



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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C. L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Curt Fransen, Director

May 7, 2013

Mr. Ken Marcy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
12928 SW 276th Street
Vashon, WA 98070

RE: Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment Report for the Elk River Bulky Site (Landfill),
Clearwater County, Idaho.

Dear Mr. Marcy:

The Elk River Bulky site was initially thought to be located on city property. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requested access to the property, and received permission from the city clerk. After further research was conducted, it was found the property is actually on U.S. Forest Service land. The City of Elk River and the U.S. Forest Service will receive a copy of this report.

DEQ has a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 to provide technical support for completion of preliminary assessments at various sites (mining and industrial) on private or state lands. The Elk River Bulky landfill (Elk River Bulky site) is located on federally administered lands and was included in a list of potential sites provided by DEQ's Lewiston Regional Office. DEQ's concern with the Elk River Bulky site is the potential release of contaminants from the site to Elk Creek which flows into Dworshak Reservoir.

Attached are two copies of DEQ's Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment report for the Elk River Bulky site. As discussed in the report, toxicological risks to human and ecological receptors are unlikely at the site. This is due to the lack of residences or structures, no site workers present, and limited use of this area by the public.

The air, soil, and water pathways are not complete. All historic landfill related disturbances are well vegetated and stable. Although no evidence existed of any recent disturbances or activity, the site is accessible.

The landfill is not located within the source water delineation zone. No drinking water sources, wells, or ground water sources exist on the site.

Mr. Ken Marcy
May 7, 2013
Page 2

Based on existing conditions and uses, historic information, sampling data, observations made during the site visit, and analysis of soil and surface water samples, potential pathway of contaminants to receptors and potential exposures to ecological and human receptors do not exist. **DEQ recommends the determination of the Elk River Bulky site as No Remedial Action Planned (NRAP).**

A link to the Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment Report for the Elk River Bulky Site can also be found on DEQ's Mining Preliminary Assessment Web page at:

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-mgmt-remediation/remediation-activities/mining-preliminary-assessments.aspx>

If you have any questions about this site, the report, or DEQ's recommendations, please do not hesitate to call me at (208) 373-0390.

Respectfully,



Rob Hanson
Mine Waste Program Manager

attachments

cc: City of Elk River
U.S. Forest Service
Elk River Bulky PA File

Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment for Elk River Bulky Site

Clearwater County



**State of Idaho
Department of Environmental Quality**

May 2013

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Section 1. APA Checklist	4
Task 1—Superfund Eligibility Evaluation.....	4
Task 2—Initial Site Evaluation	4
Task 3—DEQ Site Assessment Decision.....	6
Section 2. Historical and Geologic Information	7
Section 3. Site Conditions and Photographs.....	8
Section 4. Maps.....	12
Section 5. References.....	17
GIS Coverages.....	17

Tables

Table 1. Site assessment decision guidelines for a site.....	6
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Figures

Figure 1. Location of the Elk River Bulky site in Clearwater County, Idaho.	12
Figure 2. Map of major lithology in the vicinity of the Elk River Bulky site.	13
Figure 3. Domestic well and public water system locations.....	14
Figure 4. Endangered Species of Concern: Delisted in Idaho game animals (wolves) and nongame animals.	15
Figure 5. Endangered Species of Concern, Plants. Fisheries with bull trout barriers located in 4-mile radius.....	16

Photos

Photo 1. Example of car bodies observed throughout the Elk River Bulky site.....	8
Photo 2. Close up view of car body with engine removed.	9
Photo 3. Example of the heavy vegetation throughout the area.	9
Photo 4. View of intermittent stream at the toe of the Elk River Bulky site.	10
Photo 5. Example of car bodies, 55 gallon drums, household garbage, appliances, and tires on the Elk River Bulky site.	11
Photo 6. Example of various empty containers (mostly from the 1950s) on the Elk River Bulky site.....	11

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Introduction

This is an abbreviated preliminary assessment (APA) for the Elk River Bulky site near Elk River, Idaho. This document provides the rationale for the No Remedial Action Planned (NRAP) determination and that no additional analysis or site investigation is necessary for the Elk River Bulky site. Section 1 provides the APA checklist filled out by the assessor to determine that an APA was warranted and that no further action is required from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The following sections contain additional relevant information and evidence to support the APA, including historical and geologic information (Section 2), photographs (Section 3), maps (Section 4), and references generated during the site visit or desktop research (Section 5).

Preparer: Dennis Behler **Date:** 9/28/2012
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1118 F Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
208-799-4370
dennis.behler@deq.idaho.gov

Site Name: Elk River Bulky

Previous Names (aka): N/A

Site Owner: U.S. Forest Service

Address: Clearwater National Forest
12730 B Hwy 12
Orofino, ID 83544

Site Location: Approximately 1.5 miles east of Elk River on Rock Pit Road
Township 40 North, Range 2 East, Section 27

Latitude: 46.77604°N **Longitude:** -116.17964°W

Description of release (or potential release) and its probable nature:

The Elk River Bulky site was investigated by DEQ on August 22, 2012, for potential releases of heavy metals by airborne, surface water, or ground water pathways. Additionally, DEQ investigated potential discharges of other deleterious materials, such as petroleum products and ore processing chemicals. No deleterious materials, petroleum products, or ore processing chemicals were evident at the site.

Section 1. APA Checklist

Task 1—Superfund Eligibility Evaluation

Assessor, if all answers are “no,” continue to task 2; otherwise, explain any “yes” answers below and then skip to task 3.	YES	NO
1. Is the site currently in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) or an “alias” of another site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Is the site being addressed by some other remediation program (i.e., federal, state, or tribal)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Are the hazardous substances that may be released from the site regulated under a statutory exclusion (e.g., petroleum, natural gas, natural gas liquids, synthetic gas usable for fuel, normal application of fertilizer, release located in a workplace, naturally occurring, or regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act, or Occupational Safety and Health Administration)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Are the hazardous substances that may be released from the site excluded by policy considerations (i.e., deferred to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act corrective action)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Is there sufficient documentation to demonstrate that there is no potential for a release that constitutes risk to human or ecological receptors (e.g., comprehensive remedial investigation equivalent data showing no release above applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs), completed removal action, documentation showing that no hazardous substance releases have occurred, or an EPA-approved risk assessment)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Assessor, please explain all “yes” answer(s):

Regarding question 5: A site inspection involving direct observations confirmed that contaminants of concern, including hazardous materials and petroleum products, do not exist in concentrations that present a threat to human health or the environment. No contaminants or hazardous substances remain on the site.

Task 2—Initial Site Evaluation

If information is not available to make a “yes” or “no” response below, further investigation may be needed. In these cases, the assessor should determine whether an APA is appropriate.

If the answer is “no” to any of questions 1, 2, or 3, proceed directly to task 3.	YES	NO
1. Does the site have a release or a potential to release?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the site have uncontained sources containing CERCLA-eligible substances?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Does the site have documented on-site, adjacent, or nearby targets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If the answers to questions 1, 2, and 3 above were *all* “yes,” then answer questions 4–7 before proceeding to task 3.

	YES	NO
4. Does documentation indicate that a target (e.g., drinking water wells, drinking surface water intakes, etc.) has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is there an apparent release at the site with no documentation of exposed targets, but targets are on site or immediately adjacent to the site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is there an apparent release and no documented on-site targets or targets immediately adjacent to the site, but targets are nearby (e.g., within 1 mile)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Are there uncontained sources containing CERCLA hazardous substances, a potential to release with targets present on site or in proximity to the site, but no indication of a hazardous substance release?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Notes:

DEQ has a cooperative agreement with of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 to provide technical support for completion of preliminary assessments at various sites (mining and industrial) on private or state lands. The Elk River Bulky Landfill (Elk River Bulky site) is located on federally administered lands and was included in a list of potential sites provided by DEQ’s Lewiston Regional Office. DEQ’s concern with the Elk River Bulky site is the potential release of contaminants from the site to Elk Creek which flows into Dworshak Reservoir.

The Elk River Bulky site is not located near any occupied dwellings, towns, or inhabitants. No hazardous materials were evident during the site visit. Any human health risks or ecological health risks associated with discharge from this site are unlikely.

Table 1 parallels the questions above and should be used by the assessor to make decisions during task 3. Table 1 identifies different types of site information and provides some possible recommendations for further site assessment activities based on that information. The assessor should use Table 1 in determining the need for further action at the site, based on the answers to the questions in task 2. Assessors should use professional judgment when evaluating a site. An assessor’s individual judgment may be different from the general recommendations for a site given below.

Table 1. Site assessment decision guidelines for a site.

Suspected/Documented Site Conditions	EPA-Recommended Site Assessment Activities
1. There are no releases or potential to release.	APA
2. No uncontained sources with CERCLA-eligible substances are present on site.	APA
3. There are no on-site, adjacent, or nearby targets.	APA
4. There is documentation indicating that a target (e.g., drinking water wells, drinking surface water intakes, etc.) has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site.	APA → SI or PA/SI
5. There is an apparent release at the site with no documentation of exposed targets, but there are targets on site or immediately adjacent to the site.	APA → SI or PA/SI
6. There is an apparent release and no documented on-site targets and no documented targets immediately adjacent to the site, but there are nearby targets. Nearby targets are those targets that are located within 1 mile of the site and have a relatively high likelihood of exposure to a hazardous substance migration from the site.	Full PA
7. There is no indication of a hazardous substance release, and there are uncontained sources containing CERCLA hazardous substances, but there is a potential to release with targets present on site or in proximity to the site.	Full PA

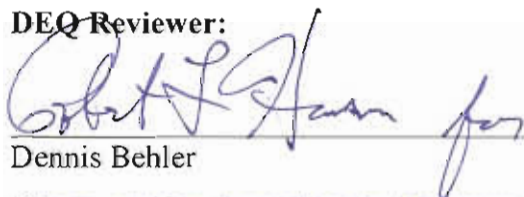
Task 3—DEQ Site Assessment Decision

When completing task 3, the assessor should use task 2 and Table 1 to select the appropriate decision. For example, if the answer to question 1 in task 2 was “no,” then an APA is appropriate and the “NRAP” box below should be checked. Additionally, if the answer to question 4 in task 2 is “yes,” then two options are available (as indicated in Table 1): (1) proceed with an APA and check the “Lower Priority SI” or “Higher Priority SI” box below or (2) proceed with a combined PA/SI.

Check the box that applies based on the conclusions of the APA checklist:

- No Remedial Action Planned (NRAP) Defer to NRC
 Higher Priority SI Refer to Removal Program
 Lower Priority SI Site is being addressed as part of another CERCLIS site
 Defer to RCRA Subtitle C Other: _____

DEQ Reviewer:


 Dennis Behler


 May 7, 2013

Please explain the rationale for your decision:

The Elk River Bulky (landfill) site consisted of old car bodies, dishwashers, refrigerators, 55 gallon drums, rubber tires, and rusted out cans. The drums were all empty and the car engines

had been removed and fluids appeared to have been drained. Heavy, healthy vegetation was observed throughout the site. There is an intermittent stream at the toe of the site. Car bodies are close to the stream, but no car fluids remained.

As a result of DEQ's research and observations, the department recommends an NRAP designation for the Elk River Bulky site. Sections 2 through 5 provide further support for this determination.

Section 2. Historical and Geologic Information

Numerous sources were used during desktop research prior to visiting the site. DEQ could not improve or expand upon these reports by writing additional historical or geological text, so they are directly quoted below.

Site History: The Moscow Real Estate web site provided the following history of Elk River, Idaho:

In 1897 Willard Trumbell homesteaded the present day site of Elk River. The homestead was purchased by the Potlatch Lumber Company in 1909, where the first ALL Electric Sawmill in the country was started in 1910. The Milwaukee and Puget Sound Railroad extended it's line from Bovill to Elk River at this time. The name of the fast growing town was then changed from Trumbell to Elk River. The population in 1911 was around 1200 not including the families in Camp C, one of the largest woods camps. Between 1911 and 1930 about 40 businesses were operating in town, representing about every kind of business. The first newspaper was called the Sentinel. When William Marineau bought the paper, he changed the name to the Elk River News. Later he moved to Moscow and started the Daily Idahonian. In 1911 the Elk River School Board solicited bids to build a new school. The building still stands today on the hill above town.

The Elk River Mill remained operating for about 20 years until Elk River's future began to decline when a newer and bigger saw mill was built at Lewiston, Idaho in 1927. Then in 1929, blister rust attacked the white pine trees and the great depression hit the area in 1930 and the town was one of the hardest hit in the area. The mill was phased out over a period of two or three years. The store lumber was sold or moved. Work at Camp C started again briefly in 1932 and then faded out entirely. By 1933, most of the employment opportunities were eliminated; the bank closed and houses were moved out of town, many of them selling for as little as \$15 dollars each. In 1936 the company deeded the town its property and turned over the water and light system for practically nothing and the population had declined to around 400. In 1944 plans for an airfield were approved, and the airstrip was put in use by 1945. The airstrip is still used today.

Elk River has a current population of 153 and is located 53 miles northeast of Moscow on Highway 8. Elk River and its surrounding areas offer many activities, including hiking, cross country skiing, hunting, camping, snowmobiling as well as sightseeing. Elk Creek Falls, located just two miles from Elk River, is one of the largest waterfalls in the area. Elk River may not be the fastest growing towns in the area, but it has all the beauty and enjoyment as it did over 100 years ago.

Geologic Features: The following is the description of the Elk River area from Kauffman, et al (2006):

Outcrops of the Onaway Member occur near the communities of Potlatch, Princeton, Onaway, Harvard, and Troy in Latah County, and south of the town of Elk River in Clearwater County. Overall, the basalt underlies at least 60 square km in Latah County, but the extent of the basalt south of Elk River has not been determined because of limited exposures. Driller logs for the cities of Potlatch and Troy water wells and outcrop exposures indicate the total thickness of basalt flows locally exceeds 170 m. Outcrops occur at

higher and lower elevations than nearby CRBG flows of the Grande Ronde Basalt and Wanapum Basalt, which in places form buttress contacts with Onaway basalt. Erosional remnants and water well data indicate that the volcanics were extruded onto a relatively steep topography. In one of the Potlatch city wells, three basalt flows, presumed to be Onaway, are separated by sedimentary interbeds or by weathered basalt.

Section 3. Site Conditions and Photographs

All of the Elk River Bulky site photographs in this section were taken by DEQ on August 22, 2012.

Photo 1 shows an example of the car bodies observed throughout the site. However, engines were removed from the cars and the area is well vegetated.



Photo 1. Example of car bodies observed throughout the Elk River Bulky site.



Photo 2. Close up view of car body with engine removed.



Photo 3. Example of the heavy vegetation throughout the area.

Photo 4 shows the intermittent stream at the toe of the Elk River Bulky site. The stream was dry at the time of DEQ's assessment. Vegetation appears healthy with no signs of stress.



Photo 4. View of intermittent stream at the toe of the Elk River Bulky site.



Photo 5. Example of car bodies, 55 gallon drums, household garbage, appliances, and tires on the Elk River Bulky site.



Photo 6. Example of various empty containers (mostly from the 1950s) on the Elk River Bulky site.

Section 4. Maps



Figure 1. Location of the Elk River Bulky site in Clearwater County, Idaho.

(Source: USGS 100K quads)



Figure 2. Map of major lithology in the vicinity of the Elk River Bulky site.

(Source: SDE Feature Class, USGS 1995. Idaho GIS ArcSDE 9.2 Geodatabase)



Figure 3. Domestic well and public water system locations.

There are 18 domestic well locations and 4 public water systems within the 4-mile radius, and 15-mile TDL. There is one significant wetland encompassing 51.43 hectares within a 3-mile radius. Sensitive streams located in the vicinity of the Elk River Bulky site are also shown. The Elk Creek Reservoir segment is supporting. Elk Creek – 3rd Order, Reservoir to Elk Creek Falls is not supporting for cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning. (Source: SDE Feature Dataset, Animal Conservation Database. Idaho GIS ArcSDE 9.2 Geodatabase)

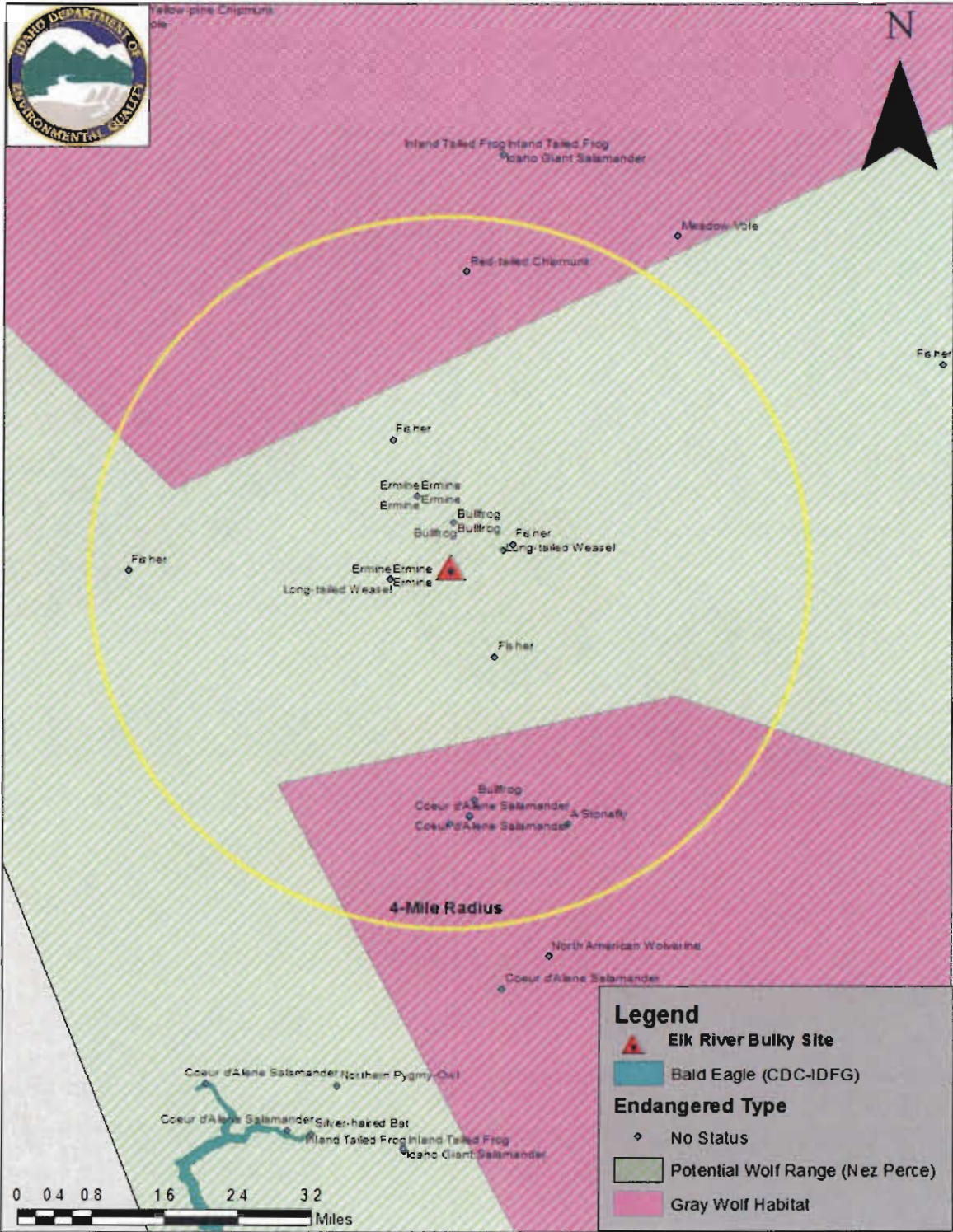


Figure 4. Endangered Species of Concern: Delisted in Idaho game animals (wolves) and nongame animals.

(Source: SDE Feature Dataset, Animal Conservation Database. Idaho GIS ArcSDE 9.2 Geodatabase)

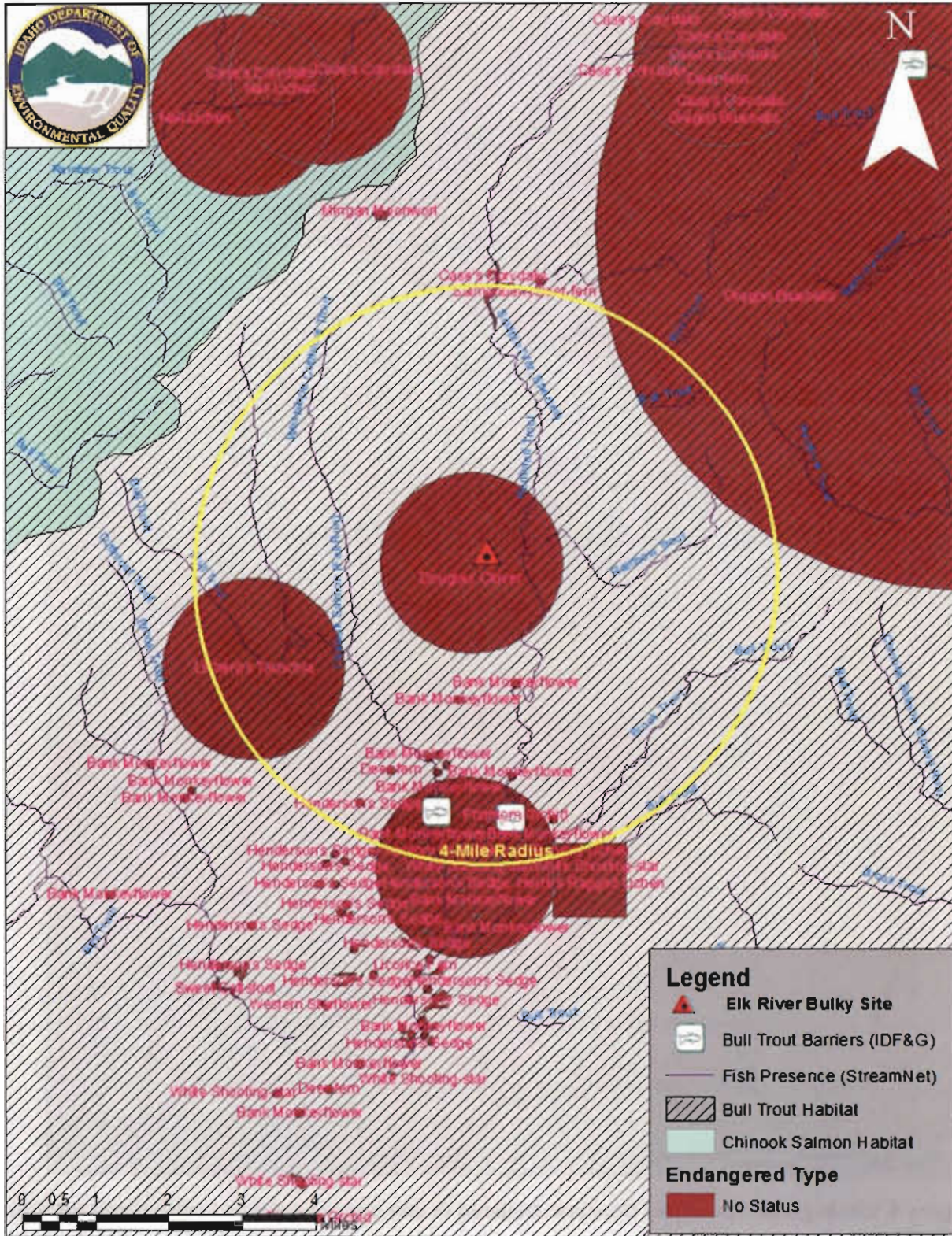


Figure 5. Endangered Species of Concern, Plants. Fisheries with bull trout barriers located in 4-mile radius.

(Source: SDE Feature Dataset, Animal Conservation Database. Idaho GIS ArcSDE 9.2 Geodatabase)

Section 5. References

- DEQ (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality). 2011. Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS).
- Kauffman, J.D., J.H. Bush, and R.S. Lewis. 2006. Oligocene Alkaline Volcanic Rocks Along the Eastern Margin of the Columbia Plateau, Northern Idaho. Moscow, ID: Idaho Geological Survey. Technical Report 06-7.
- Moscow Real Estate. <http://www.moscowrealestate.com/Elk-River-Idaho/>

GIS Coverages

- Animal Conservation Database. Using: ArcMap GIS. Version 10. Redlands, CA: Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., 1992–1999.
- IDFG (Idaho Department of Fish and Game). 2002. Fisheries information GIS layer.
- IDWR (Idaho Department of Water Resources). 1997. COVERAGE IDOWN—Idaho Surface Ownership.
- IDWR (Idaho Department of Water Resources). 2010. GIS shapefile of well database.
- Major Lithology (DEQGIS83.DBO). Using: ArcMap GIS. Version 10. Redlands, CA: Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., 1992–1999.
- NAIP (National Agricultural Imagery Program). 2004. Using: ArcMap GIS. Version 10. Redlands, CA: Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., 1992–1999.
- NAIP (National Agricultural Imagery Program). 2009. Using: ArcMap GIS. Version 10. Redlands, CA: Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., 1992–1999.
- USGS (US Geological Society). 100K Quad Map. Using: ArcMap GIS. Version 10. Redlands, CA: Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., 1992-1999.

