

Attachment 1

**Boise District Office
Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area
Tricia Roller, NCA Manager**

Date: November 1, 2011

Project Name: Union Fire Seeding Monitoring Points

Status: Awaiting Approval from BLM

Requested Action: The Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) is requesting permission to set up four, short-term (3 to 5 years) monitoring plots to identify seeding success for the Union Fire rehabilitation seeding (Map 1).

Project Description: The IDARNG intends to set up four stratified random monitoring plots on BLM managed lands within the boundaries of the Union Fire in order identify overall seeding success (Map 1). The data from these plots will be used in conjunction with five other monitoring plots set up on adjacent state lands. In total there will be five monitoring plots and four controls (within the fire boundary).

Each 100 meter monitoring plot would be located in an area based on the historic community type, i.e. shrub vs. annual grass, and have an adjacent control plot. All plots will be randomly selected within a pre-designated community type, with an associated random azimuth. Each plot will consist of photo plots with Duabemire frames. From the randomized point, a 100 meter tape will be pulled based on the random azimuth. Monitoring azimuths will be confined within the seeded areas and controls will be confined to unseeded areas. A five-decimeter long, 4-millimeter wide metal pin will be place in the ground at the 0, 25, 50, 75, and 100 meter points along the tape. A landscape photo with plot details will be taken at the 0-point, with point information, aerial photos, and vegetation data (list of species and % at each) associated with each Duabemire frame using the pins as reference points for annual monitoring. The data will be read the first year in the fall with all subsequent readings in May or June. The data and photos will be recorded in a database and shared with the Idaho Department of Lands and BLM annually.

As part of the establishment protocol, each potential plot site will be surveyed for slickspots and cultural resources. In the event that either resource is identified, the plot azimuth will be altered so that neither resource would be affected.

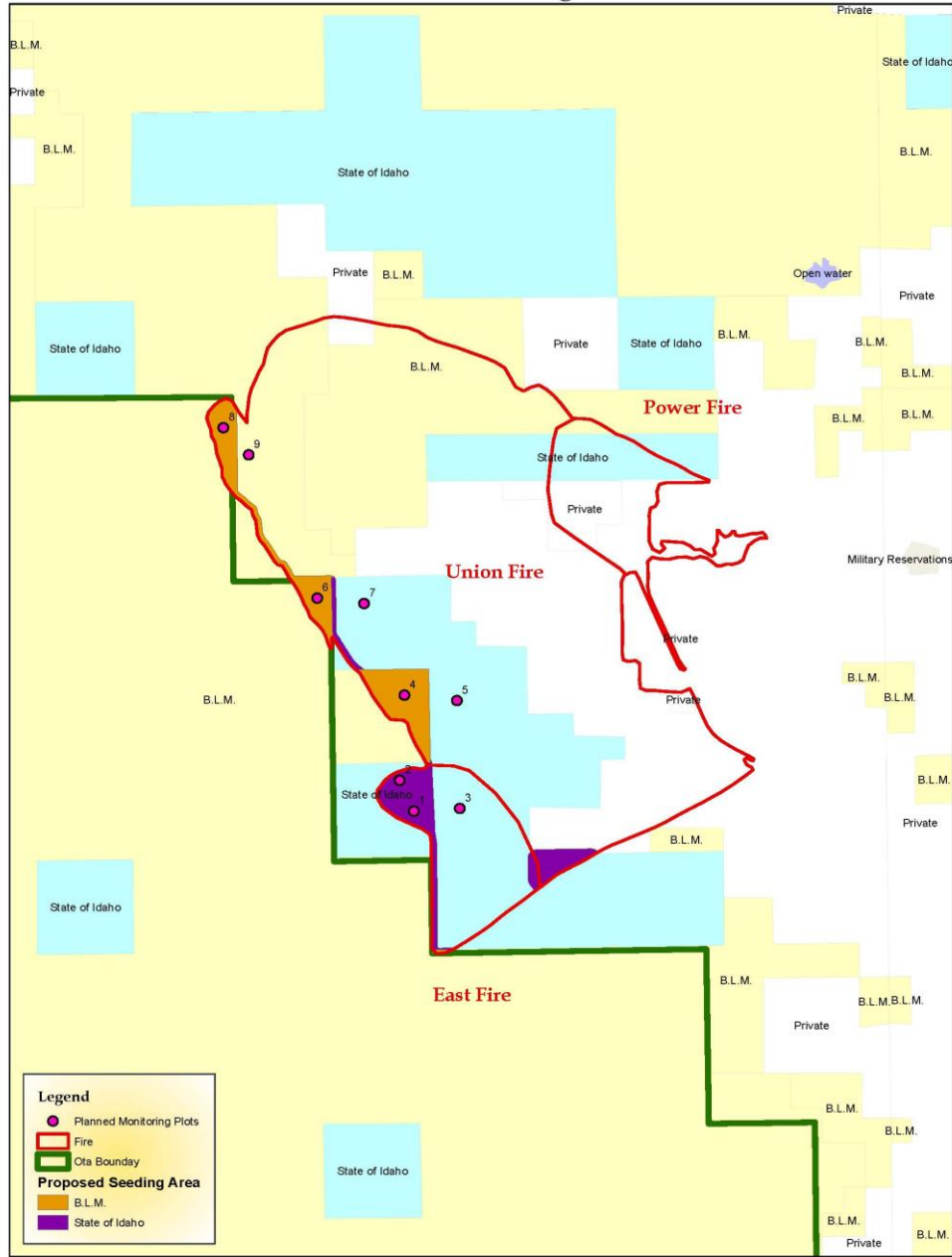
Location: The project area is located in Township-1S, Range-3E, on the eastern boundary of Section 33, and western boundary of section 34 (Map 1).

Resource Issues: While there is *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat present, as well as occupied slickspots, all monitoring plots will set up to avoid any damage to slickspots. Based on these plot requirements, there are no foreseeable impacts.

Time Lines: All plots will be in place within one week of approval.

Planned Monitoring Plots

Orchard Training Area



Legend

- Planned Monitoring Plots
- Fire
- Ota Boundary
- Proposed Seeding Area**
- B.L.M.
- State of Idaho

Scale 1:67,224



UTM Zone 11 North Meters
North American Datum 1983
GIS Systems, Environmental Management Office, IDARNG
29 September 2011

Map 1. Monitoring and Control Plot Locations-(Proposed)