Status Date
IDD98466863	Nunhems USA Inc.	1200 Anderson Corner Road	Parma	RCRA	
3-380613	Hammer Stores G&C Inc.	2001 Highway 30	Fruitland	UST	
3-380006	Bus Shop	S Kansas Avenue	Fruitland	UST	
3-380601	Camp Oil Co. Inc.	412 S Pennsylvania Avenue/PO Box 316	Fruitland	UST	
3-380012	Doyle's Service	319 53 <sup>rd</sup> Street	Fruitland	UST	
3-380048	Fruitland Card Lock	217 SW 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street/PO Box 316	Fruitland	UST	
3-380008	Highway District 1	301 S Penn	Fruitland	UST	
3-380600	Idaho Beef & Beverage	1215 N Whitley Drive	Fruitland	UST	
3-380615	Maverik Country Store #425	500 N Whitley	Fruitland	UST	
3-380609	Ryder Truck Rental/SW Canners	405 NW 4 <sup>th</sup> Street	Fruitland	UST	
3-380611	Scogan's Foodmart	301 N Whitley	Fruitland	UST	
3-380616	St. Luke's Fruitland Medical Center	1200 N Allen	Fruitland	UST	





Facility ID	Facility Name	Street Address	City	Type	LUST ID Status Date
3-380004	Stinker Store #43	820 NW 16 <sup>th</sup> Street	Fruitland	UST LUST	137 In Use
3-380013	Woodgrain Millwork Inc.	300 NW 16 <sup>th</sup> Street	Fruitland	UST	
3-380009	Moorman Manufacturing Company of California	2120 NW 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue	Fruitland	LUST	903 Closed 8/15/1994
3-380600	Idaho Beef & Beverage	1215 N Whitley Drive	Fruitland	LUST	907 Closed 12/11/1997
3-380003	Jackson's Food Store #754	1st Street & Whitley	Fruitland	LUST	1211 Closed 2/17/2003
3-380010	Payette Coca Cola Bottling Co.	1510 17 <sup>th</sup> Street	Fruitland	LUST	904 Closed 5/11/1992
IDD000832543	Chevron USA Inc. Fruitland Terminal	505 S Minnesota Avenue	Fruitland	RCRA	
IDR000001032	US DOJ DEA Drug Lab Fruitland	100 W 1 <sup>st</sup> Street	Fruitland	RCRA	
IDR000203364	Treasure Valley Chrome Plating LLC	201 SW 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street	Fruitland	RCRA	
IDD033958448	Growers Supply Co. Inc.	203 SE 6 <sup>th</sup> Street	Fruitland	RCRA	
IDD980984702	Pro-Am Auto Parts	1380 N Whitley Drive	Fruitland	RCRA	
3-380028	Idaho Power-Payette Operations Center	1515 Highway 95 S	Payette	UST	
3-380031	May Trucking-Payette Co.	1282 Highway 95	Payette	UST	
3-380034	Nelson Sheet Metal Inc.	1311 Highway 95	Payette	UST	
3-380602	Campo's Fast & Easy	931 S Main	Payette	UST	
3-380038	Payette Co Road & Bridge	640 S Main	Payette	UST	
3-380033	Mountain Bell Telephone	509 S 9 <sup>th</sup> Street	Payette	UST	
3-380023	Jacksons Food Store #65	830 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue Street	Payette	UST	
3-380029	Jacksons Food Store #009	565 16 <sup>th</sup> Street	Payette	UST	
3-380037	City of Payette	700 Center Avenue	Payette	UST	
3-380044	City of Payette	2nd Avenue N	Payette	UST	
3-380022	Manser Ford	134 N 8 <sup>th</sup> Street	Payette	UST	
3-380046	Payette Station	Milepost 502.7	Payette	UST	
3-380039	Payette County Sheriff's Department	1130 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue N	Payette	UST	





Idaho Transportation Department / U.S. 95 Central Environmental Scan

Facility ID	Facility Name	Street Address	City	Type	LUST ID Status Date
3-380054	Poole's Country Store	1537 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue S	Payette	UST LUST	140 Closed 12/28/2000 1498 Closed 4/16/2009
3-380614	Maverik Country Store #367	275 N 16 <sup>th</sup> Street	Payette	UST	
3-380027	Idaho Army National Guard Payette Armory	1921 Center Avenue	Payette	UST	
3-380021	Payette BMD	315 N 16 <sup>th</sup> Street	Payette	UST	
3-380030	Lynn Josephson Produce	405 N 9 <sup>th</sup> Street	Payette	UST	
3-380612	Payette Tire & Alignment Center	605 S Main	Payette	LUST	1070 Closed 12/9/2008
3-380032	US West (8)	925 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue N	Payette	LUST	906 Closed 3/1/1990
3-380025	William Ego	233 S 12 <sup>th</sup> Street	Payette	LUST	905 Closed 6/30/1993
3-380024	Minit Market	915 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue N	Payette	LUST	4 Closed 8/30/2010 1115 Closed 8/30/2010
IDR000204727	Idaho Transportation Department Payette River Bridge	US I-95 and Killebrew Drive Milepost 66	Payette	RCRA	
IDR000204420	Former J-RAM Auto	1591 S 16 <sup>th</sup> Street	Payette	RCRA	
IDD078464229	Teton Machine Co.	1805 NE 10 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Payette	RCRA	
IDD981766421	A V Nelson & Sons	2164 NE 10 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Payette	RCRA	
IDD982651762	Hanigan Chevrolet Olds Inc.	915 S Main Street	Payette	RCRA	
IDR000003053	US EPA Removal Payette	550 S 8 <sup>th</sup> Street	Payette	RCRA	
IDR000001818	United Parcel Service Payette	3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue & 7 <sup>th</sup> Street	Payette	RCRA	
IDD047117072	Seneca Foods Vegetable Div.	25 North 6 <sup>th</sup> Street	Payette	RCRA	
IDR000001198	Marshall Co (THE)	620 N 9 <sup>th</sup> Street	Payette	RCRA	
3-440015	Champion Homes Builders 16	1442 Sunnyside Road	Weiser	UST	





Facility ID	Facility Name	Street Address	City	Type	LUST ID Status Date
3-440016	Dawson Trucking Inc.	Route 3 Box 327	Weiser	LUST	992 Closed 7/1/1991
3-440613	City of Weiser (3)	300 Block of W Washington Street and Union Pacific Railroad Right-of-way	Weiser	UST	
3-440013	Jiffy Mart/Beehive Family Restaurant	611 Highway 95 S	Weiser	UST	
IDR000003400	Redman Home Builders Div. 17	1425 Sunnyside Road	Weiser	RCRA	

Source: <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/applications/ust-lust/>

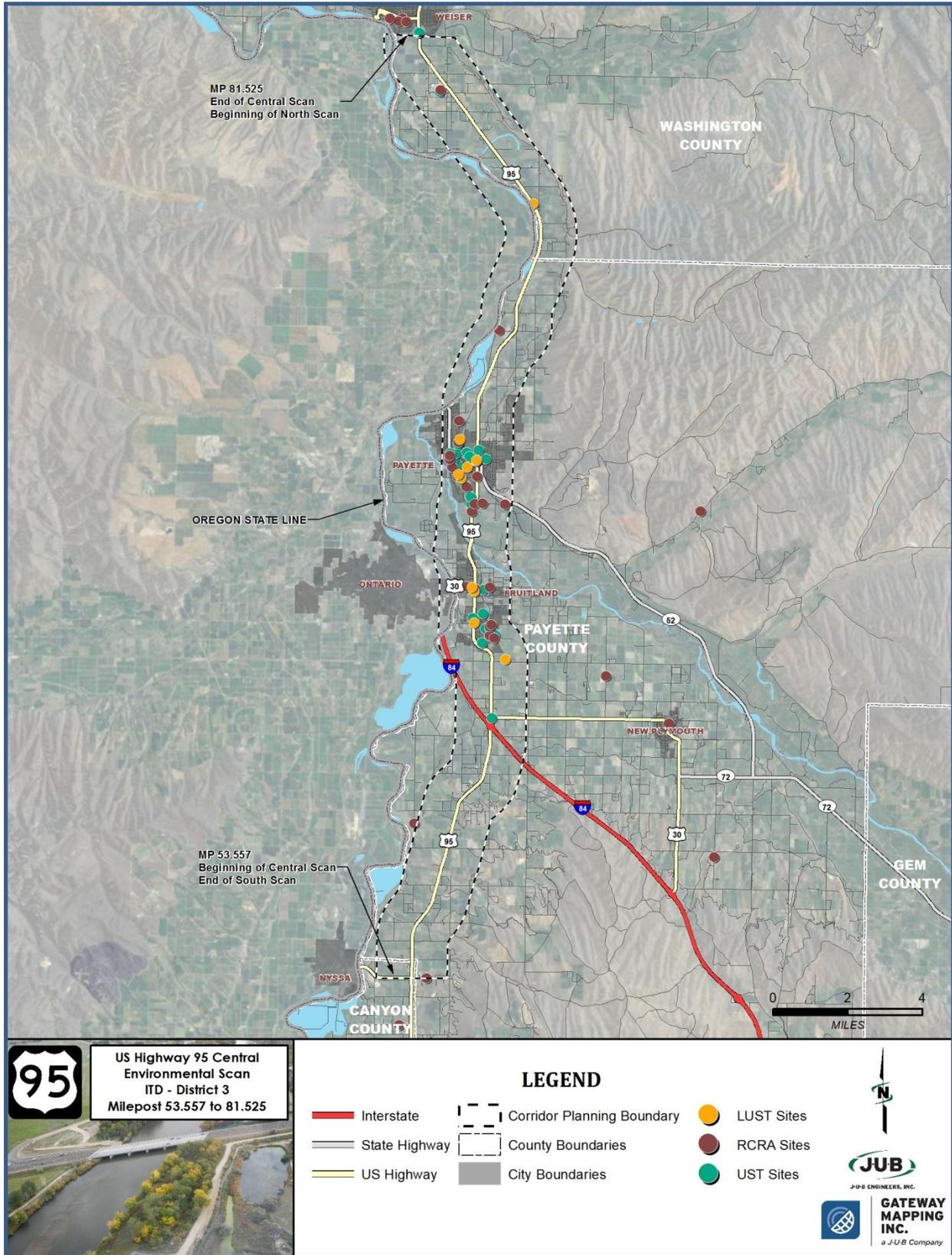
Source: <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/rcrainfo/search.html>

Further evaluation may be needed during project development to determine if there is a potential for encountering specific sites or contaminated areas during construction. This may include subsurface investigation activities to determine the extent of soil and groundwater contamination. If an investigation determines that contaminated soils or groundwater could be encountered during construction, handling/disposing of the contaminated material will need to be conducted in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and specifications.





Figure 10 – Hazardous Materials





## Biological Resources

Biological Resources including threatened and endangered species, state sensitive species and wildlife and fish resources are discussed in detail below.

### ***Threatened and Endangered Species***

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.) protects federally listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species and the critical habitats in which they are found. Endangered species are those that are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range. Threatened species are those that are likely to become endangered in the near future throughout all or a significant portion of their range. Candidate species are those that are actively being considered for listing as endangered or threatened under the ESA, as well as those species for which the National Marine Fisheries Service has initiated an ESA status review (Federal Register, Volume 64, 1999). Candidate species receive no protection under the ESA. Proposed species are those candidate species that were found to warrant listing as either threatened or endangered and were officially proposed as such in a Federal Register notice after the completion of a status review and consideration of other protective conservation measures. The Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office in Boise, Idaho, maintains the State of Idaho's ESA list of endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species with associated proposed and critical habitats. Below is a summary of the species listed in Canyon, Payette, and Washington counties. See **Appendix E** for additional information.

An Official Species List through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information, Planning and Conservation (IPAC) System was obtained for the ES area. The IPAC system listed four threatened, endangered, or candidate species within the ES planning boundary: Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*), and southern Idaho ground squirrel (*Urocitellus endemicus*). No critical habitats within the ES planning boundary were listed in the IPAC System (26 March 2014, <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>).

### **Canyon County**

Canyon County has one endangered species, one proposed species, and one proposed critical habitat. The Snake River physa (*Haitia (Physa) natricina*) is listed as an endangered species in Canyon County. Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) and its critical habitat are listed as proposed in Canyon County.

### **Payette County**

There is one endangered species, one threatened species, and one proposed species, one proposed critical habitat, and three candidate species in Payette County. The Snake River physa (*Haitia (Physa) natricina*) is listed as endangered in Payette County. Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) is listed as threatened in Payette County. Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) and its proposed critical habitat are listed as proposed in Payette County. Greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), southern Idaho ground squirrel (*Spermophilus brunneus endemicus*), and Packard's milkvetch (*Astragalus cusickii* var. *packardiae*) are listed as candidate species in Payette County.





## Washington County

There is one endangered species, two threatened species, one designated critical habitat, one proposed species, and three candidate species in Washington County. Snake River physa (*Haitia (Physa) natricina*) is listed as endangered in Washington County. The northern Idaho ground squirrel (*Spermophilus brunneus brunneus*) is listed as threatened and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and its designated critical habitat are listed as threatened in Washington County. The North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*) is a proposed species in Washington County. Greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), southern Idaho ground squirrel (*Uroditellus endemicus*), and whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) are listed as candidate species in Washington County.

Below is a summary of the attributes of the listed endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species in Canyon, Payette, and Washington counties.

## Snake River Physa

The Snake River physa is listed as an endangered species. The Snake River physa snail (*Haitia (Physa) natricina*) is a freshwater mollusk found in the middle Snake River of southern Idaho. It has an ovoid shell that is amber to brown in color, and has 3 to 3.5 whorls (curls or turns in the shell). The physa can reach a maximum length of about 0.26 inches. The Snake River physa is believed to have evolved in the Pliocene to Pleistocene lakes and rivers of northern Utah and southeastern Idaho. While much information exists on the family Physidae, very little is known about the biology or ecology of this species. It is believed to be confined to the Snake River, inhabiting areas of swift current on sand to boulder-sized substrate. In 1995, the USFWS reported the known modern range of the species to be from Grandview, Idaho [River Mile(RM) 487]] to the Hagerman Reach of the Snake River (RM 573).

In the United States a river mile (RM) is a measure of distance along a river from its mouth (usually beginning at zero) and increasing further upstream. A river mile is not the length of the river, it is a way of locating a feature along the river relative to its distance from the mouth.

More recent investigations have shown this species to occur outside of this historic range to as far downstream as Ontario, Oregon (RM 368), with another population known to occur downstream of Minidoka Dam (RM 675).

While the species' current range is estimated to be over 300 river miles, the snail has been recorded in only 5 percent of over 1,000 samples collected within this area, and it has never been found in high densities. The species' status is uncertain within the current known range, but portions of the middle Snake River (e.g., Milner Reservoir, RM 663 to Lower Salmon Falls Reservoir, RM 572) are of questionable habitat value given current water quality and water use issues. In addition, the sampling in this reach has been limited. Very few live specimens have been recovered from reservoirs which have been extensively sampled. The recovery area for the species extends from Snake River mile 553 to Snake River mile 675 (USFWS Species Profile, <http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile>).



### **Slickspot Peppergrass**

Slickspot peppergrass is a proposed species. The slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) is endemic to southwestern Idaho, where it is restricted to unique small-scale openings within sagebrush steppe habitats. Also known as Idaho pepperweed, slickspot peppergrass is an annual or biennial tap-rooted plant, averaging 2 to 8 inches in height. Leaves and stems are covered with fine, soft hairs, and the leaves are divided into linear segments. When in bloom, the clusters of small white flowers nearly cover the entire plant. Flowers are numerous, 0.1 inches in diameter, and have four petals. This flower only grows where puddles or small pools form after rains or snow, and then dry up in hot climate.

Known only from southwestern Idaho on the Snake River Plain and a disjunct population on the Owyhee Plateau approximately 40 miles south (USFWS 2007). Overall threat impact is classified as very high to medium, this species is threatened by the invasion of cheatgrass and the subsequent increasing fire frequency (USFWS 2007). Livestock trampling has the potential to greatly increase extinction risk (Meyer, 2006, pp 891-902).

### **Bull Trout**

Bull trout is listed as a threatened species. Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) are members of the family Salmonidae and are native to Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Montana, and western Canada. Compared to other salmonids, bull trout have more specific habitat requirements that appear to influence their distribution and abundance. They need cold water to survive, so they are seldom found in waters where temperatures exceed 59 to 64 degrees (F). They also require stable stream channels, clean spawning and rearing gravel, complex and diverse cover, and unblocked migratory corridors. Bull trout may be distinguished from brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) by several characteristics: spots never appear on the dorsal (back) fin, and the spots that rest on the fish's olive green to bronze back are pale yellow, orange or salmon-colored. The bull trout's tail is not deeply forked as is the case with lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*). Bull trout exhibit two forms: resident and migratory. Resident bull trout spend their entire lives in the same stream/creek. Migratory bull trout move to larger bodies of water over winter and then migrate back to smaller waters to reproduce.

An anadromous form of bull trout also exists in the Coastal-Puget Sound population, which spawns in rivers and streams but rears young in the ocean. Resident and juvenile bull trout prey on invertebrates and small fish. Adult migratory bull trout primarily eat fish. Resident bull trout range up to 10 inches long and migratory forms may range up to 35 inches and up to 32 pounds. Bull trout are currently listed within a common boundary as a threatened species. (USFWS Species Profile, <http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile>).

Bull trout spawn in the fall in streams with cold, unpolluted water, clean gravel and cobble substrate, and gentle stream slopes (USFWS 1998). Bull trout eggs require a long incubation period, hatching in late winter or early spring. Some may live near areas where they were hatched; however, others migrate from streams to lakes or reservoirs a few weeks after emerging from the gravel. Bull trout habitat consists mainly of lakes characterized by low accumulation of dissolved nutrient salts, supporting a sparse growth of algae and other organisms, and having high oxygen content, and deep pools of pristine cold fluvial habitats in mountainous regions, mainly 45 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit (Sternberg 1996).





### **Greater Sage-Grouse**

The greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is listed as a candidate species. As the name implies, greater sage-grouse depend on sagebrush-dominated landscapes for their forage, cover, nesting habitat, and ultimate survival (Sage-Grouse Habitat in Idaho 2010). The largest of all grouse, the greater sage-grouse is up to 30 inches long, two feet tall, and weighs from two to seven pounds (USFWS 2010). Male greater sage-grouse have a white breast ruff, mottled gray-brown overall, and a black belly, black throat and bib, and long stiff spike like tail feathers. Females are a mottled gray-brown overall, a black belly, a white throat, and lack the yellow eye comb seen in the males.

Diet consists of evergreen leaves, plain sagebrush shoots, blossoms, leaves, pods, buds, and insects (Alsop 2001). The dominant species of sagebrush in Owyhee County is Basin and Wyoming big sagebrush. Wyoming big sagebrush is usually found between 2,500 and 6,500 feet in elevation (Sage-Grouse Habitat in Idaho 2010). Land clearing and overgrazing by livestock are documented threats to this species' habitat.

### **Southern Idaho Ground Squirrel**

The southern Idaho ground squirrel is a candidate species in Idaho. The southern Idaho ground squirrel (*Spermophilus brunneus endemicus*) is one of two subspecies of the Idaho ground squirrel, which is endemic to Idaho in Gem, Payette and Washing counties, and among the most geographically restricted mammals in North America. This species inhabits rolling foothills at elevations between 2,200-3,600 feet, dominated by basins, sagebrush, native bunchgrass, and forbs. Nonnative habitat features may enhance their survival such as alfalfa hay fields, haystacks and fence lines. Its range is bounded on the south by the Payette River, on the west by the Snake River and on the northeast by lava flows with little soil.

Individuals hibernate and estivate for 7 to 8 months per year. Adult ground squirrels emerge from seasonal hibernation in late January or early February and remain above ground for about 4 to 5 months until late June or early July when they return to their burrows for hibernation. This ground squirrel species generally weighs between .3 pounds and .4 pounds, with an average length 8 to 9 inches. Commonly mistaken with the Columbia ground squirrel, the southern Idaho ground squirrel comprises of tan feet and ears, a grey-brown coat, with a short narrow tail.

This species became a candidate-endangered species in 2004. Recent population size has been estimated to be 2,000-45,000 individuals in 2001; a dramatic decrease since the late 1980s when population was estimated to comprise 40,000 individuals (Yensen 2001a). Most populations are small groups. Many measures are being undertaken to try and conserve the species. A candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurance has been developed with landowners to conserve the species without the need for listing. Also, arrangements have been made with private land owners to allow squirrel-friendly plants to be planted on their land, allowing the squirrels to thrive there.



### Packard's Milkvetch

The Packard's milkvetch is a candidate species in Idaho. Packard's milkvetch (*Astragalus cusickii* var. *packardiae*) is considered one of the rarest plants in Idaho. This plant was designated a candidate species in 2010 with a Listing Priority Number of 3, a subspecies facing high-magnitude, imminent threat, as published in Federal Register Volume 76, Number 207 (USDI-FWS, 2010). The species known range is 12 square miles in the northeastern corner of Payette County.

This species, from the legume family, is an erect, multi-stemmed, perennial forb. Mature plants are 25 to 50 cm tall. Leaves are pinnately compound with 2 to 9 broadly spaced leaflets, upper leaves reduced to a stem with no leaflets. Leaflets are approximately 7 mm long and 1 mm wide (USDA, Tilley et al., 2011). Flowers are creamy white with purple tinge and the fruit is yellow-green seedpods. Found only in approximately 12 square miles in southwestern Idaho, this species is threatened by wildfire, non-native invasive plant species, and off-road vehicles (Mancuso 2009).

### Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel

The northern Idaho ground squirrel is listed as a threatened species. The northern Idaho ground squirrel is a threatened species in Idaho. The northern Idaho ground squirrel (*Spermophilus brunneus brunneus*) is one of two subspecies of the Idaho ground squirrel, which is endemic to Idaho and among the most geographically restricted mammals in North America. This subspecies is known to exist only in Adams and Valley counties of western Idaho, though the species historic range extends into neighboring Washington County. Nonnative habitat features may enhance their survival such as alfalfa hay fields, haystacks and fence lines. This species inhabits dry meadows surrounded by ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forests, including lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service's Payette National Forest, at elevations 1,500 to 7,500 feet.

Northern Idaho ground squirrels hibernate and estivate for 7 to 8 months per year. Adult ground squirrels emerge from seasonal hibernation in late January or early February and remain above ground for about 4 to 5 months until late June or early July when they return to their burrows for hibernation. This ground squirrel species generally weighs between .3 pounds and .4 pounds, with an average length 8 to 9 inches. Commonly mistaken with the Columbia ground squirrel, the northern Idaho ground squirrel comprises of a grayish-brown fur spotted coat with red-brown color with striped tails.

This species was listed as threatened in April 2000. Today there are an estimated 1,300 to 1,500 individual animals in about 54 populations but have had a decrease in population due to loss of native meadow habitat as a result of fire suppression (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service). The species is currently protected by an agreement between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and private landowners, who, in exchange for federal funding, have agreed to allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct conservation efforts on their land. Timber thinning and prescribed fire projects are examples of actions taken to expand existing populations of northern Idaho ground squirrels.





### North American Wolverine

The North American wolverine is a proposed species. The North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*), a distinct population segment found within the contiguous United States, is listed as a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act (USFWS 2010). Without preference to specific vegetation or geological aspects, wolverines inhabit alpine areas that receive persistent deep snow. The current range of the North American wolverine in the contiguous United States includes portions of Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Oregon, and California (USFWS 2010). A study of wolverines in central Idaho found that their mean elevation range exists between 4,593 to 9,514 feet above sea level, and reported a winter mean elevation use level at 7,474 feet above sea level (Copeland 1996).

The largest and fiercest member of the weasel family, wolverines weigh between 20 to 40 pounds. Wolverines have a broad round head, small eyes, and a yellowish-brown to black body. They have broad yellow stripes on either side of their body that join at the rump, a bushy tail, and have a strong skunk like odor (Ransom 1981). Wolverines are opportunistic feeders that primarily scavenge carrion, but also prey on small animals, birds, insects, fruits, and berries. The breeding season occurs from late spring to early fall and females undergo delayed implantation until the following winter to spring. Females excavate their birthing dens in persistent stable snow that is typically a minimum of 5 feet deep, which is required for security and to buffer cold winter temperatures. Birthing dens often incorporate rocks, shrubs and downed logs for added security. Following a 30 to 40 day gestation period, litters consisting of one to five offspring are born between mid-February and March. Secondary (maternal) dens are used and abandoned corresponding with snowmelt and the accumulation of water (USFWS 2010).

### Whitebark Pine

The whitebark pine is a candidate species in Idaho. Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) is a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Whitebark pine is typically located in high-elevation cold conditions in both northern and southern parts of Idaho. This species is a 5-needled conifer stone pine, one of only five species of stone pines recognized worldwide. Roughly 44 percent of the species' range occurs in the United States in Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, California, Oregon, and Washington. The remaining 56 percent of the species range occurs in British Columbia and Alberta, Canada (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service).

In 2011, whitebark pine was listed as a candidate species (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2011). Whitebark pine is considered a keystone species in high elevation ecosystems, benefiting ecosystems in erosion control and increases biodiversity. It is frequently the first conifer to become established after disturbances such as wildfires; it also stabilizes soils, and regulates runoff. This species is a medium to tall tree with a rounded or irregularly spreading canopy. Mature trees reach 5 to 20 m (16 to 66 feet). Whitebark pine has five needles per cluster, each four to eight centimeters long. Mature bark is whitish gray, while twigs are yellowish and pubescent. This species is monoecious, bearing both female and male cones on the same plant, the cones are indehiscent, and seeds that spread are not dislodged by wind (USDA NRCS Plant Guide, 2014, <http://plants.usda.gov/java/factSheet>).



### ***State Sensitive Species***

Section 06D of the ESA defines State Sensitive Species as those species that could become endangered or extinct within the state. The network of Natural Heritage Programs and Conservation Data Center (CDC) ranks the range-wide and state status of plants, animals and plant communities. The Idaho Fish and Game maintains a database of species that are considered to have the greatest conservation need in Idaho. The database may be accessed at <https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/portal/page/species-status-lists>.

The CDC database ranks species based on risk. Within the ES area, Canyon, Payette, and Washington counties species range from critically imperiled (S1) status to secure, abundant (S5). In Canyon County, there are nine species listed as S1 (critically imperiled) and 34 as S2 (imperiled, at risk) out of 76 listed. In Payette County, there are eight species listed as S1 and 19 as S2 out of 40 listed. In Washington County, there are 13 species listed as S1 and 32 as S2 species out of 87 listed. In these three counties, there are no extinct or extirpated species listed.

See **Appendix F** for information from the CDC database on State Sensitive Species and associated habitats for Canyon, Payette, and Washington counties. These lists provide baseline data and are not a substitute for onsite survey. A biological survey and agency consultation would be warranted during the project development process for all projects occurring in the ES area.

### ***Wildlife and Fish Resources***

Multiple types of wildlife and fish resource information for Canyon, Payette, and Washington counties can be found by accessing the IFWIS Portal at the websites below.

<https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/portal/wildlife>

<https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/portal/page/stream-survey>

These sites provide information on multiple topics concerning wildlife and fish. This information is not a substitute for onsite survey or research during the project development process.

## **Human Environment**

The human environment involves components that are strongly influenced by or are related directly to humans including demographics, environmental justice, cultural resources, visual impacts, section 4(f) and 6(f) resources, land use, and noise.

### ***Demographic Information***

Data from the 2010 U.S. Census and the 5-year 2007-2011 American Community Survey (ACS) is presented in **Tables 7** and **8** to provide information in which to evaluate social impacts and characteristics of the existing population.





The comparison of counties and cities indicates the City of Payette has the highest percentage of population below the poverty level and lowest median household income within the ES area. All jurisdictions within the U.S. 95 Central ES area with the exception of Washington County have a higher percentage of the population that is below the poverty level. All jurisdictions within the U.S. 95 Central ES area have a lower median household income than the entire State of Idaho. Canyon County has the largest population and the City of Fruitland has the smallest population within the ES area.

The comparison of the corridor planning boundary (clipped ES area) indicates that Washington County has the highest percentage of population below the poverty level, and Canyon County has the lowest median household income. Payette County has the largest population and Canyon County has the smallest population within the clipped ES area.

**Table 7** lists demographic information including population, median household income and population below the poverty level within the ES area.

**Table 7 – Demographic Information**

Area	*2010 Population	2011 Estimated Median Household Income	2011 Estimated Population Below the Poverty Level
State of Idaho	1,567,582	\$46,890	14.3%
Canyon County	188,923	\$42,943	18.1%
Canyon County Corridor Planning Boundary	25	\$29,107	18.2%
Payette County	22,623	\$44,943	16.5%
Payette County Corridor Planning Boundary	15,150	\$42,945	17.8%
Washington County	10,198	\$37,878	13.0%
Washington County Corridor Planning Boundary	626	\$31,856	18.9%
City of Fruitland	4,684	\$39,337	16.0%
City of Payette	7,433	\$34,634	26.0%

*\*Data is from the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau. All other data is from the 5-year 2007-2011 ACS.*

See **Figure 11** and **Appendix A.7** – Median Income by Block Group, and **Figure 12** and **Appendix A.8** – Percent Below Poverty Level by Block Group.

The comparison of counties and cities indicates that Canyon County has the highest percentage of minority population within the ES area, and all jurisdictions within the ES area have higher percentages of minority populations than the State of Idaho.



Figure 11 - Median Income by Block Group

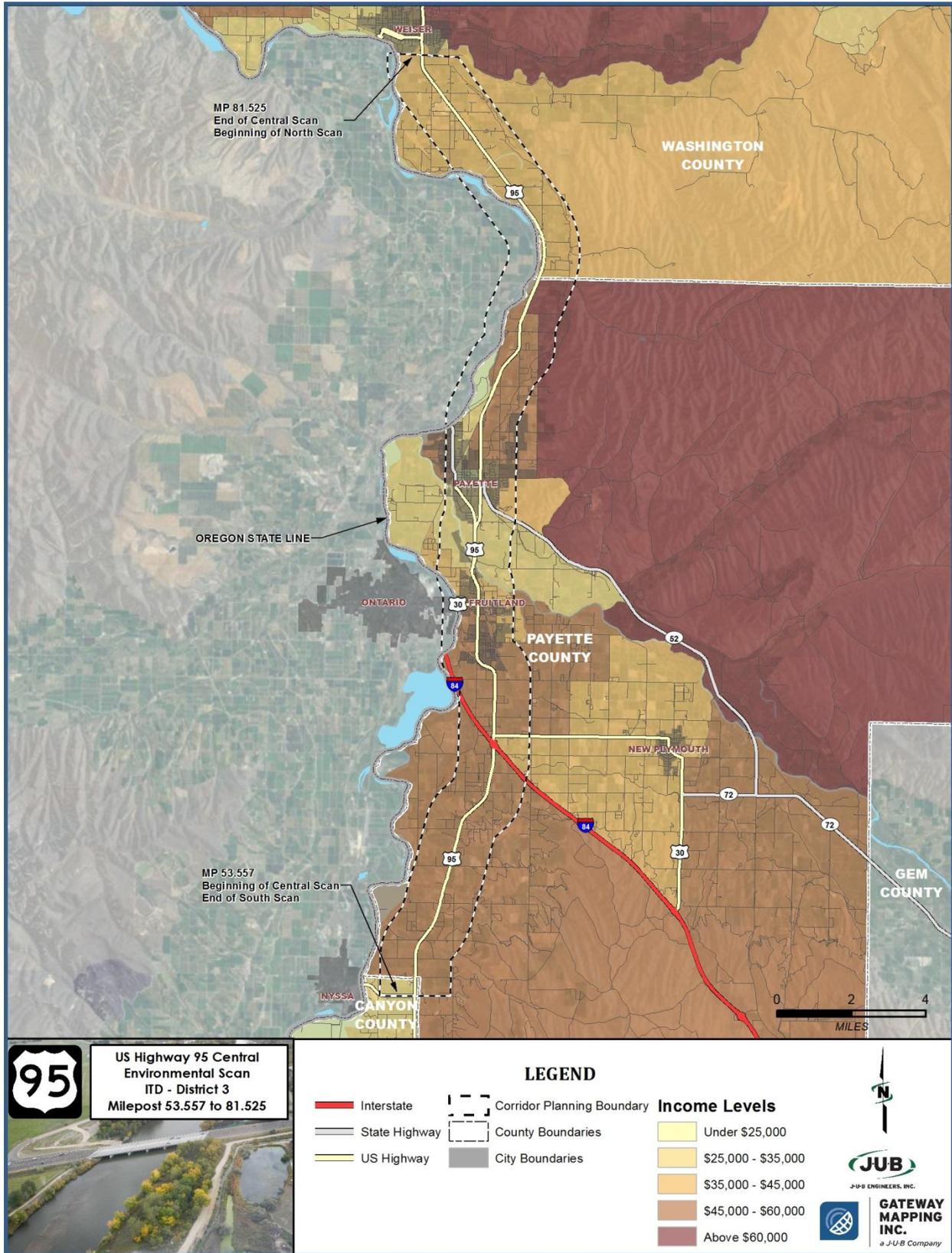
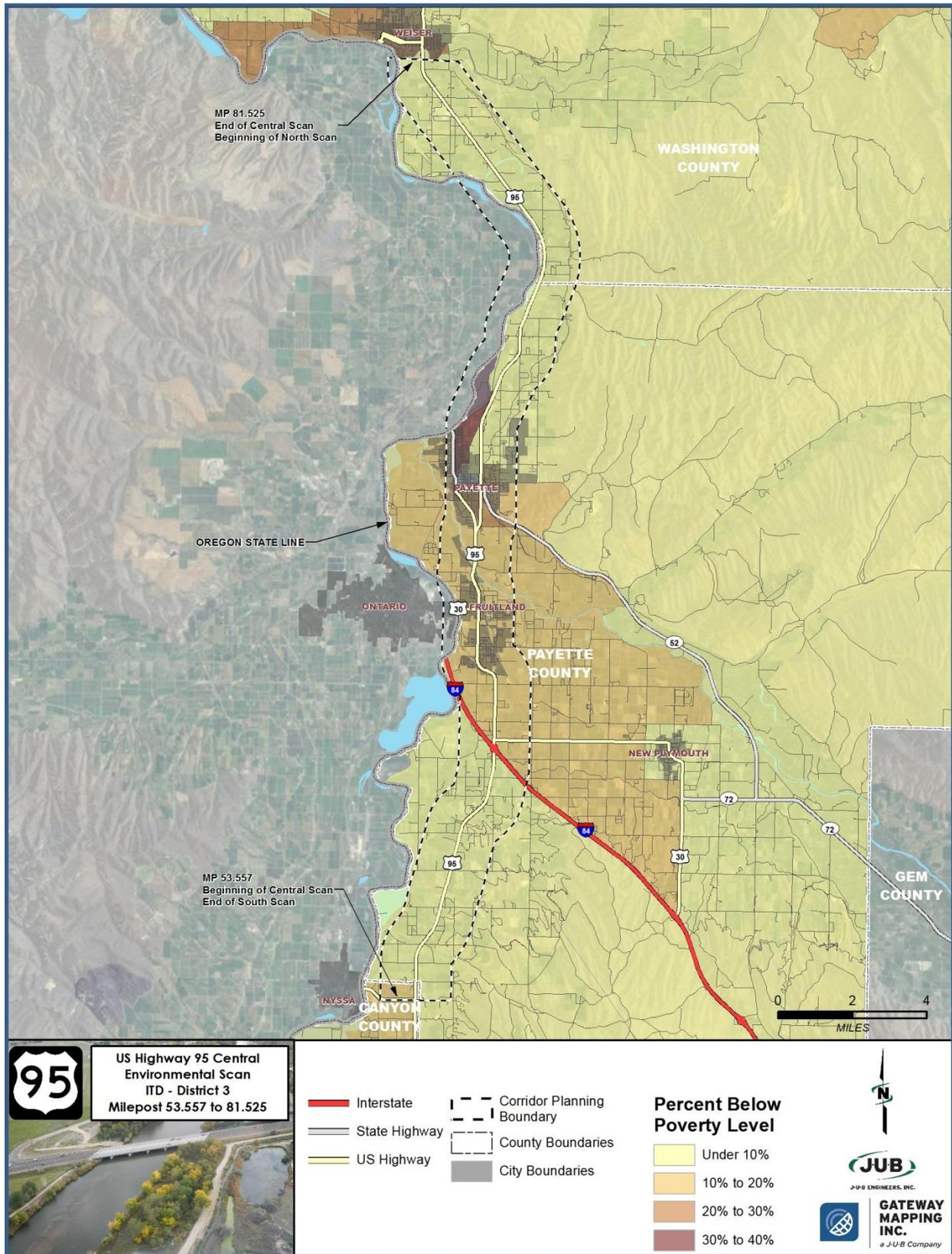




Figure 12 – Percent Below Poverty Level by Block Group





The comparison of the corridor planning boundary (clipped ES area) indicates that Payette County has the highest percentage of minority population and Canyon County has the lowest percentage of minority population. Within the clipped ES area, Payette County is the only jurisdiction with a higher percentage of minority population than the State of Idaho.

Table 8 lists population race/origin information within the ES area.

**Table 8 – Population Race/Origin**

Area	White	African American	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian	Hispanic/ Latino	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Two or more races
State of Idaho	93.9%	0.8%	1.7%	1.3%	11.5%	0.2%	2.1%
Canyon County	83.0%	0.6%	1.1%	0.8%	23.9%	0.2%	3.0%
Canyon County Corridor Planning Boundary	96.1%	0.0%	3.9%	0.0%	3.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Payette County	88.6%	0.2%	1.1%	0.8%	14.9%	0.1%	1.9%
Payette County Corridor Planning Boundary	87.2%	0.3%	1.3%	0.9%	17.8%	0.1%	2.9%
Washington County	86.6%	0.2%	1.0%	0.9%	16.8%	0.0%	2.2%
Washington County Corridor Planning Boundary	94.1%	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%	7.2%	0.0%	1.3%
City of Fruitland	84.0%	0.5%	1.1%	1.1%	22.6%	0.6%	2.8%
City of Payette	86.6%	0.2%	1.6%	0.8%	19.3%	0.0%	3.5%

Source: 2010 U.S. Census Bureau – <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

**Environmental Justice**

Title VI of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (Title 42 United States Code, Chapter 21) and EO 12898 require that no minority or low-income person shall be disproportionately adversely impacted by any project receiving federal funds. For transportation projects, this means that no particular minority or low-income person or population may be disproportionately isolated, displaced, or otherwise subjected to adverse effects. An environmental justice evaluation would need to be completed during the project development process if a future project were to proceed in the study area.

**Cultural Resources**

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 United States Code 470 et. seq.), requires federal agencies to “take into account” the effect a project may have on historic properties. The purpose of the Section 106 process is to identify historic properties that could be affected by the undertaking, assess the effects of the project, and investigate methods to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects on historic properties (**Figure 13**).





**Figure 13 – Moss, A.B., Building, west of U.S. 95 at Milepost 68.56**



Cultural resources are defined as the expressions of human culture and history in the physical environment including culturally significant landscapes, historic, and archaeological sites, Native American and other sacred places, and artifacts and documents of cultural and historical significance.

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database website was accessed to research historic properties in the ES area (NHRP, 2014, <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/id/state.html>). There are no NRHP sites listed within 100 feet of the centerline of U.S. 95 within the Central ES study area (National Park Service, 2014, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/research/>). **Table 9** lists the NRHP sites in the study area and **Figure 14** and **Appendix A.9** show the locations of the sites.

**Table 9 – NRHP Listings**

ID	National Register Listing Name	Address	City or County	Milepost <sup>1</sup>
82000360	Palumbo, J. C., Fruit Company Packing Warehouse Building	2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 6 <sup>th</sup> Street	City of Payette	68.36
77000469	Methodist Episcopal Church of Payette	1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue S and 9 <sup>th</sup> Street	City of Payette	68.42
78001096	Woodward Building	23 8 <sup>th</sup> Street	City of Payette	68.45
89000134	US Post Office--Payette Main	915 Center Avenue	City of Payette	68.48
78001094	St. James Episcopal Church	1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue N and 10 <sup>th</sup> Street	City of Payette	68.52
78001093	Moss, A. B., Building	137 N 8 <sup>th</sup> Street	City of Payette	68.56
97001610	Jacobsen, N.A., House	1115 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue N	City of Payette	68.57
82000358	Jacobsen, N. A., Building	N 8 <sup>th</sup> Street and 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue	City of Payette	68.57
78001092	Coughanour Apartment Block	700-718 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue N	City of Payette	68.58
79000808	Payette City Hall and Courthouse	3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 8 <sup>th</sup> Street	City of Payette	68.74
78001091	Chase, David C., House	307 9 <sup>th</sup> Street N	City of Payette	68.75





ID	National Register Listing Name	Address	City or County	Milepost <sup>1</sup>
78001095	Whitney, Grant, House	1015 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue N	City of Payette	69.00
82000377	Larsen, Archie, House	South of Weiser on Larsen Road	Washington County	78.00

Source: <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/id/canyon/state.html>

<sup>1</sup> Milepost locations are approximate

A windshield survey was conducted to identify additional properties that are potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP. Properties eligible for the National Register are at least 50 years old (unless they are exceptional) and must meet at least one of the four National Register main criteria

(<http://www.achp.gov/nrcriteria.html>):

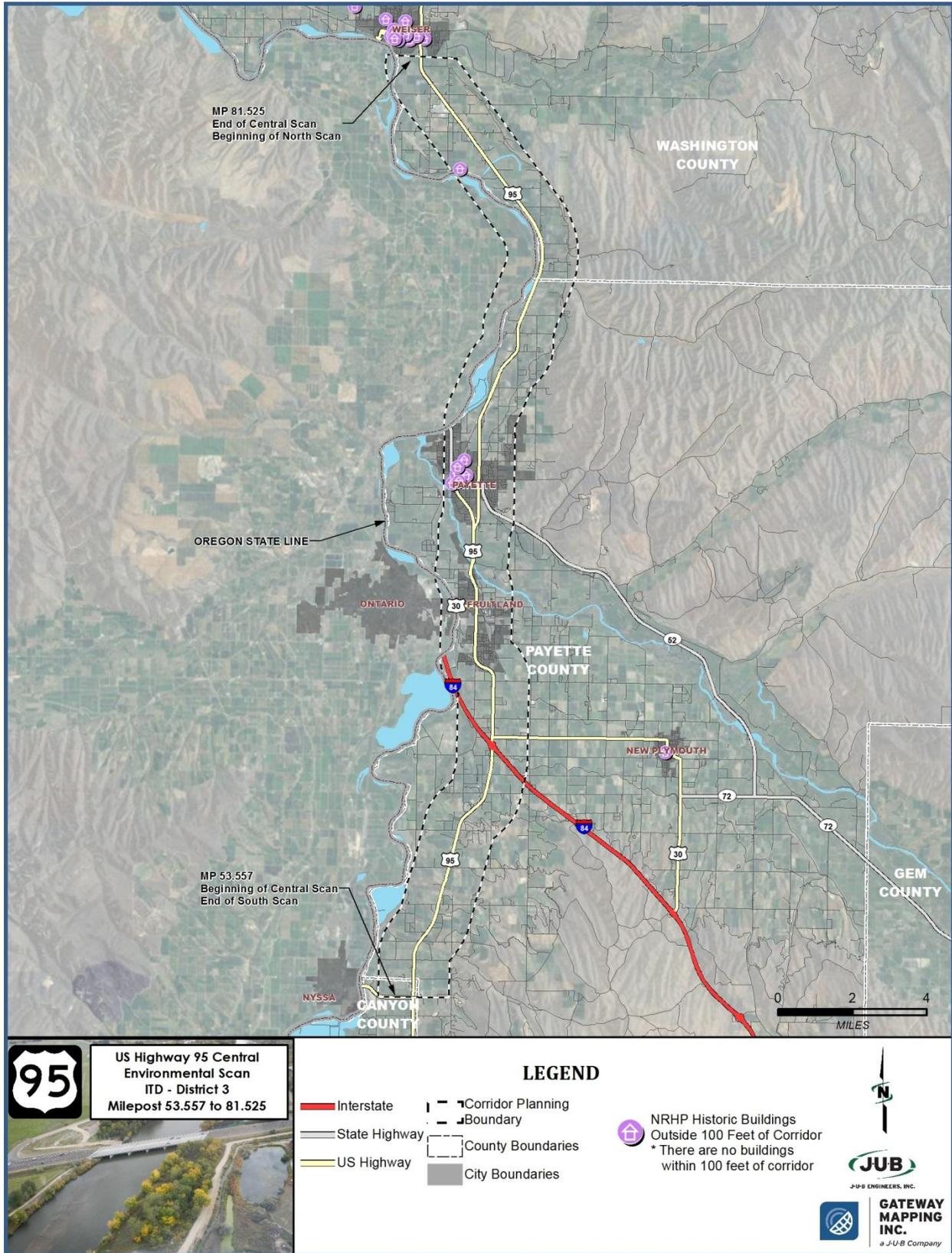
- A. The property must contribute to the major pattern of American history – an event
- B. The property is associated with significant people of the American past – a person
- C. The property has distinctive characteristics of the building by its architecture and construction, including having a great artistic value or being the work of a master – design/construction
- D. The property has yielded or may be likely to yield information important to prehistory or history – Information potential.

From the windshield survey, a few additional buildings were noted, primarily in the City of Fruitland, which may meet the age criteria for NRHP eligibility. A cultural resource survey, including consultation with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and ITDs Environmental Department would be necessary for future projects to identify potential impacts to cultural resources within the project area.





Figure 14 - Cultural Resources





### **Visual Impacts**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 USC Section 4231, requires that all actions sponsored, funded, permitted, or approved by federal agencies undergo planning to ensure that environmental considerations such as impacts related to aesthetics and visual quality are given due weight in project decision-making. NEPA Section 101(b)(2) states that it is the “continuous responsibility” of the federal government to “use all practicable means” to “assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings” (NEPA, <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/>).

Under Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations, environmental analysis is to consider impacts on urban quality, historic and cultural resources, and the design of the built environment” (Section 1502.6). Agencies shall “identify methods and procedures to insure that presently unquantified environmental amenities and values may be given appropriate consideration” (Section 1507.2). Federal implementing regulations are at 23 CFR 771 (FHWA) and 40 CFR 1500-1508 (CEQ).

ITD policy (2110) requires that during project development, visual impacts, including aesthetics, light, and glare, are considered by evaluating the view from the road as well as the view of the road. There are two ways in which visual impacts can be evaluated:

1. Visual Quality Assessment – a description and assessment of the view of the road, using federal criteria.
2. Visual Element Study – a graphic and narrative analysis that identifies the visual impacts of the project on the view from the road and the view of the road. It identifies significant adverse impacts and mitigation through design or other design elements.

Not all ITD projects will have a visual impact sufficient to require extensive review and commentary. Typically a Categorical Exclusion (CE) will not require visual impact review. Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements typically require more detailed visual quality analysis.

There are no known projects anticipated along U.S. 95 that would result in visual impacts. As such, a visual assessment was not included as part of this ES. A windshield survey was conducted and no potential visual impacts were noted.

### **Section 4(f) Resources**

Section 4(f) refers to the original section within the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (23 CFR 774), which set the requirement for consideration of publicly owned park, recreational area, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and any publicly or privately owned historic sites in projects that receive federal funding. “Use” may mean either a direct use or constructive use. A direct use occurs when land that is permanently incorporated into a transportation facility or temporarily occupies the land has an adverse effect on a 4(f) resource. Constructive “use” occurs when a project’s proximity impacts are so severe that the protected activities, features, or attributes that qualify a resource for protection under 4(f) are substantially impaired. Use is determined by FHWA, including measure(s) to minimize harm that will have a *de minimis* impact.





Prior to approving the use of Section 4(f) resources, FHWA must determine that there is no prudent or feasible alternative and the selected alternative minimizes harm to the resource. If there is a prudent and feasible alternative that completely avoids 4(f) resources, it must be selected.

Table 10 lists the public parks, recreational areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuge sites within the ES area that are potentially 4(f) resources. There are mid-river islands within the Snake River that are part of the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. Six islands fall within the ES area: four in Payette County and two in Washington County. Sylvia Island, Scarecrow Island, Horse Island and Ketchup Island are located in Payette County. Located in Washington County are Sundstrom and Larson Islands. Boat ramps to access these islands are located upstream of the islands. Of the 13 boat ramps on the Snake River, one falls within the ES area at Centennial Park in Payette. Locations of potential 4(f) resources are shown in Figure 15 and Appendix A.10.

Table 10 – Potential 4(f) Public Parks, Schools, and Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges

Name	Type of 4(f) Resource	Location	City	Milepost
Fruitland Alternative Junior/Senior High School	Public school with recreation area	401 Iowa Avenue	Fruitland	63.81
Fruitland Elementary School	Public school with recreation area	1100 S Pennsylvania Avenue	Fruitland	63.35
Fruitland Middle School	Public school with recreation area	501 Iowa Avenue	Fruitland	63.71
Fruitland High School	Public school with recreation area	501 Iowa Avenue	Fruitland	63.71
Payette High School	Public school with recreation area	20 N 12 <sup>th</sup> Street	Payette	68.57
Payette Primary School	Public school with recreation area	1320 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue North	Payette	68.75
Warren E. McCain Middle School	Public school with recreation area	400 N Iowa Avenue	Payette	68.85
Westside Elementary School	Public school with recreation area	609 N 5 <sup>th</sup> Street	Payette	68.92
Boat Ramp Access – Centennial Park	Wildlife and waterfowl refuge	Snake River	Payette	69.93
Sylvia Island	Wildlife and waterfowl refuge	Snake River	Payette	71.00
Scarecrow Island	Wildlife and waterfowl refuge	Snake River	Payette	71.00
Horse Island	Wildlife and waterfowl refuge	Snake River	Payette	72.86
Ketchup Island	Wildlife and waterfowl refuge	Snake River	Payette	73.84
Sundstrom Island	Wildlife and waterfowl refuge	Snake River	Weiser	76.96
Larson Island	Wildlife and waterfowl refuge	Snake River	Weiser	77.00



Source: <http://www.idaho.gov/education/k12.html>

Source: <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/map.html>

A cultural resource survey, including consultation with ITD's Environmental Department would be necessary for future projects to identify potential impacts to 4(f) resources within the project area.

### Section 6(f) Resources

Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act (LWCA) requires that the conversion of lands or facilities acquired with LWCA funds (CFR Title 36, Chapter 1) be coordinated with the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). The DOI must approve and ensure any replacement lands are of equal value, location and usefulness.

The LWCF database was accessed to identify LWCF properties within the ES area. As shown in **Table 11**, the LWCF database lists three Grant ID numbers: 16-00101, 16-00154 and 16-00356. The LWCF funds agency, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, was consulted to identify specific locations for the Payette Parks 6(f) listing. According to LWCF staff, there are four locations associated with the Payette Parks listing (16-00101), which means there is a total of six LWCF sites within the U.S 95 Central ES area.

**Table 11 – LWCF 6(f) Resources**

Grant ID	LWCF Grant Name	Sponsor	County	Year Completed	Milepost
16-00356	Mesa Park	City of Fruitland	Payette	1984	64.84
16-00154	Payette Pool	City of Payette	Payette	1974	68.86
16-00101	Payette Parks (Kiwaniis Park)	City of Payette	Payette	1976	68.08
16-00101	Payette Parks (Central Park)	City of Payette	Payette	1976	68.48
16-00101	Payette Parks (Eastside Primary School)	City of Payette	Payette	1976	68.56
16-00101	Payette Parks (Westside Elementary School)	City of Payette	Payette	1976	68.96

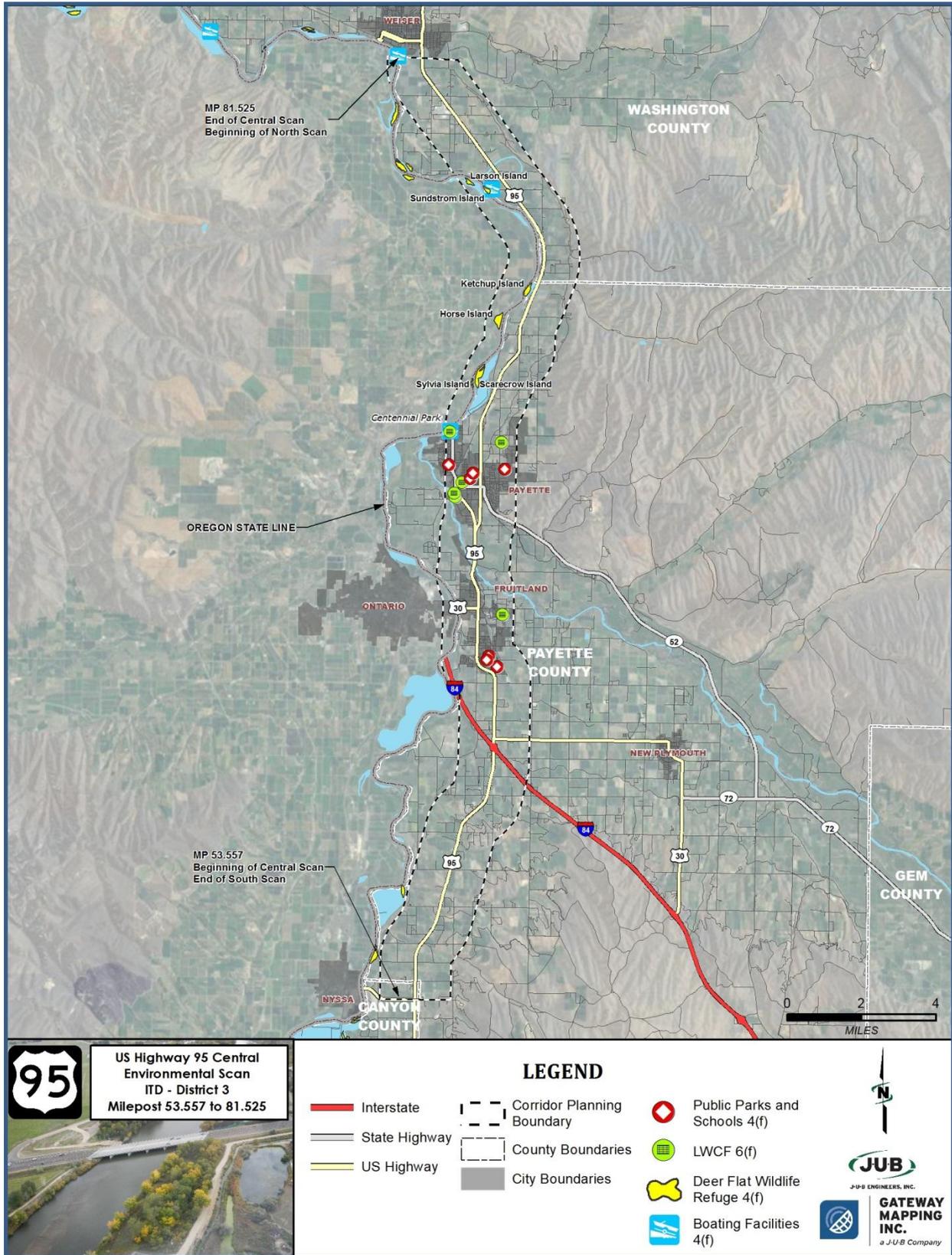
Source: <http://www.invw.org/data/lwcf/grants-id.html>

Conversions of Section 6(f) lands for highway projects require replacement lands. If a future project cannot avoid these properties, then coordination with ITD and consultation with the DOI would be necessary. Locations of 6(f) resources are shown in **Figure 15** and **Appendix A.10**.





Figure 15 – Section 4(f)/6(f) Properties





**Land Use and Zoning**

Zoning and comprehensive future land use maps were obtained and reviewed for Canyon, Payette, and Washington counties, and the cities of Fruitland and Payette. Future potential projects must take into consideration if they are consistent with local land use and zoning plans. **Table 12** summarizes the land use and zoning classifications in the ES area. For additional details about land use and zoning, see **Appendix G**.

**Table 12 – Land Use and Zoning in the U.S. 95 Central ES Area**

Local Jurisdiction/Source	Name/Date Adopted	Zoning (current)	Future Land Use (future)
Canyon County <a href="http://www.canyonco.org/Elected-Officials/Commissioners/Departments/Development-Services/Quick-Links.aspx">http://www.canyonco.org/Elected-Officials/Commissioners/Departments/Development-Services/Quick-Links.aspx</a>	Canyon County, Idaho Zoning/June 22, 2012; Canyon County 2020 Comprehensive Plan/ July 17, 2013	Agricultural zoning	Agriculture
Payette County <a href="http://www.payettecounty.org/index.php/county-maps/10-county-category/75-maps">http://www.payettecounty.org/index.php/county-maps/10-county-category/75-maps</a>	Payette County Comprehensive Plan/May 2006	Primarily agriculture, industrial (light and heavy), residential, and commercial (light and heavy) zoning	Agriculture 1, agriculture mixed/animal feeding operation and sand and gravel pit or mine, industrial, rural residential, and commercial, Payette County greenway along the Payette River
Washington County <a href="http://zoning.co.washington.id.us/comprehensive-plan-2010/">http://zoning.co.washington.id.us/comprehensive-plan-2010/</a>	No official zoning maps or comprehensive future land use maps on file at Washington County	According to Planning and Zoning staff, zoning along the U.S. 95 corridor is agricultural, light and heavy industrial, commercial, and rural residential. There is a heavy industrial-zoned area along the west side of U.S. 95 and a light industrial-zoned area on the east side of U.S. 95.	According to Planning and Zoning staff, there is little development activity in the County and consequently no official comprehensive future land use map has been created or adopted. Staff indicated that the County is working on developing these maps in GIS.





Local Jurisdiction/Source	Name/Date Adopted	Zoning (current)	Future Land Use (future)
City of Fruitland <a href="http://www.fruitland.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&amp;SEC=%7BA33F3E22-0AF2-4F79-B1AA-05C73F860645%7D">http://www.fruitland.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&amp;SEC=%7BA33F3E22-0AF2-4F79-B1AA-05C73F860645%7D</a>	City of Fruitland Zoning Map/July 2013; City of Fruitland Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map/July 2013	Commercial (general, neighborhood and downtown), residential (single family and multi-family), industrial (light and heavy) zoning	Commercial, (general and neighborhood), residential (single family, multi-family, large lot); schools, parks or public lands; industrial (light and heavy)
City of Payette <a href="http://payettecounty.org/index.php/county-maps/10-county-category/75-maps">http://payettecounty.org/index.php/county-maps/10-county-category/75-maps</a>	City of Payette Zoning Map/October 2010; City of Payette Impact Area Comprehensive Plan Map/January 2011	Commercial (C-2 and general); industrial; residential (residential A and residential B); parks and open space	Light industrial; commercial (C-1 and C-2); development reserve; residential (medium and low density); recreational (east of and separated from U.S. 95)

**Noise**

If a future project is to proceed to the project development phase, the type of project as defined by the ITD Environmental Process Manual Section 1300 Traffic Noise must be determined. This manual identifies the level of noise evaluation that must be performed for a project. For Type I projects, the consideration of noise abatement as part of the highway construction project is mandatory if federal-aid funds are to be used and if a traffic noise impact is expected to occur.

A noise analysis was conducted to evaluate the existing noise conditions along the U.S. 95 corridor. The FHWA Traffic Noise Model (TNM) 2.5 software was used to evaluate noise generated from the existing traffic traveling at the existing speed limit along similar segments of U.S. 95. No inputs were made with regards to the topographic, vegetative, or built environment. This noise analysis does not include any identification of sensitive noise receptors along this corridor. The assumptions associated with this noise analysis include:

1. The P.M. peak hour traffic counts were calculated by taking 10 percent of the Annual Average of Daily Traffic (AADT) counts.
2. A total of 13 segments were identified along the U.S. 95 Central corridor. These segments were selected based on the existing speed limit and similar traffic counts.
3. The highest AADT for each segment was used in the noise modeling.
4. The AADT counts were broken into PAADT (passenger cars) and CAADT (commercial vehicles). Since the CAADT classification (i.e. “medium truck”, “heavy truck”, “motorcycle”, or “bus”) was not known, the worst-case scenario (“heavy truck” traffic) was assumed for 100 percent of the CAADT.





Table 13 lists the noise abatement criteria by category type and activity.

**Table 13 – FHWA Noise Abatement Criteria**

Activity Category	L <sub>eq</sub> (dBA) FHWA	Evaluation Location	Description of Activity Category
Category A	57	Exterior	Land on which serenity and quiet are of extraordinary significance and serve an important need and where the preservation of those qualities is essential if the area is to continue to serve its intended purpose
Category B	67	Exterior	Residential
Category C	67	Exterior	Active sport areas, amphitheatres, auditoriums, campgrounds, cemeteries, day care centers, hospitals, libraries, medical facilities, parks, picnic areas, places of worship, playgrounds, public meeting rooms, public or nonprofit institutional structures, radio studios, recording studios, recreation areas, Section 4(f) sites, schools, television studios, trails, and trail crossings
Category D	52	Interior	Auditoriums, day care centers, hospitals, libraries, medical facilities, places of worship, public meeting rooms, public or nonprofit institutional structures, radio studios, recording studios, schools, and television studios
Category E	72	Exterior	Hotels, motels, offices, restaurants/bars, and other developed lands, properties or activities not included in A-D or F
Category F	--	--	Agriculture, airports, bus yards, emergency services, industrial, logging, maintenance facilities, manufacturing, mining, rail yards, retail facilities, shipyards, utilities (water resources, water treatment, electrical), and warehousing
Category G	--	--	Undeveloped lands that are not permitted
Substantial Increase	15		A substantial increase of 15 dBA over the existing noise levels

Source: 23 CFR and ITD Noise Policy

**Segment Analysis**

The U.S. 95 Central ES project area was divided into 13 segments based on similar traffic volumes and speeds. The Ten-point Transect analysis was conducted on these 13 segments to predict what distance from centerline of the existing U.S. 95 roadway the FHWA Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC) standards would be approached or exceeded. The 13 segments are identified and summarized in **Tables 14** and **15**.

**Segments 1-7:**

- **Segment 1:** Milepost 81.4 -81.5 (just south of the town of Weiser); 35 mph.
- **Segment 2:** Milepost 81 -81.4; 45 mph.
- **Segment 3:** Milepost 69.3 -81 (from south of Weiser to the town of Payette); 65 mph.
- **Segment 4:** Milepost 69 -69.3; 45 mph.
- **Segment 5:** Milepost 68.5 -69; 35 mph





- **Segment 6:** Milepost 66 -68.5; 35 mph.
- **Segment 7:** Milepost 65 -66 (at E. Idaho Avenue/16<sup>th</sup> Street); 35 mph.

The results of the TNM transect analysis for segments 1-7 are depicted in **Table 14**.

**Table 14 – dBA Levels for Ten-point Transect Segments 1-7 along U.S. 95 Central ES Corridor**

Distance from Centerline (ft.)	Segment						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
50	65.0	67.2	68.6	68.0	67.1	67.2	67.4
75	61.5	63.3	64.4	64.1	63.6	63.6	63.7
100	59.1	60.7	61.4	61.4	61.1	61.1	61.3
125	57.3	58.6	59.2	59.3	59.3	59.3	59.4
150	55.8	56.8	57.5	57.8	57.8	57.8	58.0
200	53.5	54.3	54.8	55.2	55.4	55.5	55.8
250	51.6	52.3	52.8	53.2	53.5	53.7	54.0
300	50.1	50.7	51.2	51.6	51.9	52.2	52.5
400	47.8	48.3	48.7	49.1	49.5	49.8	50.2
800	41.7	42.0	42.2	42.5	42.8	43.1	43.3

Setback constraints according to the TNM transects analysis are discussed below. Category D receptors pertain to interior noise levels and thus do not apply to this analysis in which only exterior noise levels were assessed. Categories F and G receptors have no noise abatement criteria; therefore, these receptors have no setback constraints.

**Segment 1:**

These results indicate a 150-foot setback would be appropriate for Category A, and a 50-foot setback would be appropriate for categories B and C, and E.

**Segment 2:**

These results indicate a 150-foot setback would be appropriate for Category A, a 75-foot setback would be appropriate for categories B and C, and a 50-foot setback would be appropriate for Category E.

**Segment 3:**

These results indicate a 200-foot setback would be appropriate for Category A, a 75-foot setback would be appropriate for categories B and C, and the 50-foot setback would be appropriate for Category E.

**Segment 4:**

These results indicate a 200-foot setback would be appropriate for Category A, a 75-foot setback would be appropriate for categories B and C, and a 50-foot setback would be appropriate for Category E.





**Segment 5:**

These results indicate a 200-foot setback would be appropriate for Category A, a 75-foot setback would be appropriate for categories B and C, and a 50-foot setback would be appropriate for Category E.

**Segment 6:**

These results indicate a 200-foot setback would be appropriate for Category A, a 75-foot setback would be appropriate for categories B and C, and a 50-foot setback would be appropriate for Category E.

**Segment 7:**

These results indicate a 200-foot setback would be appropriate for Category A, a 75-foot setback would be appropriate for categories B and C, and a 50-foot setback would be appropriate for Category E.

**Segments 8-13:**

- **Segment 8:** Milepost 63.3 -65 (just west of Fruitland); 35 mph
- **Segment 9:** Milepost 63.1 -63.3; 35 mph
- **Segment 10:** Milepost 61.5 -63.1; 45 mph
- **Segment 11:** Milepost 60.9 -61.5; 65 mph
- **Segment 12:** Milepost 60.7 -60.9; 65 mph
- **Segment 13:** Milepost 53.5 -60.7 (starting at Nyssa); 65 mph

The results of the TNM transect analysis for Segments 8-13 are depicted in **Table 15**.

**Table 15 – dBA Levels for Ten-point Transect Segments 8-13 along U.S. 95 Central ES Corridor**

Distance from Centerline (ft.)	Segment					
	8	9	10	11	12	13
50	67.3	67.7	69.1	71.4	71.4	71.2
75	63.8	64.3	65.6	67.1	67.4	67.3
100	61.4	61.9	63.0	64.3	64.6	64.5
125	59.7	60.2	61.1	62.1	62.4	62.5
150	58.3	58.8	59.5	60.4	60.7	60.8
200	56.1	56.5	57.1	57.7	58.1	58.1
250	54.3	54.7	55.2	55.7	56.0	56.0
300	52.9	53.2	53.6	54.0	54.2	54.3
400	50.5	50.8	51.1	51.4	51.5	51.6
800	43.5	43.7	43.9	44.0	44.1	44.2





Setback constraints according to the TNM transects analysis are discussed below. Category D receptors pertain to interior noise levels and thus do not apply to this study in which only the exterior noise levels are assessed. Categories F and G receptors have no NAC; therefore, these receptors have no setback constraints.

**Segment 8:**

These results indicate that a 200-foot setback would be appropriate for Category A, a 75-foot setback would be appropriate for categories B and C, and the 50-foot setback would be appropriate for Category E.

**Segment 9:**

These results indicate that a 200-foot setback would be appropriate for Category A, a 75-foot setback would be appropriate for categories B and C, and a 50-foot setback would be appropriate for Category E.

**Segment 10:**

These results indicate that a 250-foot setback would be appropriate for Category A, a 75-foot setback would be appropriate for categories B and C, and a 50-foot setback would be appropriate for Category E.

**Segment 11:**

These results indicate that a 250-foot setback would be appropriate for Category A, a 100-foot setback would be appropriate for categories B and C, and a 50-foot setback would be appropriate for Category E.

**Segment 12:**

These results indicate that a 250-foot setback would be appropriate for Category A, a 100-foot setback would be appropriate for categories B and C, and a 50-foot setback would be appropriate for Category E.

**Segment 13:**

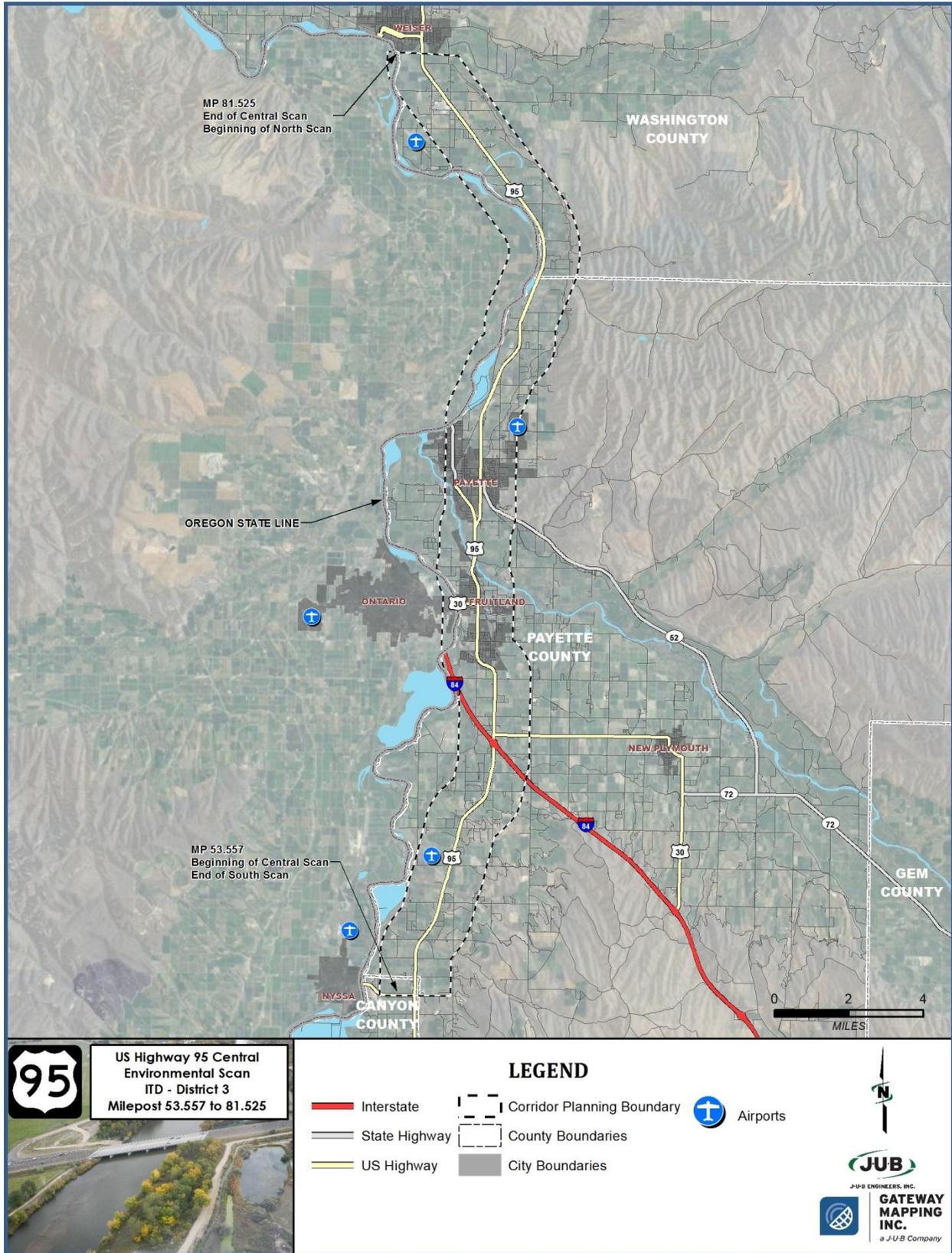
These results indicate than a 250-foot setback would be appropriate for Category A, a 100-foot setback would be appropriate for categories B and C, and a 50-foot setback would be appropriate for Category E.

***Federal Aeronautics Administration (FAA) Airspace Intrusion***

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) maps and databases, and local zoning and comprehensive plans were reviewed to identify aviation facilities and FAA airspace within the vicinity of the U.S. 95 Central ES corridor (AirNav, <https://www.airnav.com/airports/us/ID>). There is one airport within the ES study area, the Payette Municipal Airport, located one mile east of U.S. 95. There is a private airstrip, referred to as “Lemons Field,” located approximately .5 mile west of the U.S. 95 corridor at Milepost 57.5. The Weiser Municipal Airport is located about 1.25 miles west of U.S. 95. **Figure 16** and **Appendix A.11** show the locations of these airports.



Figure 16 - Airports



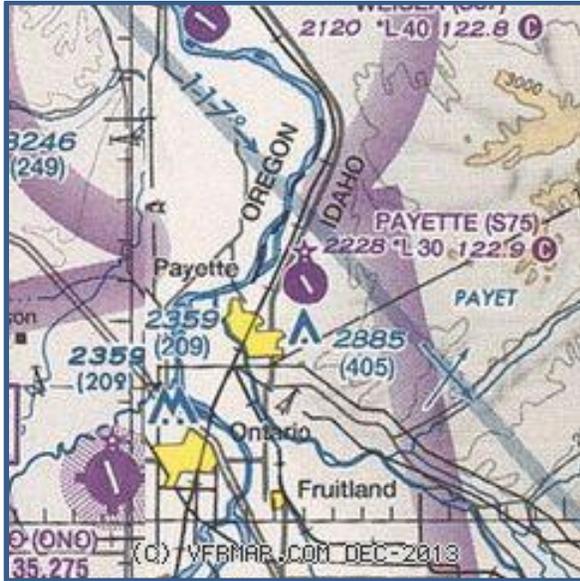


### Payette Municipal Airport

As shown in **Figure 17**, Payette Municipal Airport (S75) is located just north of Payette approximately one mile east of U.S. 95. This airport operates on a paved runway 3,000 feet long and 50 feet wide. Use of this airport is open to the public and is owned by the City of Payette. Payette Municipal Airport is primarily used for recreational activity, such as pilot training.

Payette Municipal also supports prisoner transportation, aerial inspections of pipelines or power lines, military exercises, environmental patrol, and real estate appraisals.

**Figure 17 – Payette Municipal Airport, FAA Sectional Chart Map**



The City of Payette’s airport master plan (2000) shows a Runway Protection Zone area that does not reach into the U.S. 95 Central ES area.

Coordination with the City of Payette and the FAA must occur during the project development phase to determine if future potential projects are compatible with their local comprehensive and airport master plans.

### ***Environmental Scan Findings – Potential Affected Resources***

The proposed location, scope, and intensity of future projects within the U.S. 95 Central corridor area will determine which environmental resources have the potential to be affected. The need for further evaluation and/or mitigation of each resource depends on the location and scope of the project. **Table 16** lists locations and resources that could potentially be affected by future projects. This information is based on data obtained using the methodology described in the “Methodology and Data Sources” section of this ES. **Figure 18** and **Appendix A.12** show geographic locations of the potential affected resources.



**Table 16 – U.S. 95 Central Environmental Scan Locations of Potentially Affected Resources**

Milepost	Description of Roadway	City or County	Prime Farmland	Air Quality	Hydrology/Floodplains	Wetlands	Hazardous Material	Threatened and Endangered Species	Sensitive Species	Demographic Information	Cultural Resources	Section 4(f)/6(f) Properties	Noise <sup>2</sup>	FAA Airspace Intrusion
53.557	Anderson Corner Road and JCT US-20/26	Canyon County	X <sup>1</sup>	X		X	X	X	X	X			*	
56.229	Echo Avenue	Payette County	X			X	X	X	X	X			*	
60.070	SW 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue	Payette County	X			X	X	X	X	X			*	X
62.086	NW 1 <sup>st</sup> ½ Avenue	Payette County	X			X	X	X	X	X			*	
64.168	Whitley Drive and Orchard Park Drive	Fruitland	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	*	
66.348	Killebrew Drive	Payette County	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	*	
68.372	JCT SH-52 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue S)	Payette	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	*	
71.070	NE 19 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Payette County	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	*	X
73.227	NE 25 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Payette County	X		X		X	X	X	X			*	
77.972	Macomb Road	Washington County	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			*	
80.463	River Dock Road	Washington County	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		*	
81.525	Beginning Weiser River Bridge	Weiser	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			*	

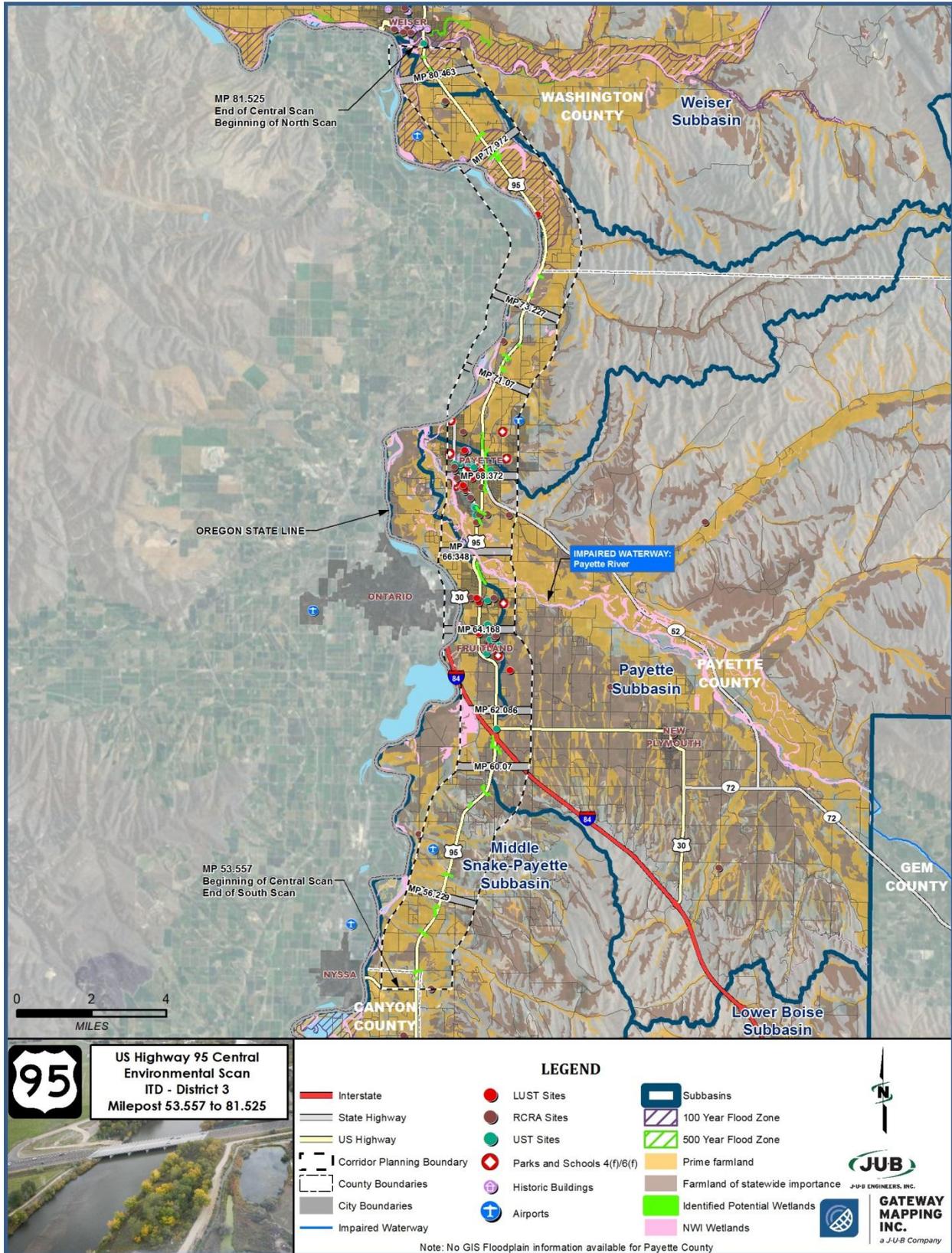
<sup>1</sup> Resources marked with an “X” are present within approximately one-mile on either side of the U.S. 95 Central centerline

<sup>2</sup> Resources marked with an “\*” indicate that potential affects depend on the project scope rather than the built environment





Figure 18 – Potential Affected Resources





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## Data Sources for Tables and Map Figures

Table 3 – Corridor Land Cover within the U.S. 95 Central ES Area

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/research/Cropland/metadata/metadata\\_id12.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/research/Cropland/metadata/metadata_id12.htm)

Table 4 – NRCS Prime Farmland

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

Table 5 – Identified Potential Wetlands NWI Wetlands

*Existing NWI maps*

Table 6 – Hazardous Materials Summary

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/applications/ust-lust/>

<http://www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/rcrainfo/search.html>

Table 7 – Demographic Information

<http://www.census.gov>

Table 8 – Population Race/Origin

<http://factfinder2.census.gov>

Table 9 – NRHP Listings

<http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/id/canyon/state.html>

Table 10 – Potential 4(f) Public Parks, Schools, Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges

<http://www.idaho.gov/education/k12.html>

<http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/map.html>

Table 11 – LWCF 6(f) Resources

<http://www.invw.org/data/lwcf/grants-id.html>

[Idaho Parks and Recreation Grant Staff](#)

Table 12 – Land Use and Zoning in the U.S. 95 Central ES Area

<http://www.canyoncounty.org/>

<http://payettecounty.org/>

<http://co.washington.id.us/>

Table 13 – FHWA Noise Abatement Criteria

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/>

Table 14 – dBA Levels for Ten-point Transect Segments 1-7 along U.S. 95 Central ES Corridor

*TNM transect analysis for segments 1-7*

Table 15 – dBA Levels for Ten-point Transect Segments 8-13 along U.S. 95 Central ES Corridor

*TNM transect analysis for Segments 8-13*





Figure 3 – Administrative Boundaries for Areas with Sensitive Air Quality

[http://www.deq.state.id.us/media/662796-nonattainment\\_map.pdf](http://www.deq.state.id.us/media/662796-nonattainment_map.pdf)

Figure 9 – Sole Source Aquifers

[http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/462639-sole\\_source\\_aquifers\\_west\\_map.pdf](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/462639-sole_source_aquifers_west_map.pdf)





## Appendix A – 11” x 17” Figure Maps

- A.1 – Corridor Study Area
- A.2 – Prime Farmland
- A.3 – Surface Waters
- A.4 – Floodplains
- A.5 – Potential Wetlands
- A.6 – Hazardous Materials
- A.7 – Median Income by Block Group
- A.8 – Percent Below Poverty Level by Block Group
- A.9 – Cultural Resources
- A.10 – Section 4(f)/6(f) Properties
- A.11 – Airports
- A.12 – Potential Affected Resources



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## Appendix B – 2010 Waterbody Report

- Payette River – Black Canyon Reservoir Dam to Mouth



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## Appendix C – FEMA Floodplain Map Panels

- Canyon County FEMA Map Index Numbers
  - 16027C0075F
  
- Payette County FEMA Map Index Numbers
  - 1601980131B
  - 1601980141B
  - 1601980133B
  - 1601980143B
  - 1601980375B
  
- Washington County FEMA Map Index Numbers
  - 16087C0845C
  - 16087C0835C
  - 16087C0830C
  - 16087C0827C





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## Appendix D – Potential Wetlands

- D.1 – Potential Wetlands Information
- D.2 – Wetlands Map Book



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## Appendix E – Idaho Species List

- Idaho Species List, dated December 16, 2013



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## **Appendix F – CDC Database Information, Idaho’s Sensitive Species of Vertebrates and Invertebrates**

- CDC Database Information
- Idaho’s Special Status of Vascular and Nonvascular Plants
- Idaho’s Sensitive Species of Vertebrates and Invertebrates



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## Appendix G – Land Use and Zoning Information

- Canyon County
  - Canyon County, Idaho Zoning/June 22, 2012
  - Canyon County, Idaho Future Land Use/July 17, 2013
- Payette County
  - Payette County Comprehensive Plan/May 2006
- Washington County
  - No official zoning maps/comprehensive future land use maps on file
  - Washington County Comprehensive Plan/November 29, 2010
- City of Fruitland
  - City of Fruitland Zoning Map/July 2013
  - City of Fruitland Comprehensive Future Land Use Map/July 2013
- City of Payette
  - City of Payette Zoning map/October 2010
  - City of Payette Impact Area, Payette County, Idaho Comprehensive Plan Map/January 2011



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# U.S. 95 CENTRAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

## NYSSA JUNCTION with U.S. 20/26 TO WEISER RIVER



PINEHURST

NEW MEADOWS

COUNCIL

CAMBRIDGE

MIDVALE

WEISER

PAYETTE

FRUITLAND

PARMA

WILDER

HOMEDALE



For more information about the U.S. 95 Corridor Study, visit [itd.idaho.gov](http://itd.idaho.gov) and select *Projects, Southwest Idaho* and *U.S. 95 Corridor Study*, or contact:

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# JUNE 2014