

APPENDIX B2
NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Table of Contents

B2.1	Introduction	B2-1
	B2.1.1 Plan Updates	B2-1
	B2.1.2 Purpose.....	B2-1
	B2.1.3 Goals and Objectives	B2-2
B2.2	Regulatory Framework	B2-3
	B2.2.1 State of Oregon	B2-3
	B2.2.2 State of Idaho	B2-4
	B2.2.3 Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974 (as amended 1990)	B2-4
	B2.2.4 Executive Order 13112	B2-4
	B2.2.5 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service	B2-4
	B2.2.6 Bureau of Land Management.....	B2-5
	B2.2.7 Bureau of Reclamation	B2-5
B2.3	Noxious Weeds in the Project Area.....	B2-5
	B2.3.1 Oregon State Noxious Weeds Lists	B2-5
	B2.3.2 Idaho State Noxious Weeds Lists	B2-12
	B2.3.3 Preconstruction Noxious Weed Inventory	B2-13
B2.4	Noxious Weed Management	B2-14
	B2.4.1 Mitigation Measures	B2-14
	B2.4.2 Education and Personnel Requirements.....	B2-17
	B2.4.3 Prevention	B2-18
	B2.4.4 Control Measures	B2-18
	B2.4.5 Reclamation Actions	B2-21
B2.5	Monitoring and Reporting	B2-21
	B2.5.1 Monitoring	B2-21
	B2.5.2 Reporting	B2-21
	B2.5.3 Ongoing Monitoring and Control	B2-21
B2.6	Herbicide Application, Handling, Spills, and Cleanup.....	B2-22
	B2.6.1 Herbicide Application and Handling	B2-22
	B2.6.2 Herbicide Spills and Cleanup.....	B2-22
	B2.6.3 Worker Safety and Spill Reporting.....	B2-22
B2.7	Plan Updates.....	B2-22
B2.8	Literature Cited.....	B2-22

List of Tables

Table B2-1	Noxious Weeds with the Potential to Occur within the B2H Project Area.....	B2-7
Table B2-2.	Idaho Noxious Weeds Known to Occur or with the Potential to Occur within Owyhee County.....	B2-12

List of Attachments

Attachment A Agency-Approved Herbicides

Acronyms and Abbreviations

B2H	Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
DOI	Department of Interior
EDRR	early detection and rapid response
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
GPS	Global Positioning System
IDAPA	Idaho Administrative Procedures Act
IPC	Idaho Power Company
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
O&M	operation and maintenance
ODA	Oregon Department of Agriculture
OFFP	Oregon Flora Project
ORS	Oregon Revised Statute
OSWB	Oregon State Weed Board
PAR	Pesticide Application Record
Plan	Noxious Weed Management Plan
POD	Plan of Development
Project	Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project
PUP	Pesticide Use Proposals
ROW	right-of-way
U.S.	United States
USFS	United States Forest Service

APPENDIX B2 – NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

B2.1 Introduction

This Appendix to Idaho Power Company's (IPC) Plan of Development (POD) provides information on the Noxious Weed Management Plan (Plan) that IPC will follow for the life of the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (Project). The features of the Project are fully described in Section 3 Project Description of the POD.

This Plan includes a discussion of 1) the Plan purpose, goals, and objectives, 2) the regulatory framework, 3) current status of noxious weeds within the Project area, 4) noxious weed management practices, 5) monitoring and reporting, and 6) herbicide application, handling, and cleanup.

B2.1.1 Plan Updates

This plan framework will support the National Environmental Policy (NEPA) POD sufficiently to complete and execute the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Records of Decision, the BLM right-of-way (ROW) grant and USFS special-use authorization for the Project. This plan framework serves as a baseline document to guide development of the complete Noxious Weed Management Plan developed with the POD before issuance of the Notice(s) to Proceed and commencement of construction. The complete Noxious Weed Management Plan will be developed by the Construction Contractor(s)/Reclamation Contractor(s) in consultation with IPC and the agencies as detailed design and engineering of the Project is completed and contain the detailed information necessary for site-specific guidance. This plan framework provides Project-specific guidance for development of the complete Plan by identifying treatments and measures required to avoid, minimize, and mitigate Project-related impacts; prevent unnecessary degradation of the environment; ensure reclamation and revegetation activities comply with federal, state, or other agency requirements; and meet any stipulations of the Records of Decision, BLM ROW grant and USFS special-use authorization. The Construction Contractor(s) will be responsible for preparing and implementing the complete Plan.

B2.1.2 Purpose

Invasive plant species are non-native, aggressive plants with the potential to cause significant damage to native ecosystems and/or cause significant economic losses. Invasive plants are opportunistic plant species that readily flourish in disturbed areas, are difficult to control, and thereby, can compete with and/or prevent native plant species from re-establishing. Invasive plants are a concern for federal, state, and local agencies because of their potential to degrade wildlife habitat, reduce native plant diversity, adversely affect agricultural production, and impact the general ecological health and diversity of native ecosystems. Noxious weeds are a subset of invasive plants that are officially designated by a federal, state, or local agency as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or property (Sheley and Petroff 1999).

Soil disturbances, such as those caused by the construction and operation and maintenance (O&M) of the Project, could result in the establishment of new populations and spread of existing populations of noxious weeds. The purpose of this Plan is to describe the measures IPC will undertake to control noxious weed species and prevent the introduction of these species prior to construction and during construction and O&M of the Project. It is the responsibility of IPC and the Construction Contractor(s), working with the appropriate land management agencies, to ensure noxious weeds are identified and controlled during

the construction and O&M of Project facilities and that all federal, state, county, and other local requirements are satisfied.

This Plan is applicable Project-wide, and it is expected that modifications to this Plan will be made once final Project design is complete and agreements are reached with applicable federal and state land management agencies, as well as with counties and individual landowners. The Final Noxious Weed Management Plan (see Section B2.7) will meet the standards of all applicable federal and state land management agencies, as well as county weed boards.

Measures that will be taken to restore areas that have been impacted by construction activities are discussed in the Reclamation, Revegetation, and Monitoring Plan (POD Appendix C1). Methods in which vegetation along the transmission line will be managed during O&M of the Project are described in the Vegetation Management Plan (POD Appendix B4).

B2.1.3 Goals and Objectives

The goal of this Plan is to describe methods for early detection, containment, and control of noxious weeds that will be implemented during Project construction and operation. This Plan describes the known status of noxious weed species within the Project area, the regulatory agencies responsible for the control of noxious weeds, and steps IPC will take in controlling and preventing the establishment and spread of noxious weed species during Project construction and O&M activities. General preventive and treatment measures, as well as specific design features and selective mitigation measures are described in Section B2.4 of this Plan. Monitoring (Section B2.5) to evaluate of the effectiveness of the prescribed noxious weed prevention and control measures will be implemented during the operational phase of the Project. In addition to providing updated information, the final Noxious Weed Management Plan (Section B2.7) will include information on locations of significant noxious weed populations within the Project construction footprint and proposed treatment methods, as applicable.

The objectives of this Plan and the focus of IPC's noxious weed control efforts will be to prevent and control the spread of new infestations resulting from Project activities. While this Plan documents noxious weed species within the Project area, IPC will only be responsible for the control of noxious weeds that are within the final Project ROW and up to 50 feet outside the ROW in Malheur County and are a result of their construction- or operation-related, surface-disturbing activities. IPC is not responsible for controlling noxious weeds that occur adjacent to the Project ROW or for controlling or eradicating noxious weed species that were present prior to the Project. However, preconstruction treatments will be conducted, where appropriate and as agreed upon with the land management agency or landowner, to minimize the spread of existing noxious weed infestations through Project activities.

Goals, objectives, and noxious weed control activities for the Project include:

- Inventory the existing occurrence, distribution, and abundance of noxious weeds in the Project ROW prior to construction;
- Reduce infestations of noxious weeds caused by Project-related activities and prevent the spread of new and existing populations within the Project ROW both during construction as well as operations of the Project;
- Ensure any occurrences of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants along the transmission line are not negatively impacted by weed-control activities by including site-specific planning where needed and following applicable design features; and
- Coordinate and consult with appropriate land-management personnel, as appropriate, regarding noxious weed inventory and control activities conducted by IPC.

B2.2 Regulatory Framework

The following provides a brief overview of federal and state legislation and regulatory compliance applicable to noxious weeds that have been considered in development of this Plan.

B2.2.1 State of Oregon

In Oregon, noxious weeds are defined under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 569.175 as “terrestrial, aquatic, or marine plants designated by the State Weed Board under ORS 569.615 as among those representing the greatest public menace and as a top priority for action by weed control programs.” Noxious weeds have been declared by ORS 569-350 as a menace to public welfare and control of these plants is the responsibility of private landowners and operators, and county, state, and federal governments. The Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) was established under ORS 561.650. The OSWB provides direction to control noxious weeds at the state level and develops and maintains the State Noxious Weed List. The OSWB and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) classify noxious weeds in Oregon in accordance with the ODA Noxious Weed Classification System (ODA 2015a). There are three designations under the State’s system:

- Class “A” State Listed Noxious Weed: A weed of known economic importance which occurs in the state in small enough infestations to make eradication or /containment possible; or is not known to occur in Oregon, but its presence in neighboring states makes future occurrence seem imminent.
- Recommended action: Infestations are subject to eradication or intensive control when and where found.
- Class “B” State Listed Noxious Weed: A weed of economic importance that is regionally abundant but may have limited distribution in some counties.
- Recommended action: Limited to intensive control at the state, county, or regional level as determined on a site-specific, case-by-case basis. Where implementation of a fully integrated statewide management plan is not feasible, biological control (when available) shall be the primary control method.
- Class “T” Designated State Noxious Weeds: Priority noxious weed species selected and designated by the OSWB as the focus of prevention and control actions by the Noxious Weed Control Program. “T”-designated noxious weeds are selected annually from either the “A” or “B” list and the ODA is directed to develop and implement a statewide management plan for these species.

In addition to the state-listed noxious weeds, the five Oregon counties crossed by the Project (Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, and Union) each maintain a county-designated noxious weed list. These lists also classify noxious weeds into different categories (typically Class A, B, and C); however, the definition of each class differs slightly from the state classification system and differs slightly by county.

Recommended actions for noxious weeds in the five Oregon counties crossed by the Project are as follows:

- Class “A” County Noxious Weed: Recommended for mandatory control county-wide in Baker, Malheur, and Morrow counties and subject to intensive control where found in Umatilla and Union counties.
- Class “B” County Noxious Weed: Recommended for moderate to intensive control at the county level in Baker County; subject to intensive control or eradication where feasible at the county level in Malheur and Morrow counties; limited to intensive control county-wide as determined on a case-by-case basis in Umatilla County; recommended for moderate control and/or monitoring at the county level in Union County. Additionally, in Malheur County, Class B weeds are required

to be controlled within 50 feet of all property lines, easements, and ROWs, pursuant to ORS 570.525.

- Class “C” County Noxious Weeds: Recommended for moderate control at the county level in Baker County; treated at landowner’s discretion in Malheur County. Morrow, Umatilla, and Union counties do not currently list Class C noxious weeds.
- Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, and Union county weed management agencies were contacted to inquire about weed species of highest concern in each of the counties, as well as to determine if each county requires or implements specific noxious weed control methods or best management practices (BMP). No specific BMPs were requested by any of the county weed management personnel contacted.

B2.2.2 State of Idaho

Idaho has 67 different species of weeds which are designated noxious by state law. These weeds are designated into three levels of concern. The levels of concern are as follows (IDAPA 02.06.22):

- Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR): Finding invasive plant species during the initial stages of colonization and then responding within the same season to initiate eradication of the invasive plant species.
- Statewide Control: These plants are known to exist in varying populations throughout the state. The concentration of these weeds is at a level where control and/or eradication may be possible. A written plan for weeds on the Statewide Control Noxious Weed List shall be developed by the control authority that specifies active control methods to reduce known populations in not more than five (5) years. The plan shall be available to the Department upon request.
- Statewide Containment: These plants are known to exist in various populations throughout the state. Weed control efforts may be directed at reducing or eliminating new or expanding weed populations while known and established weed populations, as determined by the weed control authority, may be managed by any approved weed control methodology, as determined by the weed control authority.

B2.2.3 Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974 (as amended 1990)

The Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974 (7 United States Code 2801-2813) defines a noxious weed as “a plant which is of foreign origin, is new to, or is not widely prevalent in the United States, and can directly or indirectly injure crops or other useful plants, livestock, or the fish and wildlife resources of the United States, or the public health.” This act directs each federal agency to develop and coordinate a management program for control of undesirable plants on federal lands under the agency’s jurisdiction.

B2.2.4 Executive Order 13112

Executive Order 13112 (1999) directs federal agencies to: (1) identify actions that may affect the status of an invasive species; (2)(a) prevent introduction of such species; (b) detect and control such species; (c) monitor population of such species; (d) provide for restoration of native species; (e) conduct research on invasive species and develop technologies to prevent introduction of such species; (f) promote public education of such species; and (3) not authorize, fund, or carry out actions likely to cause the introduction or spread of invasive species in the United States or elsewhere unless the benefits of the action clearly outweigh the harm and the agencies take steps to minimize the harm.

B2.2.5 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS) Manual 2900 - Invasive Species Management directs each Forest Supervisor to “manage aquatic and terrestrial invasive species (including vertebrates,

invertebrates, plants, and pathogens)” on all National Forest System lands. Per the manual, invasive species management activities of National Forest System lands shall be conducted according to the following objectives: 1) prevention, 2) early detection and rapid response, 3) control and management, 4) restoration, 5) organizational collaboration. Additionally, the two Record of Decisions for the Final Environmental Impact Statements (EISs), April 2010 and March 2016 Invasive Plants Treatment Project, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest outlines the use of the ten herbicides approved for use in Region 6 of the USFS, including the Umatilla National Forest.

B2.2.6 Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) defines a noxious weed as “a plant that interferes with management objectives for a given area of land at a given point in time.” BLM Manual 9015 (BLM 1992) directs the BLM to manage noxious weeds and undesirable plants on BLM lands by preventing establishment and spread of new infestations, reducing existing population levels, and managing and controlling existing stands. Required management for ground-disturbing actions includes determining the risk of spreading noxious weeds associated with the Project and ensuring contracts contain provisions which hold contractors responsible for the prevention and control of noxious weeds caused by their operations if the activity is determined to be moderate to high risk. Additionally, herbicide treatment of noxious weeds on BLM lands in Oregon follows the guidelines outlined in the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement on Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Oregon (BLM 2010a). Pending site specific NEPA analysis at the District level, this programmatic, statewide decision expands the number of herbicides available for use by Oregon BLM Districts and allows for the use of 17 herbicides east of the Cascades.

B2.2.7 Bureau of Reclamation

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is responsible for identification and proper management of pests on BOR lands in accordance with federal, state, and local policies, laws, and standards. The BOR’s Reclamation Manual (BOR 1996a, 1996b) includes standards and directives for pest management and Integrated Pest Management (Reclamation Manual ENV-01). Additionally, the Department of Interior (DOI) Departmental Manual (609 DM 1; DOI 1995) states that “it is the DOI’s policy to control undesirable plants on the lands, waters, or facilities under its jurisdiction to the extent economically practicable and as needed for resource/environmental protection and enhancement, as well as the accomplishment of resource management objectives and the protection of human health.” This manual also provides directives and standards for control of undesirable plants and implementation of Integrated Pest Management programs on DOI lands including BOR land. In keeping with this policy, the use of Integrated Pest Management techniques is emphasized. These techniques combine the use of chemical controls (pesticides), mechanical controls (mowing, pulling), environmental controls (cultural methods), and biological controls (insects).

B2.3 Noxious Weeds in the Project Area

This section of the Plan describes the known status of noxious weed species within the Project area based on existing information. Section B2.3.1 discusses the state of Oregon listed noxious weeds that have the potential to occur in the counties crossed by the Project. Section B2.3.2 discusses the noxious weed species identified within the Project area based on existing BLM and USFS databases.

B2.3.1 Oregon State Noxious Weeds Lists

The ODA updates the state of Oregon noxious weed list each year (ODA 2015a). Currently, 131 plant species are listed as noxious in Oregon. As stated above, in addition to the state list of noxious weeds, the five Oregon counties crossed by the Project each maintain a county designated noxious weed list.

Table B2-1 lists the Oregon state listed noxious weeds known to occur within the counties that would be crossed by the Project. This list is based on information obtained from publicly available sources including the Oregon WeedMapper (ODA 2015b), the INVADERS database (University of Missoula-Montana 2015), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service PLANTS database (NRCS 2015). Based on these sources, 88 state and/or county listed noxious weed species have the potential to occur within the Project area (Table B2-1).

**Table B2-1
Noxious Weeds with the Potential to Occur within the B2H Project Area.**

Scientific Name (Synonym Name)	Common Name	Oregon State Noxious Weed Category¹	Oregon County Noxious Weed Category²	Project Counties in Which Known to Occur
<i>Acroptilon repens</i> (<i>Centaurea repens</i>)	Russian knapweed	B	A (Union) B (Baker, Malheur ³ , Morrow, Umatilla)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>	Jointed goatgrass	B	A (Baker, Malheur) B (Morrow, Umatilla, Union)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Union
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of heaven	B	–	Umatilla
<i>Alhagi pseudalhagi</i>	Camelthorn	A	A (Malheur, Umatilla)	Umatilla
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard	B, T	–	Umatilla
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Common ragweed	B	B (Umatilla) C (Malheur)	Malheur, Umatilla
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False indigo bush	B	–	Baker, Malheur, Umatilla
<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	Common bugloss	B, T	A (Union) Watch List ⁴ (Baker)	Umatilla, Union
<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild oat	–	C (Union)	Union
<i>Bassia scoparia</i> (<i>Kochia scoparia</i>)	Kochia; burning bush	B	B (Morrow, Umatilla) Agricultural Class B ⁵ (Union) C (Baker, Malheur)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Cheatgrass	–	C (Malheur)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	Marijuana	–	A (Umatilla)	Malheur
<i>Cardaria chalepensis</i> (<i>Lepidium chalepensis</i>)	Lenspod whitetop	B	–	Malheur
<i>Cardaria draba</i> (<i>Lepidium draba</i>)	Whitetop; hoary cress	B	A (Baker ⁶ , Morrow, Union) B (Baker ⁶ , Malheur, Umatilla)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk thistle	B	A (Morrow) B (Malheur, Umatilla) Watch List (Baker)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Purple starthistle	A, T	A (Malheur, Umatilla)	Umatilla
<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	Diffuse knapweed	B	A (Baker, Malheur) B (Morrow, Umatilla, Union)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Centaurea nigrescens</i> (<i>C. debeauxii</i> ; <i>C. jacea x</i> <i>nigra</i> ; <i>C. pratensis</i>)	Short-fringe knapweed; Meadow knapweed	B	A (Malheur, Union)	Union
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow starthistle	B	A (Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Union) B (Umatilla)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union

**Table B2-1
Noxious Weeds with the Potential to Occur within the B2H Project Area.**

Scientific Name (Synonym Name)	Common Name	Oregon State Noxious Weed Category¹	Oregon County Noxious Weed Category²	Project Counties in Which Known to Occur
<i>Centaurea stoebe subsp. micranthos</i> (<i>C. maculosa</i>)	Spotted knapweed	B, T	A (Baker, Malheur, Umatilla) B (Morrow, Union)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Centaurea virgata</i> (<i>C. triumfetti</i>)	Squarrose knapweed	A, T	A (Malheur)	Baker, Malheur, Union
<i>Centromadia pungens subsp. pungens</i> ⁷ (<i>Hemizonia pungens</i>)	Spikeweed; common tarweed	B	A (Morrow)	Morrow, Umatilla
<i>Ceratocephala testiculata</i> (<i>Ranunculus testiculatus</i>)	Bur buttercup	–	C (Baker)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	Rush skeletonweed	B, T	A (Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chickory	–	B (Baker)	Morrow, Union
<i>Cicuta douglasii</i> ⁸	Water hemlock	–	B (Morrow) C (Baker)	Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle	B	B (Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle	B	B (Baker) Agricultural Class B ⁵ (Union) C (Malheur)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison hemlock	B	B (Morrow) Agricultural Class B ⁵ (Union) C (Baker, Malheur)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed	B, T	B (Morrow) C (Baker, Malheur)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Conyza canadensis</i> ⁸	Horseweed; mares tail	–	Agricultural Class B ⁵ (Union)	Malheur, Union
<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>	Common crupina	B	A (Malheur, Morrow)	Umatilla
<i>Cuscuta</i> spp.	Dodder	B	B (Baker, Morrow, Umatilla) C (Malheur)	Baker, Malheur
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Houndstongue	B	A (Morrow) Agricultural Class B ⁵ (Union) B (Malheur)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union

**Table B2-1
Noxious Weeds with the Potential to Occur within the B2H Project Area.**

Scientific Name (Synonym Name)	Common Name	Oregon State Noxious Weed Category¹	Oregon County Noxious Weed Category²	Project Counties in Which Known to Occur
<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	Yellow nutsedge	B	C (Malheur)	Malheur, Morrow
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch broom	B	A (Union)	Baker, Umatilla, Union
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Jimsonweed	–	A (Malheur)	Morrow, Union
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Fuller's teasel	–	B (Baker)	Baker, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Elymus repens</i> (<i>Agropyron repens</i>)	Quackgrass	–	B (Umatilla) Agricultural Class B ⁵ (Union) C (Malheur)	Malheur, Umatilla
<i>Equisetum arvense</i> ⁸	Western horsetail	–	C (Malheur)	Baker, Malheur, Umatilla, Union
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Leafy spurge	B, T	A (Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	Myrtle spurge	B	B (Baker, Morrow)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Galium aparine</i> ⁸	Catchweed bedstraw	–	Agricultural Class B ⁵ (Union)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>	Halogeton	B	C (Malheur)	Malheur
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English ivy	B	–	Union
<i>Hibiscus trionum</i>	Venice mallow	–	B (Baker)	Malheur
<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	Orange hawkweed	A	A (Union)	Morrow
<i>Hieracium caespitosum</i> (<i>H. pratense</i> ; <i>Pilosella</i> <i>caespitosa</i>)	Meadow hawkweed	B, T	A (Union)	Umatilla, Union
<i>Hieracium piloselloides</i>	Tall hawkweed; king-devil hawkweed	A	A (Union)	Umatilla
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Black henbane	–	A (Baker)	Baker, Morrow, Umatilla
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Klamathweed (St. Johnswort)	B	A (Malheur) Agricultural Class B ⁵ (Union) B (Baker, Morrow, Umatilla)	Baker, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow flag iris	B	A (Baker, Union)	Baker, Malheur, Umatilla, Union
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	Dyers woad	B	A (Malheur) Watch List ⁴ (Baker)	Baker, Malheur, Umatilla, Union
<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	Perennial peavine	B	–	Umatilla
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Perennial pepperweed	B, T	A (Baker, Malheur ⁹ , Union) B (Malheur ⁹ , Morrow, Umatilla)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	Dalmation toadflax	B, T	A (Baker, Malheur, Morrow) B (Umatilla, Union)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union

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Noxious Weeds with the Potential to Occur within the B2H Project Area.**

Scientific Name (Synonym Name)	Common Name	Oregon State Noxious Weed Category¹	Oregon County Noxious Weed Category²	Project Counties in Which Known to Occur
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Yellow toadflax	B	A (Malheur, Morrow) B (Baker)	Baker, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife	B	A (Baker, Morrow, Umatilla) B (Malheur, Union)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Sweet clover	–	C (Malheur)	Baker, Malheur, Umatilla, Union
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian watermilfoil	B	-	Union
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle	B	A (Baker, Morrow) B (Malheur, Umatilla, Union)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Small broomrape	B	–	Baker
<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>	Wild proso millet	–	A (Malheur)	Baker
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed canarygrass; ribbongrass	B, T	–	Malheur, Morrow, Union
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed	B	B (Malheur)	Malheur, Morrow, Union
<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>)	Japanese knotweed	B	A (Baker, Union)	Baker, Morrow, Union
<i>Polygonum sachalinensis</i> (<i>Fallopia sachalinense</i>)	Giant knotweed	B	A (Union)	Morrow, Umatilla
<i>Potentilla recta</i>	Sulfur cinquefoil	B	A (Malheur, Union ¹⁰) B (Baker, Union ¹⁰)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Rorippa sylvestris</i>	Creeping yellow cress	B	A (Umatilla)	Union
<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	Himalayan blackberry	B	–	Umatilla
<i>Salsola tragus</i> (<i>S. iberica</i> ; <i>S. kali</i>)	Russian thistle	–	Agricultural Class B ⁵ (Union) C (Baker, Malheur)	Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla
<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>	Mediterranean sage	B	A (Malheur, Morrow) Watch List (Baker)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla Union
<i>Secale cereal</i>	Cereal rye	–	B (Morrow, Umatilla)	Union
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Tansy ragwort	B, T	A (Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union)	Baker, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk thistle	B	A (Malheur)	Umatilla
<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	Silverleaf nightshade	A	A (Malheur)	Baker, Umatilla
<i>Solanum rostratum</i>	Buffalobur	B	A (Baker, Malheur)	Baker, Malheur, Union
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Perennial sowthistle	–	B (Morrow)	Baker, Morrow, Umatilla

Table B2-1 Noxious Weeds with the Potential to Occur within the B2H Project Area.				
Scientific Name (Synonym Name)	Common Name	Oregon State Noxious Weed Category ¹	Oregon County Noxious Weed Category ²	Project Counties in Which Known to Occur
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnsongrass	B	A (Malheur) B (Morrow, Umatilla)	Morrow, Umatilla
<i>Sphaerophysa salsula</i>	Alkali swainsonpea	B	A (Malheur) B (Umatilla)	Morrow, Umatilla
<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>	Medusahead	B	A (Union) B (Morrow) C (Baker, Malheur)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	Saltcedar	B, T	A (Baker) C (Malheur)	Baker, Malheur, Umatilla
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Common tansy	–	B (Baker)	Baker, Umatilla
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Puncturevine	B	B (Baker, Morrow, Umatilla, Union) C (Malheur)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
<i>Ventenata dubia</i>	Ventenata; North Africa grass	–	B (Malheur, Morrow)	Umatilla, Union
<i>Verbascum blattaria</i>	Moth mullein	–	C (Baker)	Baker, Malheur, Umatilla, Union
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Common mullein	–	C (Baker)	Baker, Umatilla, Union
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	Spiny cocklebur	B	A (Malheur)	Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union
¹ – = not applicable ² This column includes county listed noxious weeds for the five counties in Oregon crossed by the Project. ³ Owners or occupants in Malheur County with Russian knapweed infestations are required to control a minimum 20 percent of their annual infestation per discreet parcel of land per year. This includes a 50-foot buffer plus additional amounts that total 20 percent of the infestation. ⁴ Watch List – Few known sites; controlled by Weed Supervisor county-wide (Baker County). ⁵ Agricultural Class B is defined as "...a weed of economic importance, specifically in Union county agriculture, which is both locally abundant and abundant in neighboring counties." ⁶ <i>Whitetop</i> is listed as an "A" weed in designated areas of the county (i.e., Pine Valley and West Baker Valley and Bowen Valley/Sumpter areas are mandatory control). <i>Whitetop</i> is a "B" weed in all other areas of the county. ⁷ Considered native in California, but introduced in Oregon (Baldwin and Strother 2006; OFP 2015). ⁸ This species is native to Oregon. ⁹ Perennial pepperweed is an "A" weed only in that part of Malheur County south of the road leading from the junction of the Malheur County line and McBride Creek Road, west to Leslie Gulch Road, to Lake Owyhee and the area south of the road leading from the Rinehart Ranch to the Crowley Road, west to Highway 78, north to the Malheur County line. It is a "B" weed in all other parts of the county. ¹⁰ This species is listed on both the Class A and Class B lists in Union County.				

B2.3.2 Idaho State Noxious Weeds Lists

Idaho has 67 different species of weeds which are designated noxious by state law. Table B2-2 lists the Idaho state listed noxious weeds and identifies if they are known to occur within Owyhee County, which would be crossed by the Project. This list is based on State of Idaho Department of Agriculture species extent maps (<http://www.agri.idaho.gov/AGRI/Categories/PlantsInsects/NoxiousWeeds/watchlist.php>). Based on this information, 25 state listed noxious weed species are known to occur in Owyhee County, Idaho (Table B2-2).

Table B2-2.			
Idaho Noxious Weeds Known to Occur or with the Potential to Occur within Owyhee County.			
Scientific Name (Synonym Name)	Common Name	Idaho State Noxious Weed Category	Known to Occur In Owyhee County
<i>Egeria densa</i>	Brazilian Elodea	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Hydrcharis morsus-ranae</i>	Common/European Frogbit	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Cobomba caroliniana</i>	Fanwort	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Azolla pinnata</i>	Feathered Mosquito Fern	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Giant Hogweed	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Giant Salvinia	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Centaurea iberica</i>	Iberian Starthistle	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	Hydrilla	Statewide EDRR	Yes
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Policeman's Helmet	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Purple Starthistle	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Centaurea triumfetti</i>	Squarrose Knapweed	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Zygophyllum fabago</i>	Syrian Beancaper	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Hieracium piloselloides</i>	Tall Hawkweed	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>	Variable-Leaf-Milfoil	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Trapa natans</i>	Water Chestnut	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Water Hyacinth	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Hieracium glomeratum</i>	Yellow Devil Hawkweed	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Nymphoides pelata</i>	Yellow Floating Heart	Statewide EDRR	No
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Black Henbane	Statewide Control List	Yes
<i>Polygonum bohemicum</i>	Bohemian Knotweed	Statewide Control List	No
<i>Solanum rostratum</i>	Buffalobur	Statewide Control List	Yes
<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>	Common Crupina	Statewide Control List	No
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed (Phragmites)	Statewide Control List	Yes
<i>Isatis Tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Woad	Statewide Control List	Yes
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian Watermilfoil	Statewide Control List	Yes
<i>Polygonum sachalinense</i>	Giant Knotweed	Statewide Control List	No
<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Japanese Knotweed	Statewide Control List	No
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnsongrass	Statewide Control List	No
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	Matgrass	Statewide Control List	No
<i>Centaurea debeauxii</i>	Meadow Knapweed	Statewide Control List	No
<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>	Mediterranean Sage	Statewide Control List	No
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk Thistle	Statewide Control List	Yes
<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	Orange Hawkweed	Statewide Control List	No
<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Parrotfeather Milfoil	Statewide Control List	No
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Perennial Sowthistle	Statewide Control List	No

Table B2-2. Idaho Noxious Weeds Known to Occur or with the Potential to Occur within Owyhee County.			
Scientific Name (Synonym Name)	Common Name	Idaho State Noxious Weed Category	Known to Occur In Owyhee County
<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Russian Knapweed	Statewide Control List	Yes
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch Broom	Statewide Control List	No
<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	Small Bugloss	Statewide Control List	No
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Vipers Bugloss	Statewide Control List	No
<i>Hieracium caespitosum</i>	Yellow Hawkweed	Statewide Control	No
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Curlyleaf Pondweed	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Linaria dalmatia ssp. dalmatia</i>	Dalmatian Toadflax	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	Diffuse Knapweed	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering Rush	Statewide Containment	No
<i>Berteroa incana</i>	Hoary Alyssum	Statewide Containment	No
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Houndstongue	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Aegilpos cylindrica</i>	Jointed Goatgrass	Statewide Containment	No
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Leafy Spurge	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Milium vernale</i>	Milium	Statewide Containment	No
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	Statewide Containment	No
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Perennial Pepperweed	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	Plumeless Thistle	Statewide Containment	No
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison Hemlock	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Puncturevine	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	Rush Skeletonweed	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Tamarix sp.</i>	Saltcedar	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch Thistle	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	Spotted Knapweed	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Tansy Ragwort	Statewide Containment	No
<i>Bryonia alba</i>	White Bryony	Statewide Containment	No
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Whitetop	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Iris psudocorus</i>	Yellow Flag Iris	Statewide Containment	Yes
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow Starthistle	Statewide Containment	No
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Yellow Toadflax	Statewide Containment	No

B2.3.3 Preconstruction Noxious Weed Inventory

Per Table 1 of the Revised Final Biological Survey Work Plan (Tetra Tech 2011a), a preconstruction noxious weed inventory of areas that will be disturbed during construction will be conducted prior to construction. This inventory will be used to develop final noxious weed treatment and monitoring methods. The Construction Contractor(s) will conduct the preconstruction noxious weed surveys within all areas expected to be subject to ground disturbance. These surveys will be conducted during the appropriate growing season to observe and identify noxious weed species. Existing infestations of noxious weed species adjacent to the Project will be documented during preconstruction surveys, as well as adjacent land uses which can contribute to the proliferation of noxious weeds. The preconstruction noxious weed inventory map will be used to delineate noxious weed infected area(s) prior to construction

and will serve as the basis for comparison of post construction conditions to document any noxious weed infestations that have been introduced or spread as a result of Project activities, and, thus which IPC is responsible for treating. The map will also be used to identify areas for preconstruction noxious weed control treatments.

Prior to construction, areas of noxious weed infestations identified during these surveys will be flagged by the Construction Contractor(s) and reviewed by the appropriate land management agency. This flagging will alert construction personnel to the presence of noxious weeds and will prevent access to these areas until noxious weed control measures, as applicable, have been implemented.

The results of the preconstruction surveys will be included in the Final Noxious Weed Plan. Once the preconstruction surveys are completed, noxious weeds identified during the surveys will be reported, in a format agreed upon between the Construction Contractor(s) and the applicable land-managing agency in whose jurisdiction the weeds occur.

B2.4 Noxious Weed Management

This section of the Plan describes the steps IPC will take to prevent and control the establishment and spread of noxious weed species that are the result of Project activities. Noxious weeds will be controlled and monitored during both construction and O&M of the Project. IPC will work to control any new noxious weed population that is demonstrated to be the result of Project construction, operation, or maintenance (i.e., a new infestation in an area disturbed by Project activities that cannot be attributed to adjacent existing infestations or introduction by a source outside the control of IPC).

If construction, operation, and/or maintenance of the Project cause an existing noxious weed infestation to exceed the extent identified and delineated within areas subject to disturbance during preconstruction surveys, IPC will be required to monitor and control the infestation. However, IPC will not be responsible for control of pre-existing noxious weed populations outside of the Project ROW, unless done so at IPC's or the Construction Contractor(s)'s discretion to minimize the spread of existing infestations through Project activities (where applicable and as agreed upon with the land management agency and/or landowner). In addition, IPC will not be responsible for noxious weeds introduced into the ROW by activities other than Project construction and O&M (e.g., recreational use, grazing, other construction projects, etc.) or natural occurrences (e.g., fire), or noxious weeds outside the ROW or along existing access roads not improved by the Project.

The management of noxious weeds will be considered throughout all stages of the Project and will include:

- Educating all construction personnel regarding locations of noxious weed infestations and the importance of preventive measures and treatment methods.
- Specific preventative measures to prevent the spread of noxious weeds during construction, operation, and maintenance, activities.
- Treating noxious weed infestations both before and after Project construction.

B2.4.1 Mitigation Measures

The mitigation measures described in this section are applicable to Project construction, reclamation, operation, and maintenance. Several measures may be required to mitigate both particular impacts and/or potential impacts associated with construction activities. The following noxious weed mitigation measures include design features of the Project for environmental protection and selective mitigation measures derived from the EIS and other specific stipulations and methods.

B2.4.1.1 Design Features of the Project for Environmental Protection

Applied Project-wide, Project design features for environmental protection have been developed in accordance with BLM and USFS standards and will address many of the concerns associated with noxious weed management. Following is a description of design features that addresses construction and operation of Project facilities regarding noxious weed management.

- **Design Feature 5.** The spatial limits of construction activities, including vehicle movement, would be predetermined with activity restricted to and confined within those limits. No paint or permanent discoloring agents indicating survey or construction limits would be applied to rocks, vegetation, structures, fences, etc.
- **Design Feature 6.** In construction areas (e.g., staging areas, material laydown yards, fly yards, and wire pulling/splicing sites) where there is ground disturbance and where recontouring is required, surface reclamation would occur as required by the Reclamation, Revegetation, and Monitoring Plan or the landowner. The method of reclamation may consist of, but not be limited to, returning disturbed areas to their natural contour, replacement of displaced rocks and boulders in a manner that doesn't create strong edge conditions, reseeding, installing cross drains for erosion control, placing water bars in permanent roads, use of vertical pitting and mulching used for clearings in sage areas, and filling ditches where they were installed for temporary roads.

All areas disturbed as a part of the construction and/or maintenance of the proposed transmission line would be seeded with a seed mixture appropriate for those areas as identified in the Reclamation, Revegetation, and Monitoring Plan. The federal land-management agency or landowner(s) would approve a seed mixture that is compatible with the affected Ecological Site Description. Seeding methods typically would include drill seeding, where practicable; however, the federal land-management agency or landowner(s) may recommend broadcast seeding as an alternative method in some cases.

In construction areas where disturbing the existing contours is not required, vegetation would be left in place wherever possible, and original contours would be maintained to avoid excessive root damage and allow for resprouting in accordance with the Reclamation, Revegetation, and Monitoring Plan or landowner approval.

- **Design Feature 7.** In work areas where ground-disturbing activities would occur, topsoil would be salvaged and segregated prior to construction, to be redistributed and contoured evenly over the surface of the disturbed area to be removed following completion of construction. The soil surface would be seeded with an agency- or landowner-approved seed mix and left rough to help reduce the potential for erosion and loss of seeded surface as specified in the reclamation plan.
- **Design Feature 8.** Grading will be minimized by driving overland in areas approved in advance by the land-management agency and/or land owner in predesignated work areas (e.g., staging areas, material laydown yards, fly yards, and wire pulling/splicing sites) whenever possible.
- **Design Feature 9.** All vehicle movement outside the right-of-way would be restricted to predesignated access, contractor-acquired access, public roads, overland travel routes, or crossings of streams approved in advance by the applicable land-management agency or landowner.
- **Design Feature 15.** Consistent with the BLM and USFS riparian management policies, surface-disturbing activities would be avoided in defined segments of Riparian Conservation Areas, using the following delineation criteria, unless exception criteria defined by the BLM are met or with agency approval of acceptable measures to protect riparian resources and habitats by avoiding or minimizing stormwater runoff, sedimentation, and disturbance of riparian vegetation, habitats, and wildlife species:

- Fish-bearing streams: 300 feet slope distance on either side of the stream, or to the extent of additional delineation criteria, whichever is greatest.
- Perennial non-fish bearing streams: 150 feet slope distance on either side of the stream, or to the extent of additional delineation criteria, whichever is greatest.
- Ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands greater than 1 acre: 150 feet slope distance from the edge of the maximum pool elevation of constructed ponds and reservoirs, or from the edge of the wetland, pond or lake, or to the extent of additional delineation criteria, whichever is greatest.
- Intermittent or seasonally flowing streams and wetlands less than 1 acre: In watersheds that support ESA-listed fish species and /or designated critical habitat, 100 feet slope distance from the edge of the stream channel or wetland to the outer edge of riparian vegetation, whichever is greatest.
- In watersheds that do not have current, documented presence of ESA-listed fish species and /or designated critical habitat, 50 feet slope distance from the edge of the stream channel or wetland to the outer edge of riparian vegetation, whichever is greatest.

Mitigation measures, such as micro-siting road locations, would be developed on a site-specific basis, in consultation and coordination with the BLM and other federal land-management agencies, and incorporated into the final POD.

- **Design Feature 16.** Based on biological resources surveys and results of Section 7 consultation (with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service), state and federally designated sensitive plants, fisheries, habitat, wetlands, riparian areas, springs, wells, water courses, or rare/slow regenerating vegetation communities would be flagged and structures would be placed to allow spanning of these features, where feasible, within the limits of standard structure design. Surveys for fish species are not anticipated; ESA-listed fish species would be presumed present in all watersheds that agency data indicate presence.

B2.4.1.2 Selective Mitigation Measures

The selective mitigation measures to be applied on a site-specific basis to minimize potential adverse effects related to noxious weeds during construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project are included below. In selective areas, and on a case-by-case basis, the selective mitigations measures will be implemented by the Construction Contractor(s) and will be included in the Construction POD as Volume II – Map Sets of the POD:

- **Selective Mitigation Measure 1 (Limit Widening of Existing Roads in Areas of Sensitive Soils, Vegetation and/or Stream Crossings).** In areas where soils, vegetation, and/or streams are sensitive to disturbance, existing roads to be used for construction access and/or B2H Project maintenance will not, as much as possible/practicable, be widened or otherwise upgraded except in areas necessary to make existing roads passable and safe.

- **Selective Mitigation Measure 4 (Minimize Slope Cut and Fill for Access and Work Areas).** The alignment of new access roads will follow the landform contours where practicable to minimize ground disturbance and/or reduce scarring (visual contrast) of the landscape.

Modification to the size and/or configuration of the structure work areas facilitated by minor structure design adjustments (e.g., altering leg length) will be used to minimize cut and fill slopes and blend contours with existing topography.

Additionally, soil amendments or mineral emulsions will be applied, or grading techniques such as slope rounding and slope scarification will be used to blend road and structure work area cuts into the landscape in areas of steep terrain where grading is necessary, in rocky areas, or where soil color will create strong landscape contrasts.

- **Selective Mitigation Measure 5 (Minimize Vegetation Clearing for Operational Clearances).** Removal of vegetation in the right-of-way would be minimized to limit disturbance to timber resources, reduce disturbance to agricultural production, reduce visual contrast, and protect sensitive habitat, subject to structure- and conductor-clearance requirements. Trees and other vegetation would be removed selectively (e.g., edge feathering) to blend the edge of the right-of-way into adjacent vegetation patterns, as practicable and appropriate. Refer to EIS for more descriptive description of vegetation management.
- **Selective Mitigation Measure 6 (Limit New or Improved Accessibility to Areas Previously Inaccessible).** In areas of sensitive habitat or areas sensitive to additional public access, new or improved access in the B2H Project area will be limited.
New or improved access will be closed or rehabilitated using the most effective and least environmentally damaging methods appropriate to that area (in consultation with the landowner or land-management agency). Methods for road closure or management may include installing locking gates, obstructing the path (e.g., earthen berms, boulders, redistribution of woody debris), revegetating and mulching the surface of the roadbed to make it less apparent, or restoring the road to its natural contour and vegetation.
- **Selective Mitigation Measure 8 (Span and/or Avoid Sensitive Features).** Within the limits of standard tower design, structures would be located to allow conductors to avoid identified sensitive features such as dwelling/buildings and span sensitive existing land uses, natural features, hazardous substance remediation sites, and cultural resource sites. This could be accomplished through methods such as selective tower placement, spanning sensitive features, or realigning the B2H Project centerline (micro-sighting).
- **Selective Mitigation Measure 14 (Overland Access).** In addition to using overland travel in work areas, overland access to work areas may be used to reduce resource impacts. The Construction Contractor will use overland access in areas where no grading will be needed to access work areas. Overland access will consist of drive-and-crush (i.e., vehicular travel to access a site without significantly modifying the landscape, cropping vegetation, or removing soil) and/or clear-and-cut travel (removal of all vegetation while leaving the root crown intact to improve or provide suitable access for equipment). Prior to commencement of work activities, overland access routes will be staked. Routes will be specified in the POD. Use of overland access routes will be restricted based on dry or frozen soil conditions, seasonal weather conditions, and relatively flat terrain.

B2.4.2 Education and Personnel Requirements

Prior to the initiation of construction activities, all construction personnel will be instructed on the importance of controlling noxious weeds. As part of start-up activities, and to help facilitate the avoidance of infestations and identification of new infestations, the Construction Contractor(s) will provide information and training to all construction personnel regarding noxious weed identification and management. The importance of preventing the spread of noxious weeds in areas not currently infested, and controlling the proliferation of noxious weeds already present in the Project ROW, will be emphasized.

The Construction Contractor(s) will ensure that weed management actions will be carried out by specialists with the following qualifications:

- Experience in native plant and noxious weed identification;
- Experience in noxious weed mapping;
- Possession of a Public or Commercial Pesticide Applicator License from the ODA (if chemical control is used);

- Training in weed management or Integrated Pest Management with an emphasis in weeds; and
- Experience in coordination with agency and private landowners.

B2.4.3 Prevention

Measures will be implemented to prevent the spread of noxious weeds during construction activities, reclamation efforts, and O&M activities.

To help prevent the spread of noxious weeds during construction, all Construction Contractor(s) vehicles and equipment will be cleaned using high-pressure air or water equipment prior to arrival at the work site. The cleaning activities will concentrate on tracks, feet, or tires and the undercarriage with special emphasis on axles, frame, cross members, motor mounts, underneath steps, running boards, and front bumper/brush guard assemblies. Vehicle cabs will be swept out or vacuumed. The vehicle cleaning stations will be located within each of the Project multi-use areas. The Construction Contractor(s) will include in the Final Noxious Weed Management Plan a detailed design identifying all of the components of the wash stations, including rock surface and geomembrane layer to provide a barrier between noxious weeds and seeds and the soil, and the frequency that vehicles will be washed for approval by the appropriate land-management agency. The Construction Contractor(s) shall also provide a description of how residue from the wash station will be disposed of for approval by the appropriate land management agency.

B2.4.4 Control Measures

Noxious weed control measures will be implemented prior to construction, during construction and following construction. The Construction Contractor(s) will be responsible for providing the necessary personnel or hiring a contractor, with qualifications as described in Section B2.4.2, to implement noxious weed control procedures. In the event new noxious weed populations are identified on the Project in the future, the protocols and methods outlined in this Plan will be followed.

Methods to control noxious weeds associated with Project activities may include mechanical, cultural, biological, or chemical measures. Each of these control methods is briefly described below. Noxious weed control measures will be implemented in accordance with existing state and county regulations and applicable land management agency requirements. Control measures will be based on species-specific and site-specific conditions (e.g., proximity to water or riparian areas, agricultural areas, occurrence of special status plant species, and season of application) and will be coordinated with the appropriate land management agencies, as well as the OSWB and county weed boards or weed control districts, and the Construction Contractor's weed management specialist. Following preconstruction surveys, the Construction Contractor's weed management specialist will provide a detailed control methodology for each noxious weed species to be controlled. These species-specific control methodologies will be documented in the Final Noxious Weed Management Plan. The appropriate land management agencies will review and approve the Final Noxious Weed Management Plan prior to implementation.

Mechanical

Mechanical control methods rely on removal of plants and/or cutting roots with a shovel or other hand tools or equipment that can be used to remove, mow, or disc weed populations. Mechanical methods are useful for smaller, isolated populations of noxious weeds in areas of sensitive habitats, or if larger populations occur in agricultural lands, where tillage can be implemented. Some rhizomatous plants can spread by discing or tillage; therefore, implementation of this method will be species specific. If such a method is used in areas to be reclaimed, subsequent seeding will be conducted to re-establish a desirable vegetative cover that will stabilize the soils and slow the potential re-invasion of noxious weeds.

Cultural

Cultural control methods rely on preventive education of the public and construction, operation, and maintenance personnel. Cultural control of noxious weeds can also include the minimization of personnel and vehicular travel through areas of known noxious weed populations. To avoid spreading noxious weed seed or plant materials, noxious weed populations identified during preconstruction surveys or by the BLM, USFS, and/or state weed control officials will be cordoned off and flagged and to alert construction personnel of the presence of noxious weeds. Access to these areas will be prevented until weed management control measures have been implemented. Additionally, prior to the initiation of construction activities all construction personnel will be instructed on the importance of controlling noxious weeds and will be provided information and training regarding noxious weed identification and management.

Biological

Biological control involves the use of living organisms (insects, diseases, and livestock) to control noxious weeds to achieve management objectives. Many noxious weed and invasive plants species have been introduced recently into North America and have few natural enemies to control their population. The biological control agent is typically adapted to a specific species and selected for their ability to attack critical areas of the plant that contribute to its persistence.

Chemical

Chemical control can effectively remove noxious weeds through use of selective herbicides. Herbicide treatment can be temporarily effective for large populations of noxious weeds where other means of control may not be feasible. The type of herbicide and method of use shall be approved by the applicable land-managing agency prior to their use. On private and state lands, appropriate federal and state approved herbicides will be used.

BLM (2010a) lists herbicides acceptable for use on BLM-administered lands in Oregon providing stepdown NEPA has been completed by the District. Prior to the stepdown NEPA's approval, only herbicide currently approved would be allowed, and only those formulations on the BLM 2014 lists of Herbicides and Adjuvants. BLM (2014) lists herbicides acceptable for use on BLM-administered lands in Idaho. In addition to being approved by the BLM nationally, the herbicides must be registered with the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Oregon (BLM 2010a). USFS (2010) outlines the use of the 10 herbicides approved for use in Region 6 of the USFS, including the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. The herbicides listed in Attachment A – Agency-Approved Herbicides may be used in the Project area after coordination with the Construction Contractor(s) and after submittal of Pesticide Use Proposals (PUP) (see below). Revisions to the approved pesticide list will occur in conjunction with agency-approved pesticide list updates.

Application of herbicides on BLM or USFS land will also require submittal of PUPs, which identify and describe the location of the area to be treated, the target species, the herbicide and application rate, and application method to be used, as well as describing all anticipated impacts to non-target species and susceptible areas (BLM 2010b). Additionally, BLM requires a Pesticide Application Record (PAR) be completed within 24 hours of any treatments on BLM administered land. A BLM PAR form may be used or a comparable form that includes the required information that is listed on the BLM form. PUPs may also be required for treatment on BOR-managed lands. Herbicides approved for use within the Project ROW will be reviewed and approved by the BLM, USFS, ODA, and County Weed Supervisor or Superintendents prior to beginning construction and/or prior to use. Final species-specific noxious weed control methodologies will be included by the Construction Contractor(s) in the Final Noxious Weed Management Plan. Herbicide applications will be controlled, as described in Section B2.6 – Pesticide Application, Handling, Spills, and Cleanup, to minimize the impacts on the surrounding vegetation.

B2.4.4.1 Preconstruction Noxious Weed Control

Based on the preconstruction noxious weed inventory (Section B2.3.3) and working in conjunction with the appropriate land management agencies and state and county weed districts, the Construction Contractor(s) will identify areas where preconstruction noxious weed control measures will be implemented. The decision whether to treat the weeds prior to the start of construction activities will be based on the nature and extent of the infestation, surrounding conditions (e.g., the predominance and density of infestations noxious weeds adjacent to the ROW), landowner permission, land-managing agency requests, timeliness of land-managing agency approval, and the construction schedule. Treatment options could consist of mechanical control, hand spraying of herbicides, and biological controls; the exact method of control will be approved by the land-managing agency or landowner prior to use and will be documented in the Final Noxious Weed Management Plan. All use of herbicides will comply with the label restrictions, as well as federal, state, and/or county regulations and landowner agreements. All areas treated will be documented using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology and will be included in an annual report.

B2.4.4.2 Noxious Weed Control during Construction

Measures will be taken during construction to further minimize the risk of spreading or introducing noxious weed species. Known locations of existing infestations of noxious weeds will be avoided to the extent practical. When infected areas cannot be avoided, soil removed from these areas will be clearly identified as coming from infected areas; it will be stored separately from uninfected soils, and returned to the area in which it was taken, following construction. Vehicles will be cleaned of soil and herbaceous materials prior to arriving at job-sites, in order to limit the risk of construction equipment serving as a vector for the spread of noxious weed species. The Final Noxious Weed Management Plan will provide the location of all cleaning stations that will be used, and how the removed materials will be captured or treated so that the cleaning stations will not become infected. All areas that will be used on a regular basis during construction (e.g., storage areas) will be kept clear of noxious weed species during construction, to prevent these areas from becoming a source population for noxious weed spread. Reclamation efforts in disturbed areas will entail measures to further minimize the risk of spreading or introducing noxious weed species (e.g., using weed-free materials). All applicable and required BLM and USFS protocols for preventing and controlling noxious weed species will be followed on federally managed lands. See Section B2.4.2 above for further discussion on measures that will be implemented during construction to prevent and minimize the introduction and spread of noxious weed species due to Project construction activities.

B2.4.4.3 Post-Construction Noxious Weed Control

Post-construction noxious weed control and monitoring, as well as reclamation and revegetation efforts, are critical components of successful noxious weed control. Noxious weed control efforts will be conducted for 3 to 5 years following the completion of construction activities. Noxious weed control efforts will continue beyond 3 to 5 years if 1) disturbed areas are not meeting preconstruction conditions and adjacent land uses are not deemed to be the primary cause of the introduction and/or persistence of noxious weed species within areas disturbed by the Project, and/or 2) maintenance activities have caused or contributed to the spread or establishment of noxious weeds. IPC will conduct ongoing monitoring and focused control of noxious weed infestations inside of the ROW, as needed, for the life of the BLM ROW grant and USFS special-use authorization.

Using the prior years' treatment and monitoring information, post-construction noxious weed treatment will be planned by IPC and coordinated with the applicable land-managing agencies to ensure treatment will be conducted at the proper growing period and during favorable environmental conditions. Annual herbicide use will be planned and coordinated with the applicable agencies and will be based on the results of the prior years' monitoring data to ensure spraying is conducted only where necessary, in areas

approved for herbicide use, during the proper growing period, during favorable environmental conditions, and using only the appropriate and agency-approved chemicals to control target noxious weed species.

B2.4.5 Reclamation Actions

As specified in the Reclamation, Revegetation, and Monitoring Plan (POD Appendix C1), the primary goal of conducting reclamation activities is to reclaim temporarily disturbed areas to preconstruction conditions to the extent practical, which includes preventing spread and establishment of noxious weed species.

B2.5 Monitoring and Reporting

B2.5.1 Monitoring

The Construction Contractor's weed management specialist(s) will monitor areas of Project-related disturbance for a minimum of 3 years. The objectives of the noxious weed monitoring surveys are to: 1) identify any new noxious weed populations or infestations, and 2) monitor existing infestations and affected/disturbed areas. Monitoring will be initiated during the first summer following construction. Monitoring will be conducted annually during the appropriate growing season when noxious weeds located during the preconstruction surveys are still identifiable. Growing seasons will vary from year to year, and consequently the timing of seasonal monitoring will vary as well.

B2.5.2 Reporting

An annual Noxious Weed Monitoring Report will be prepared by the Construction Contractor(s) and submitted to IPC and made available to the appropriate land management agencies as required. The purpose of the report is to provide a status update on progress toward meeting the goals of controlling and preventing the spread and introduction of noxious weed species within the ROW due to Project activities.

Areas where the spread of a noxious weed infestation are noted, particularly in previously unaffected locations, will be evaluated to help determine if these areas require remedial action and treatment. The Construction Contractor(s) will note these areas in the annual report and will document any additional noxious weed control treatments implemented or recommended.

B2.5.3 Ongoing Monitoring and Control

IPC will be responsible for ongoing monitoring and focused control of noxious weed infestations inside of the ROW, as needed, for the life of the BLM ROW grant and USFS special-use authorization. IPC will be required to monitor and control noxious weeds at a level that does not exceed the density or extent of their conditions identified during preconstruction surveys for the full term of the ROW grant/special-use authorization and will control any new population that is demonstrated to be the result of Project construction (i.e., not introduced to the ROW because of new populations surrounding the ROW), operation, or maintenance of the Project. The BLM, USFS, and counties may contact IPC to report on the presence of noxious weed populations of concern within the ROW.

IPC will not be responsible for the control of pre-existing noxious weed populations or new or recurring noxious weed populations caused by the spread of noxious weeds from adjacent lands. Also, IPC will not be responsible for noxious weeds introduced into the Project area by activities other than Project construction, operation, and maintenance (e.g., recreational use, grazing, other construction projects, etc.); natural occurrences (e.g., fire); noxious weeds outside the Project ROW, or noxious weeds along existing access roads not improved by the Project.

IPC's operations personnel will be trained in the identification of the predominant noxious weed populations within the Project ROW, and IPC will control the weeds on a case-by-case basis in

consultation with the land management agency and/or landowner, as appropriate. If determined necessary, a report on actions taken will be provided to the BLM and USFS on a predetermined schedule.

B2.6 Herbicide Application, Handling, Spills, and Cleanup

B2.6.1 Herbicide Application and Handling

The current list of BLM and USFS approved herbicides is provided in Attachment A. Before application, the list of herbicides to be used will be approved by the BLM, USFS, and other land management agencies as appropriate. Additionally, all required permits from the local authorities (e.g., Idaho and Oregon weed districts, BLM, and/or USFS) will be obtained. Permits may contain additional terms and conditions that go beyond the scope of this Plan.

B2.6.2 Herbicide Spills and Cleanup

All reasonable precautions will be taken to avoid herbicide spills. Mitigation measures for pesticide spills and cleanup, worker safety, and spill reporting will be incorporated into the Construction POD.

B2.6.3 Worker Safety and Spill Reporting

All pesticide contractors will obtain and have readily available copies of the appropriate safety data sheets for the herbicides used. All herbicide spills would be reported in accordance with applicable laws and requirements.

B2.7 Plan Updates

The Construction Contractor(s) will be responsible for development of the Final Noxious Weed Management Plan, which will include documentation of existing infestations adjacent to the survey area, documenting results of the preconstruction noxious weed inventories, mapping areas subject to preconstruction noxious weed treatment, and providing a detailed control methodology for each noxious weed species. The Construction Contractor(s) will also be responsible for reporting noxious weed species identified during preconstruction surveys to the applicable land-managing agencies, and submitting PUPs prior to weed treatment on BLM or USFS lands.

B2.8 Literature Cited

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Attachment A
Agency-Approved Herbicides

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BLM-APPROVED HERBICIDES

(Source: BLM 2010a, BLM 2014)

- 2,4-D
- Aminopyralid
- Chlorsulfuron
- Clopyralid
- Dicamba
- Diflufenzopyr + Dicamba
- Fluridone
- Fluroxypyr
- Glyphosate
- Hexazinone
- Imazapic
- Imazapyr
- Metsulfuron methyl
- Picloram
- Rimsulfuron
- Sulfometuron methyl
- Triclopyr

The Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Land in Seventeen Western States lists pesticide formulations approved for use on BLM-administered lands (BLM 2014). Pesticides approved for use on BLM-administered lands can be found online at http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/regulations/Instruction_Memos_and_Bulletins/national_information/2014/IB_2014-069.html. Pesticides and application rates used on BLM-administered lands must be consistent with local management and may differ relative to specific field office guidelines.

USFS WALLOWA WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST APPROVED HERBICIDES

(Source: USFS 2010)

- Chlorsulfuron
- Clopyralid
- Glyphosate
- Imazapic
- Imazapyr
- Metsulfuron methyl
- Picloram
- Sethoxydim
- Sulfometuron methyl
- Triclopyr

NOTE: The tables from the BAs will be included in this section, as well as the buffer distances from ARBO II included in the BAs.

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