

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

Twin Falls District  
Burley Field Office  
15 East 200 South  
Burley, ID 83318

**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)  
for the  
Cottonwood Pole Planting Project**

DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0008-DNA

**BLM Office:** Burley Field Office.

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Cottonwood Pole Planting.

**Location of Proposed Action:**

1. Little Cottonwood Creek (Figure 2): T 14 S; R 21 E; Section 11, E ½, SE ¼.
2. Raft River (Figure 3): T16 S; R 26 E; Section 05, NE ¼, NE ¼ & T 15 S; R 26 E; Section 33, NW ¼, NE ¼.
3. Schodde Ponds (Figure 4): T 09 S; R 28 E; Section 18, S ½.
4. Trapper Creek (Figure 5): T 14 S; R 21 E; Section 25, W ½ NW ¼ & Section 26, N ½ SE ¼.
5. Parks Creek (Figure 6): T 14 S; R 26 E; Section 07, N ½.

**A. Description of the Proposed Action**

The Bureau of Land Management Burley Field Office is proposing to plant narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) and/or black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*) pole plantings and seedlings at several locations within the Field Office (see Figures 1-6). The purpose of the project is to restore native woody riparian vegetation and increase native plant diversity. The need is to improve the vegetative health of the subject riparian areas. Improving vegetative health of riparian areas would consequently improve wildlife habitat as well. Cottonwoods are a native woody riparian species in the region [1]. Cottonwoods are limited within the Burley Field Office; however, cottonwoods were present throughout the region historically.

## **B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the LUP decisions to maintain, watershed conditions. Both the Cassia Resource Management Plan (January 1985) and the Monument Resource Management Plan (1986) contain the following objective:

- Watershed Management:

“A variety of methods may be employed to maintain, improve, protect and restore watershed conditions.” [2, p. 9] and [3, p. 31]

Planting cottonwoods would further this objective by helping to enhance watershed conditions.

## **C. Identify the applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

The Burley Shrub Planting EA (NEPA No. ID-220-2009-EA-3555) analyzes the effects of shrub planting, such as cottonwood pole and seedling planting, throughout the Burley Field Office.

## **D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Yes, the proposed action is a feature of the selected alternative from the Burley Shrub Planting EA. The Burley Shrub Planting EA is a programmatic document that analyzed the effects of shrub plantings throughout the Burley Field Office. The EA includes a description of the expected environmental consequences of shrub planting. This cottonwood planting proposal is within the same analysis area.

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?**

Yes. The Burley Shrub Planting EA analyzed the proposed action along with a no action alternative in detail. Based on the current proposed action and current environmental concerns, the existing range of alternatives remains appropriate.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, or updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

Yes, the existing analysis remains valid even in light of new information or circumstances. The Burley Shrub Planting EA was completed in 2008. There have been no changes to the BLM sensitive species list since that time, with the exception of the greater sage-grouse. The greater sage-grouse is now a Candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Even though the greater sage-grouse is now a Candidate species, its management as a BLM sensitive species continues. The proposed cottonwood planting activities are expected to benefit greater sage-grouse by enhancing healthy riparian conditions.

**4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

Yes. The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed action are synonymous with the effects analysis of the Burley Shrub Planting EA. The effects of the proposed action are well understood.

**5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**


Yes. Public involvement efforts related to the Burley Shrub Planting EA remain adequate considering the current proposed action. The public has expressed little interest in shrub planting activities.

**E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted**

Name	Title
Jesse Rawson	Wildlife Biologist
Suzann Henrikson	Archaeologist
Scott Sayer	Natural Resource Specialist
Kate Forster	Fisheries Biologist
Jeremy Bisson	Wildlife Biologist

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the Cassia Resource Management Plan and Monument Resource Management Plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

  
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 Jesse Rawson, Project Lead 1/27/2012  
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 Date

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Scott Sayer, NEPA Coordinator 1/27/2012  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

  
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 Mike Courtney, Field Office Manager 1/27/2012  
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 Date

**Note:** The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

Figure 1. Project Overview Map

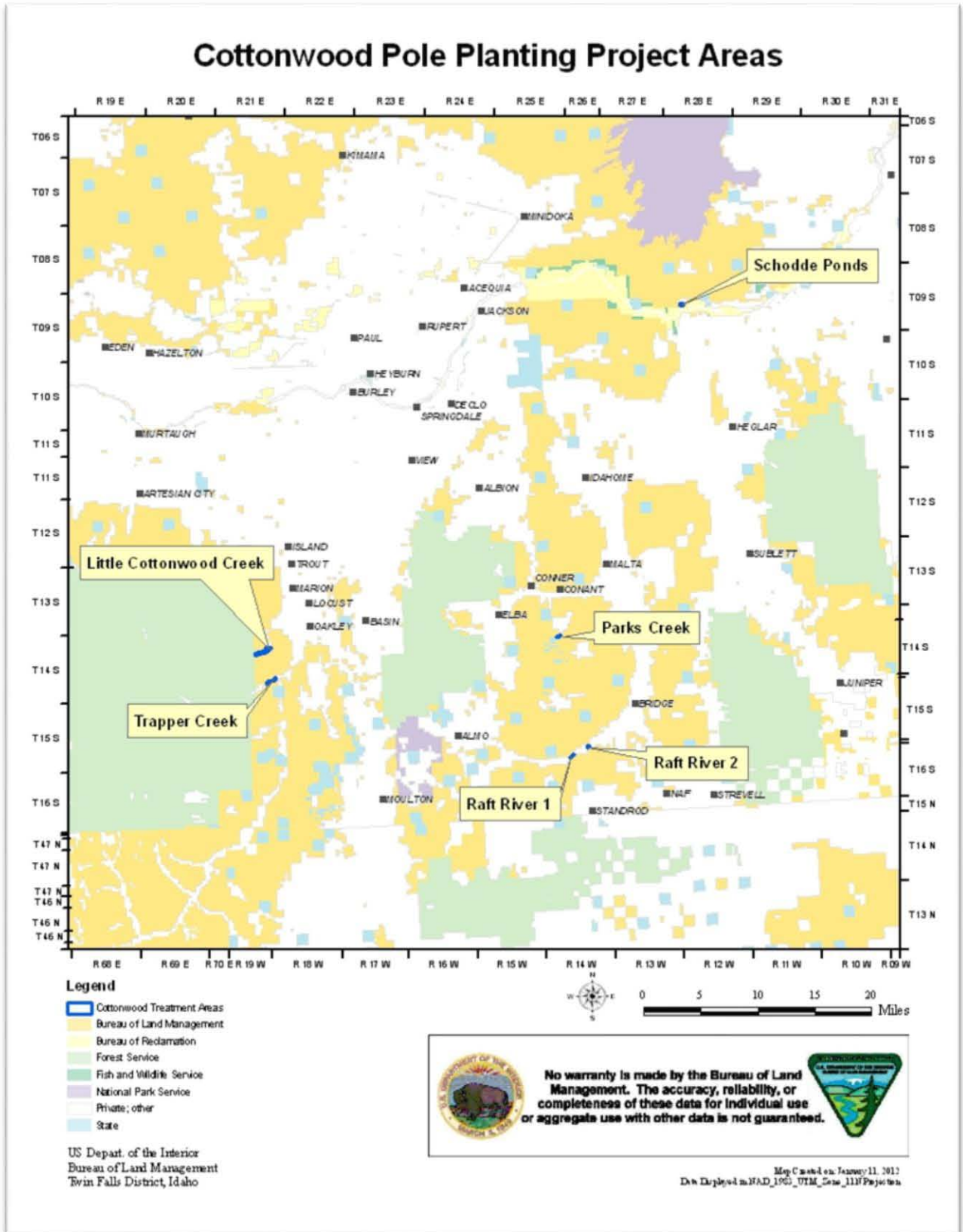


Figure 2. Little Cottonwood Project Area

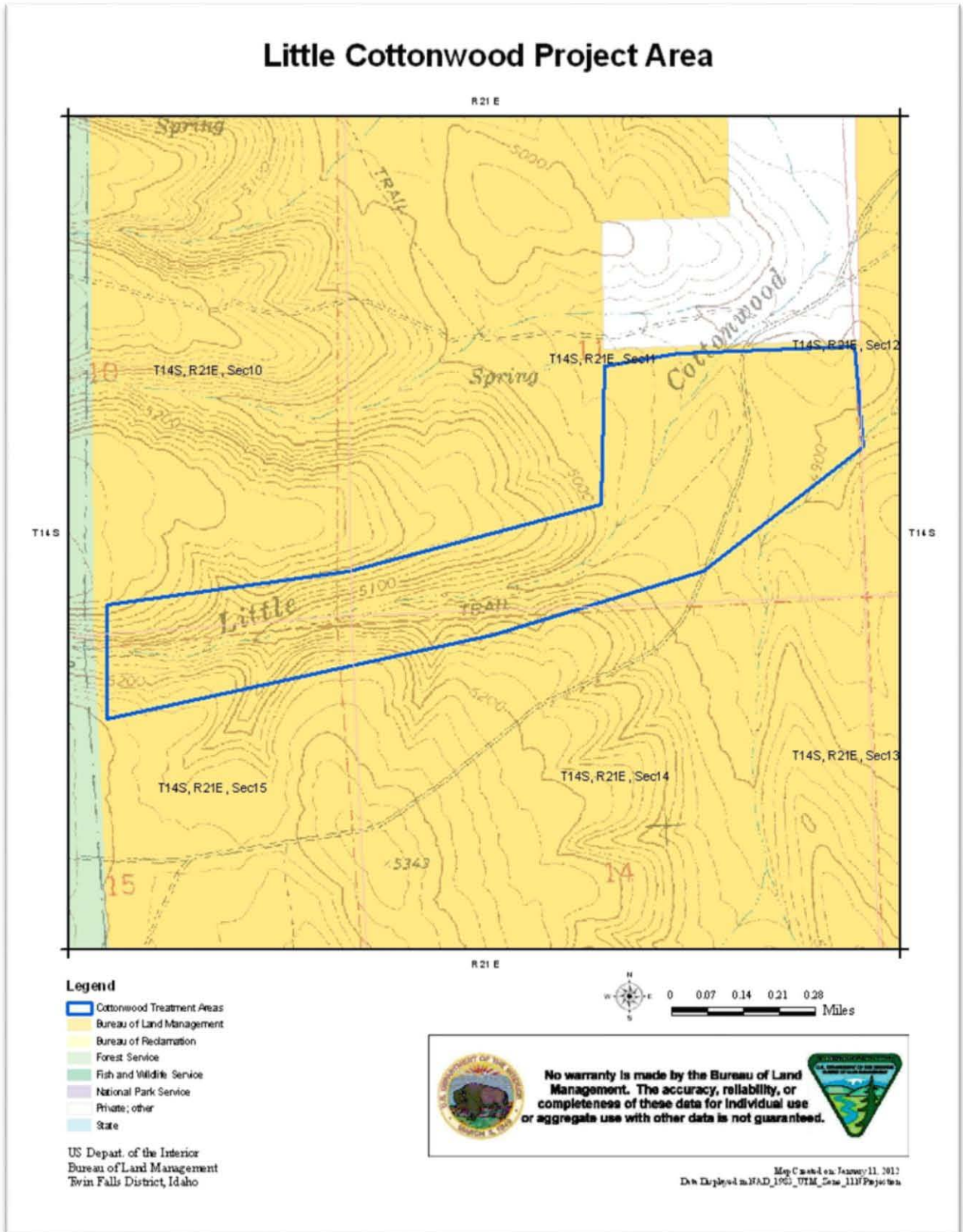


Figure 3. Raft River Project Area

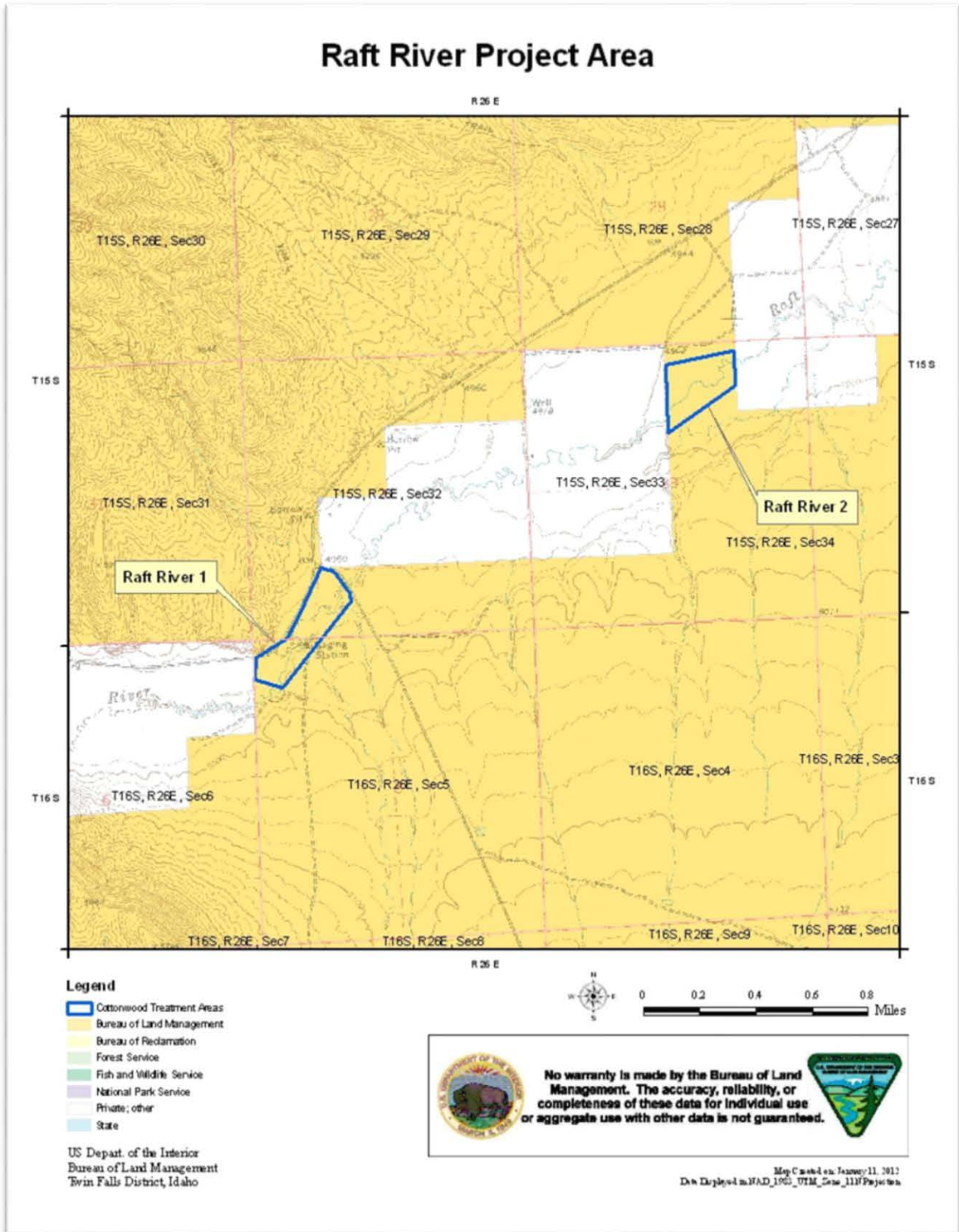


Figure 4. Schodde Ponds Project Area

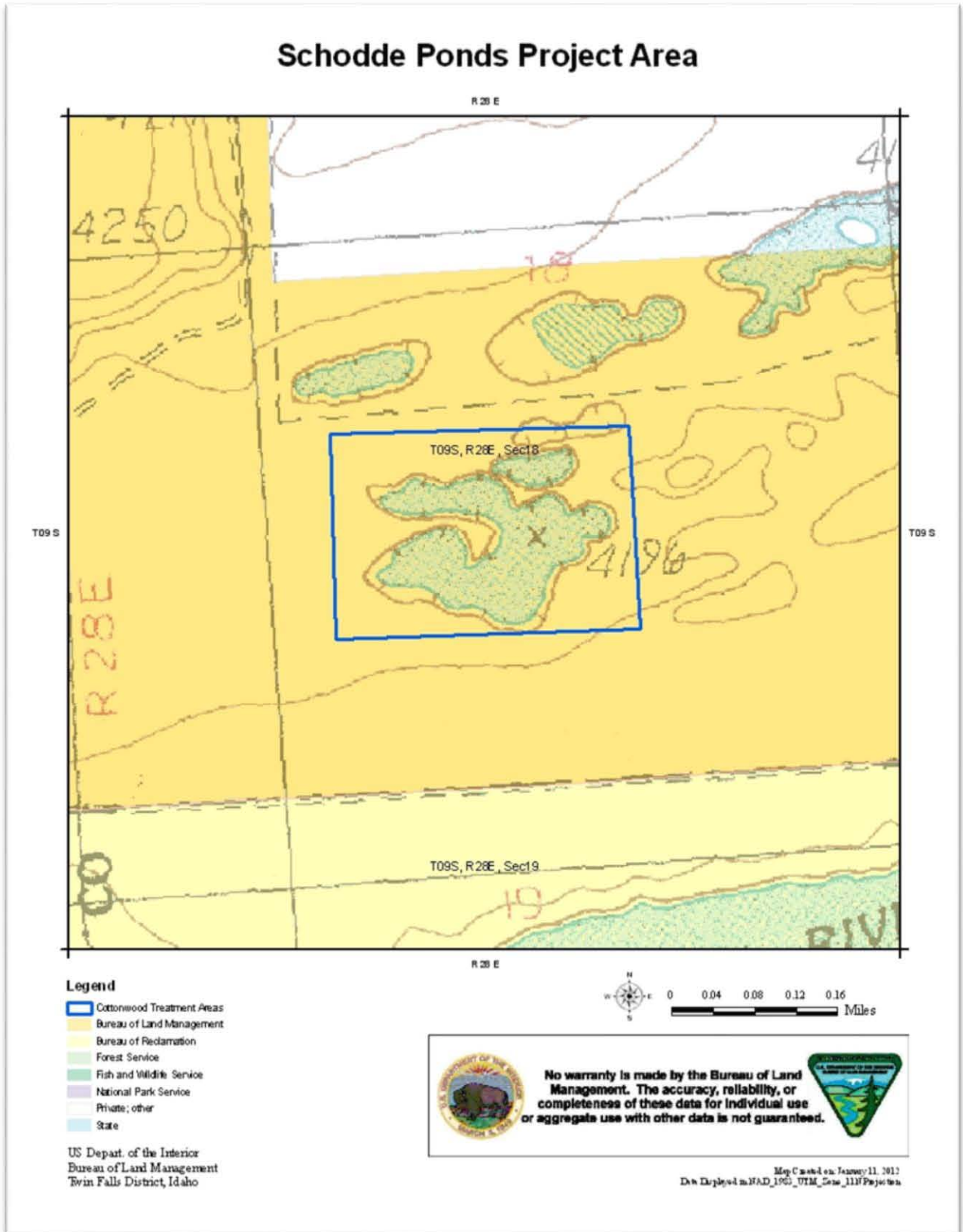
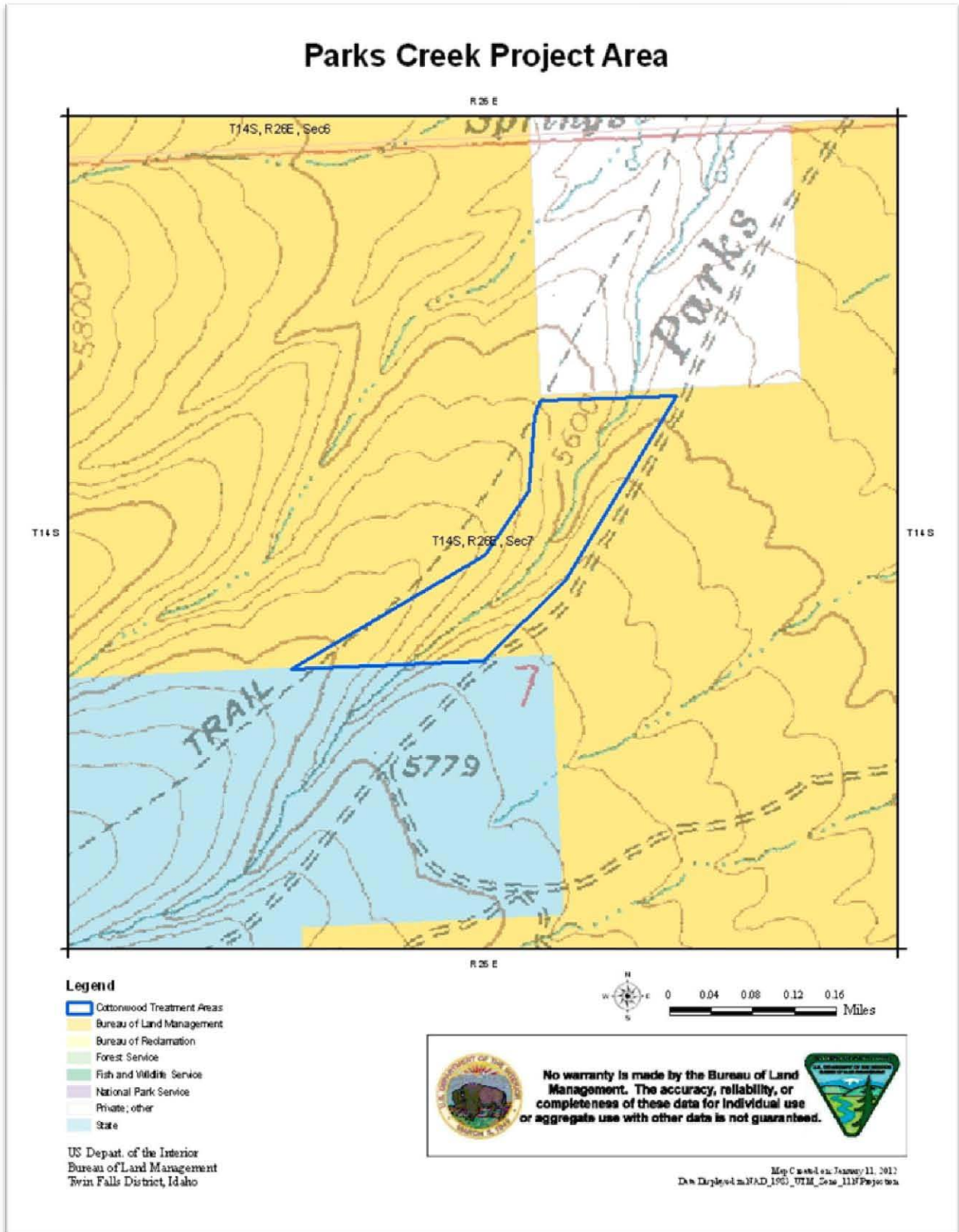




Figure 6. Parks Creek Project Area



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Twin Falls District  
Burely Field Office  
15 east 200 South  
Burley, ID 83318

**DECISION RECORD**  
**for the**  
**Cottonwood Pole Planting Project**

DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0008-DNA

**I. Decision**

I have decided to implement the Cottonwood Pole Planting Project as described in the DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0008-DNA. Based on my review of the DNA, I have concluded that the proposed action was analyzed in sufficient detail in the programmatic Burley Shrub Planting EA (ID-220-2009-EA-3555) to allow me to make an informed decision. I have decided to implement the proposed action because planting cottonwood poles and seedlings will provide a net benefit to riparian/wetland zones and wildlife at each respective project area.

**II. Appeals**

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. Any appeal must be filed within 30 days of this decision. Any notice of appeal must be filed with me, Michael Courtney, Burley Field Office, 15 East 200 South, Burley, ID 83318. The appellant shall serve a copy of the notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs on each adverse party named in the decision, not later than 15 days after filing such document (see 43 CFR 4.413(a)). Failure to serve within the time required will subject the appeal to summary dismissal (see 43 CFR 4.413(b)). If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the IBLA, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U. S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with Michael Courtney, Field Manager.

Notwithstanding the provisions of 43 CFR 4.21(a)(1), filing a notice of appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 does not automatically suspend the effect of the decision. If you wish to file a petition for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal.

A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

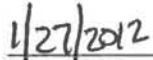
- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

In the event a request for stay or an appeal is filed, the person/party requesting the stay or filing the appeal must serve a copy of the appeal on the Office of the Field Solicitor, 960 Broadway Ave., Suite 400, Boise ID, 83706.

### III. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this project, contact: Jesse Rawson, Wildlife Biologist, at (208) 677-6625 or at 15 East 200 South, Burley, ID.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Courtney  
Field Manager

  
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Date