

## Central Idaho Sites

**Valley Creek (upstream of Stanley Lake Creek)** — Mesic and wet meadows dominated by sedges, Baltic rush, and various grasses (e.g., bluejoint, tufted hairgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, intermediate oatgrass) and shrubby cinquefoil occur in the wide valley of Valley Creek. Wetter areas support vast beaked sedge meadows. Tall willows (e.g., Drummond's and Lemmon's willows) and bog birch line Valley Creek and many portions of its floodplain. Patches of short-height willows (e.g., Wolf's willow) are commonly intermingled in the meadows. Lodgepole pine and sagebrush characterize drier soils. Meadows are primarily used for cattle grazing and hydrology has been altered to enhance forage production in some areas. Valley Creek is habitat for federally Threatened bull trout, Chinook salmon, and steelhead populations. It is also popular for fly fishing.

**Stanley Basin** — Stanley Basin is characterized by an extensive wet and mesic meadow complex at the foot of the scenic Sawtooth Range. Meadows are both natural, fed by several large creeks draining the Sawtooths and springs, and irrigation enhanced. The meadows support beaked sedge and Nebraska sedge in seasonally flooded or saturated areas, tufted hairgrass or seeded grasses in slightly drier sites, and intermediate oatgrass on mesic, or ephemeral moist, ground. Willows are abundant in portions of the basin, often intermixed with bog birch, especially on stream banks and near the foot of the mountains. Lodgepole pine occurs on slightly drier soil near the the mountain foothills. Pockets of peat occur around springs. Cattle ranching is the dominant land use in these meadows. Iron, Goat, and Meadow Creeks support federally Threatened bull trout, Chinook salmon, and steelhead populations.



Wet meadow and riparian shrubland in Stanley Basin. Photo by C. Murphy.

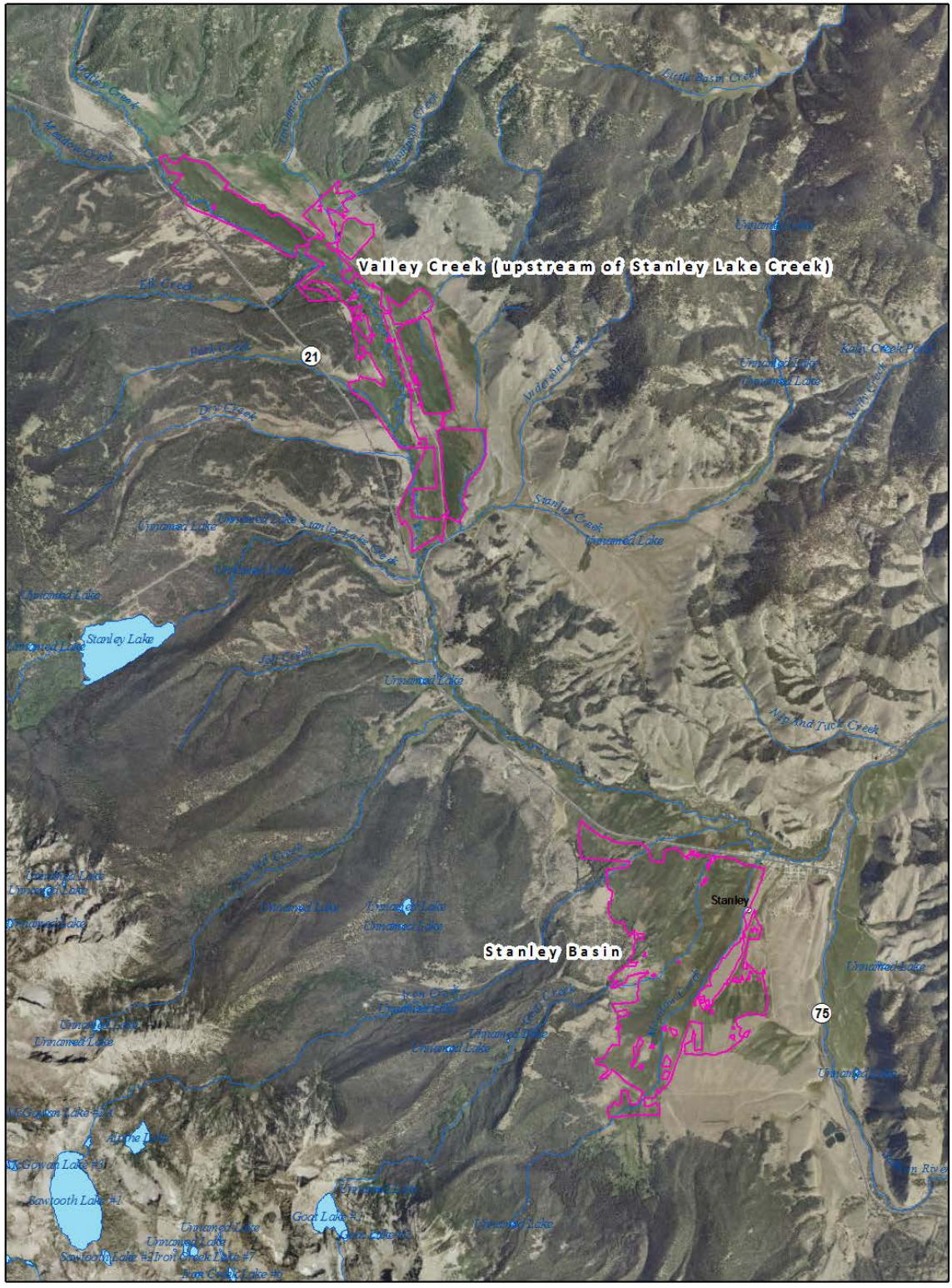
**South Fork Boise River (Featherville to Paradise Hot Springs)** — The section of the South Fork of the Boise River upstream of Anderson Ranch Reservoir has a wide floodplain with naturally functioning hydrology. The river is dynamic, forming large cobble bars as it swings back and forth across the valley bottom. These alluvial deposits are ideal substrates for black cottonwood and dusky willow establishment. Less frequently flooded river terraces are characterized by mature black cottonwood gallery forest. Rarely flooded valley bottom supports ponderosa pine forest. Large areas of the valley bottom support wet meadows and Booth's willow shrubland. There are geothermal springs that provide habitat for a globally rare plant species. The river has a bull trout population.

**Camas Creek - Soldier Creek (Fairfield)** — There is an extensive wet meadow and willow-dominated wetland complex at the confluence of Camas and Soldier Creeks. The site is located south of Fairfield on the Camas Prairie. Meadows range from those staying wet into the summer to ephemerally moist communities on the margins of the wetland. Soldier Creek is habitat for Wood River sculpin, a globally rare fish. Ephemeral meadows are habitat for rare plant species and unusual plant communities, including fields of camas that paint the wetlands blue in spring.

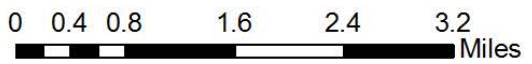


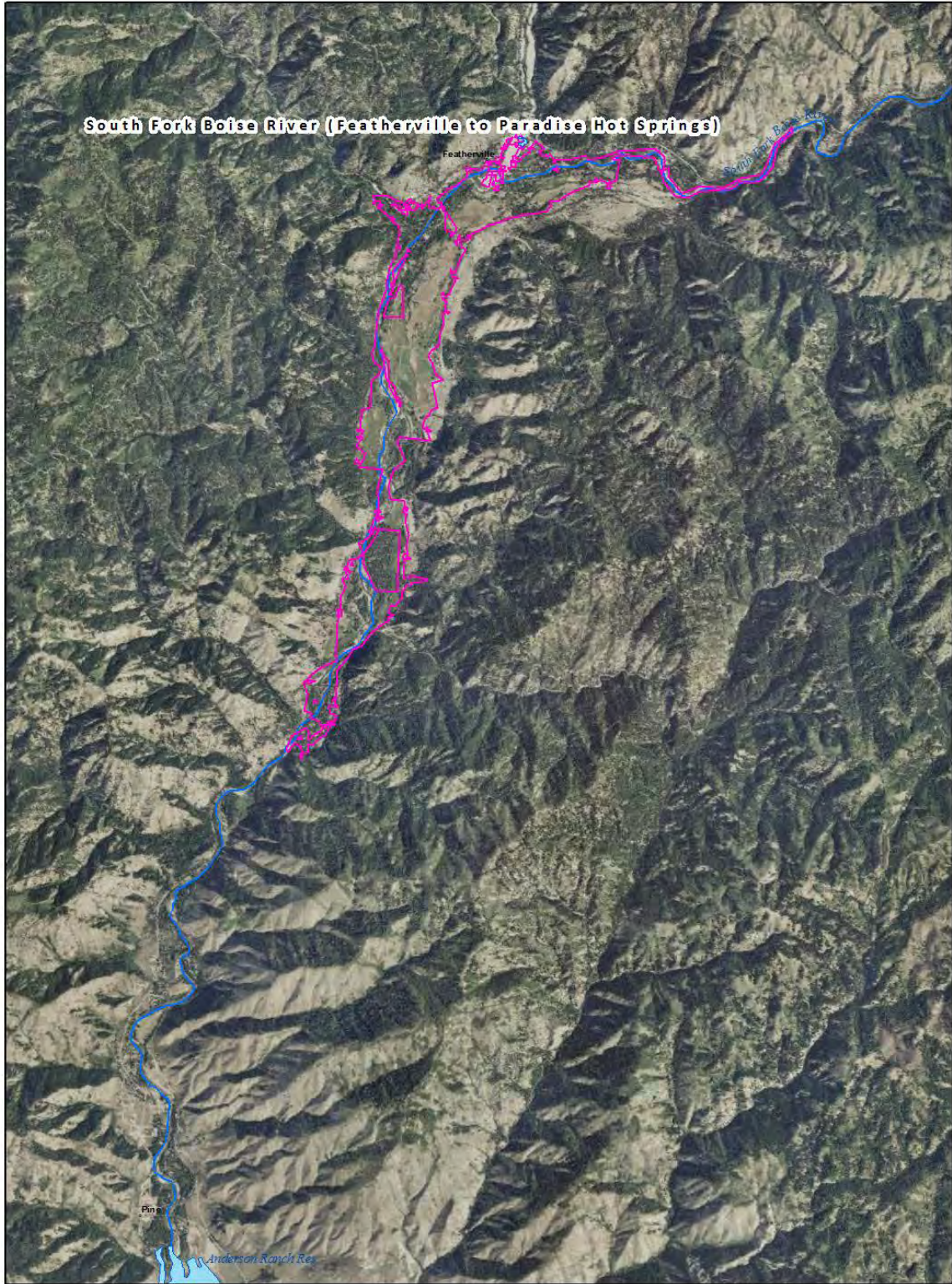
Camas Prairie wetlands during spring flooding. Photo by C. Murphy.

**Big Wood River (Hailey to Bellevue)** — The riparian woodland of the Big Wood River floodplain and associated mesic meadow wetlands characterize the site. Naturally functioning hydrology creates a flood and alluvial deposition regime suitable for black cottonwood stand development. Mature black cottonwood gallery forest fills much of the valley. Willows are also abundant, both on frequently flood-disturbed cobble or sand bars and on stable, groundwater-influenced sites. Groundwater fills small ponds in the spring. Beaver are present. The Big Wood River provides habitat for endemic and rare fishes, including bridgelip sucker and Wood River sculpin. It is highly valued for its trout fishery.



 **Priority Wetland Sites**





**South Fork Boise River (Featherville to Paradise Hot Springs)**

Featherville

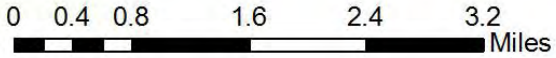
South Fork Boise River

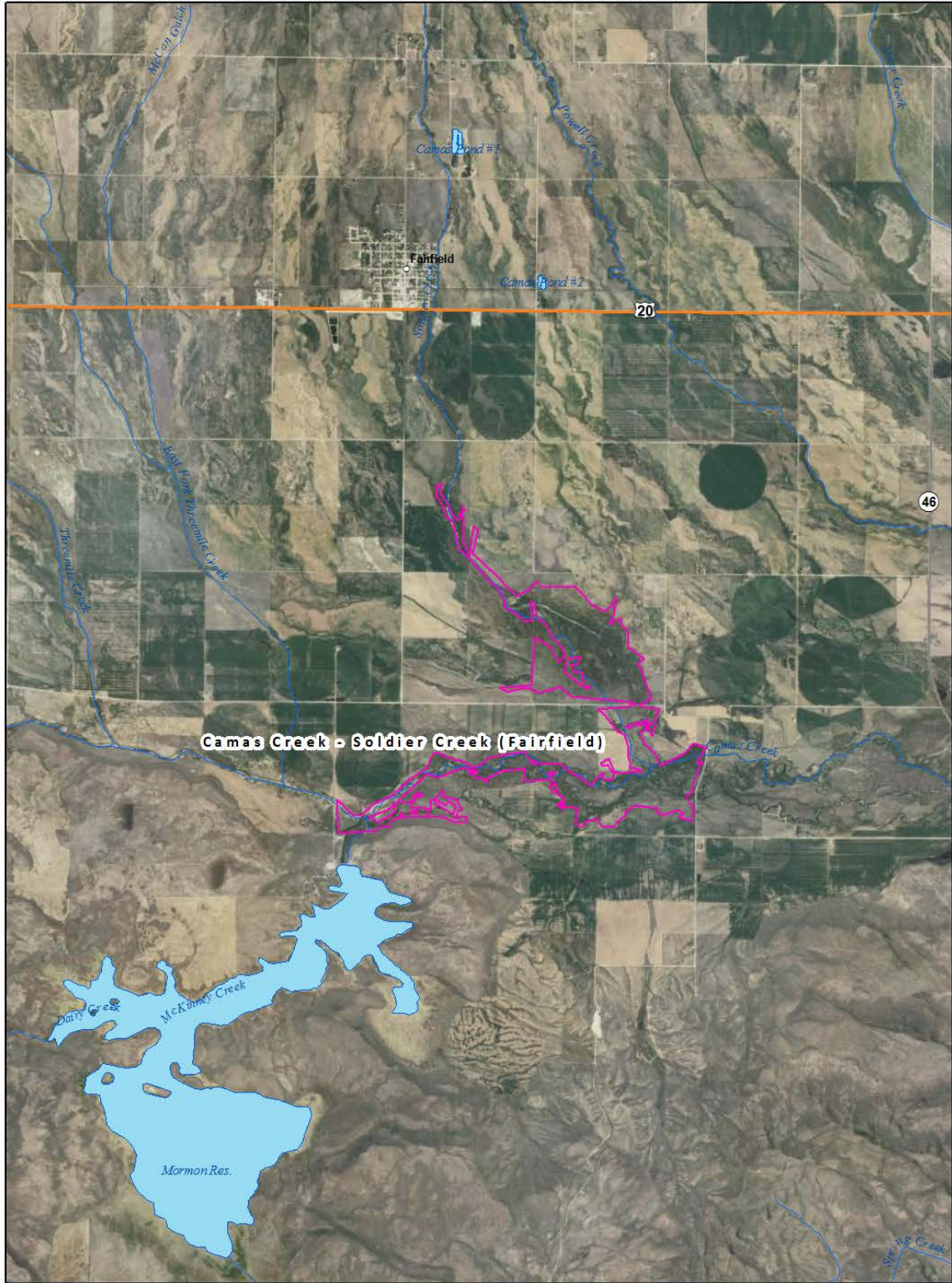
Pine

Anderson Ranch Res.

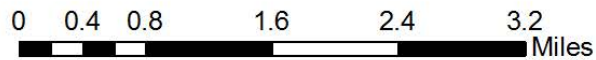


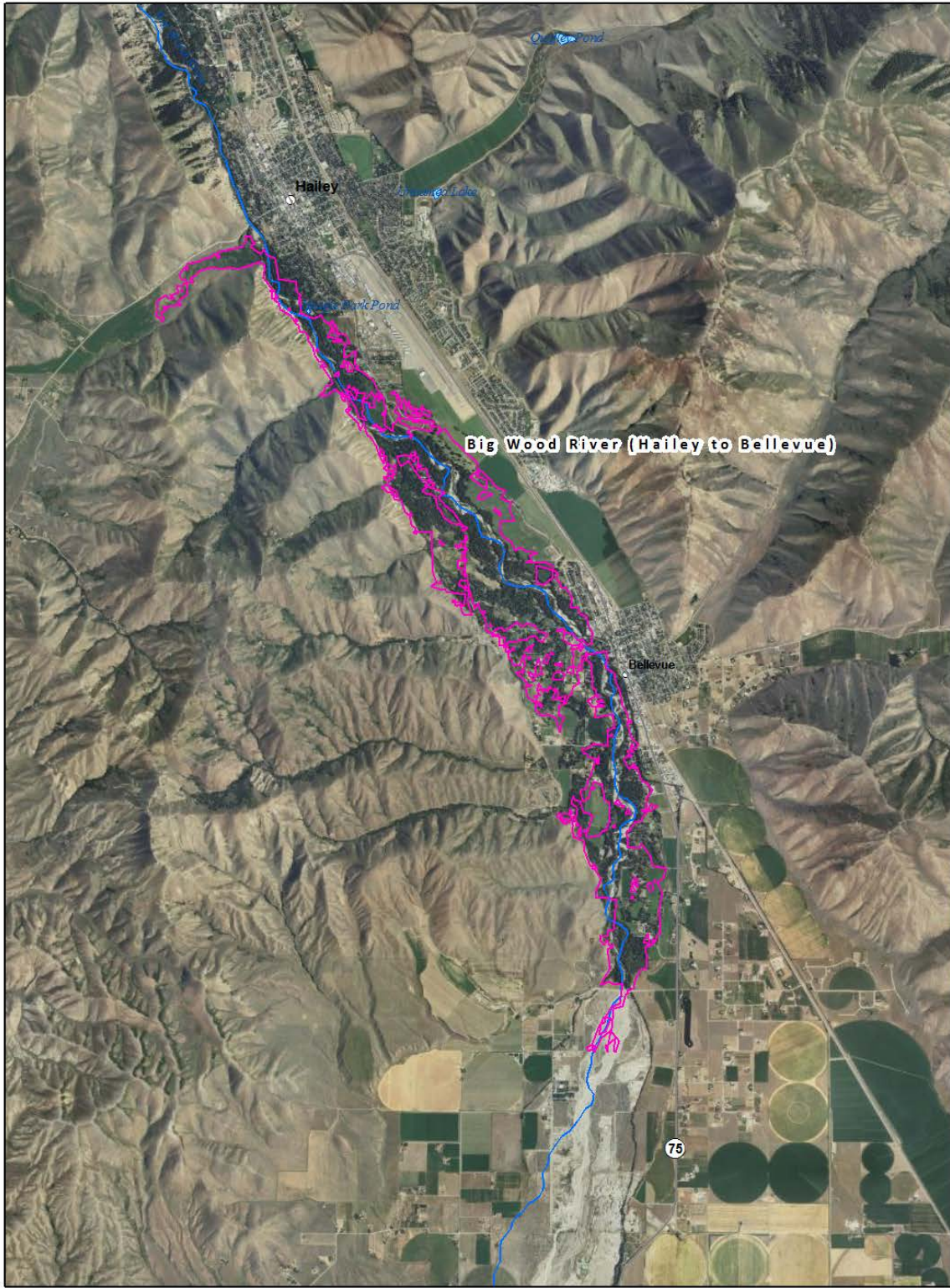
**Priority Wetland Sites**





**Priority Wetland Sites**





 **Priority Wetland Sites**

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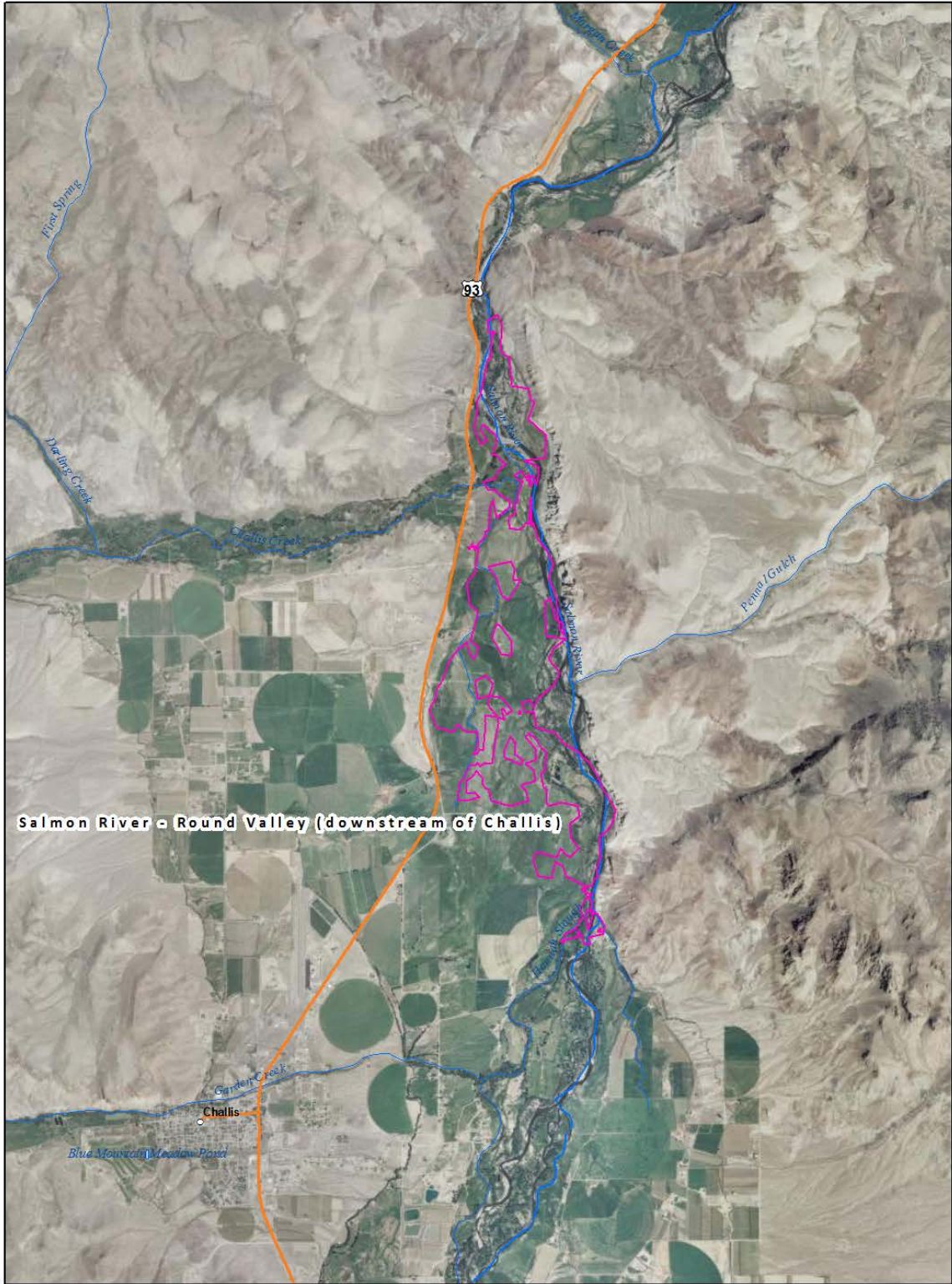
## East-central Idaho Sites

**Salmon River - Round Valley (downstream of Challis)** — This site includes wetlands associated with alluvial terraces, oxbows, sloughs, swales, and islands along the Salmon River. It is located in the broad, scenic high-desert valley downstream of Challis. A mosaic of black cottonwood gallery forest and riparian shrubland dominated by willow, mountain alder, and water birch characterize the floodplain. Extensive areas of wet meadow occur in the valley. Marsh species occur in sloughs and side channels. Floodplain processes are mostly natural and functioning, but restoration is possible where disrupted. The Salmon River provides critical habitat for wild steelhead, Chinook salmon, and sockeye salmon. Numerous wildlife species use the river bottom. Yellow-billed cuckoo have been observed. The river provides habitat for rare snails and mussels.

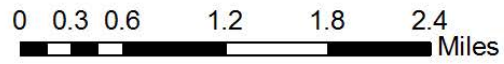
**Pahsimeroi River Valley (upstream of May)** — This site lies in the broad basin bordered on by the scenic peaks of the Lemhi and Lost River Ranges. The Pahsimeroi River meanders through shrub, grasslands, and pastureland providing a ribbon of riparian and wetland habitat in an otherwise treeless valley floor. Riparian shrublands are dominated by willows and water birch. Extensive wet meadows support sedge communities, while marsh patches are cattail dominated. Shrubby cinquefoil or grassy meadows characterize alkaline wetlands that are maintained by groundwater seeps and springs. The river and its riparian areas provide critical habitat for several naturally spawning special status fish species. Alkaline wetlands provide habitat for globally rare plant species.

**Eighteenmile Creek (Lemhi Valley)** — This site includes wet meadows and alkaline wetlands along lower Eighteenmile Creek, a tributary to the Lemhi River emanating from the Beaverhead Mountains. Saturated areas support sedges while drier meadows are dominated by tufted hairgrass, Baltic rush, or hay grasses. Shrubby cinquefoil and grasses typical of alkaline soils (e.g., alkali cordgrass, mat muhly, inland saltgrass, Parry's sedge) are associated with alkaline spring-fed systems. Globally rare plant species occur in these habitats.

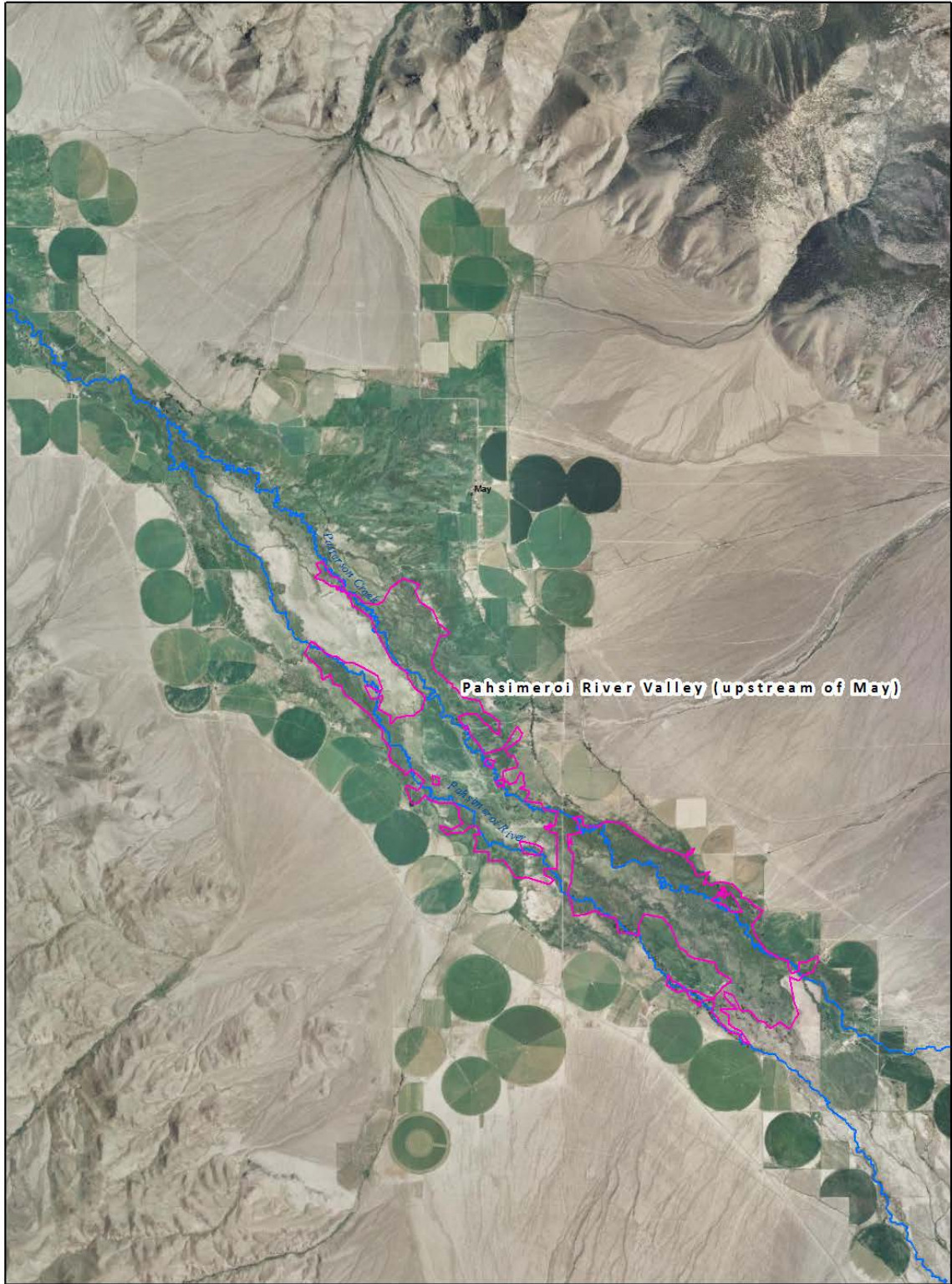
**Thousand Springs Valley - Chilly Slough** — Chilly Slough is a large, spring-fed, meadow - marsh - stream complex located in a broad valley at the foot of the Lost River Range. Numerous springs join to form Thousand Springs Creek as it flows south from its headwaters to join the Big Lost River. Surface and groundwater support a wide area of wetland habitats. Standing water supports cattail and hardstem bulrush marsh. Aquatic species occupy the clear, slow-moving waters of Chilly Slough. Wet meadows are a mosaic of beaked sedge, aquatic sedge, and Baltic rush. Alkaline wetlands occur on benches above the main wetlands. Alkaline wetlands commonly have hummocky topography and are dominated by greasewood, basin wildrye, alkali bluegrass, and alkali cordgrass. Globally rare plants are present. A productive rainbow trout fishery is present. There is a high concentration of waterbird species.



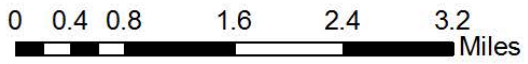
**Priority Wetland Sites**

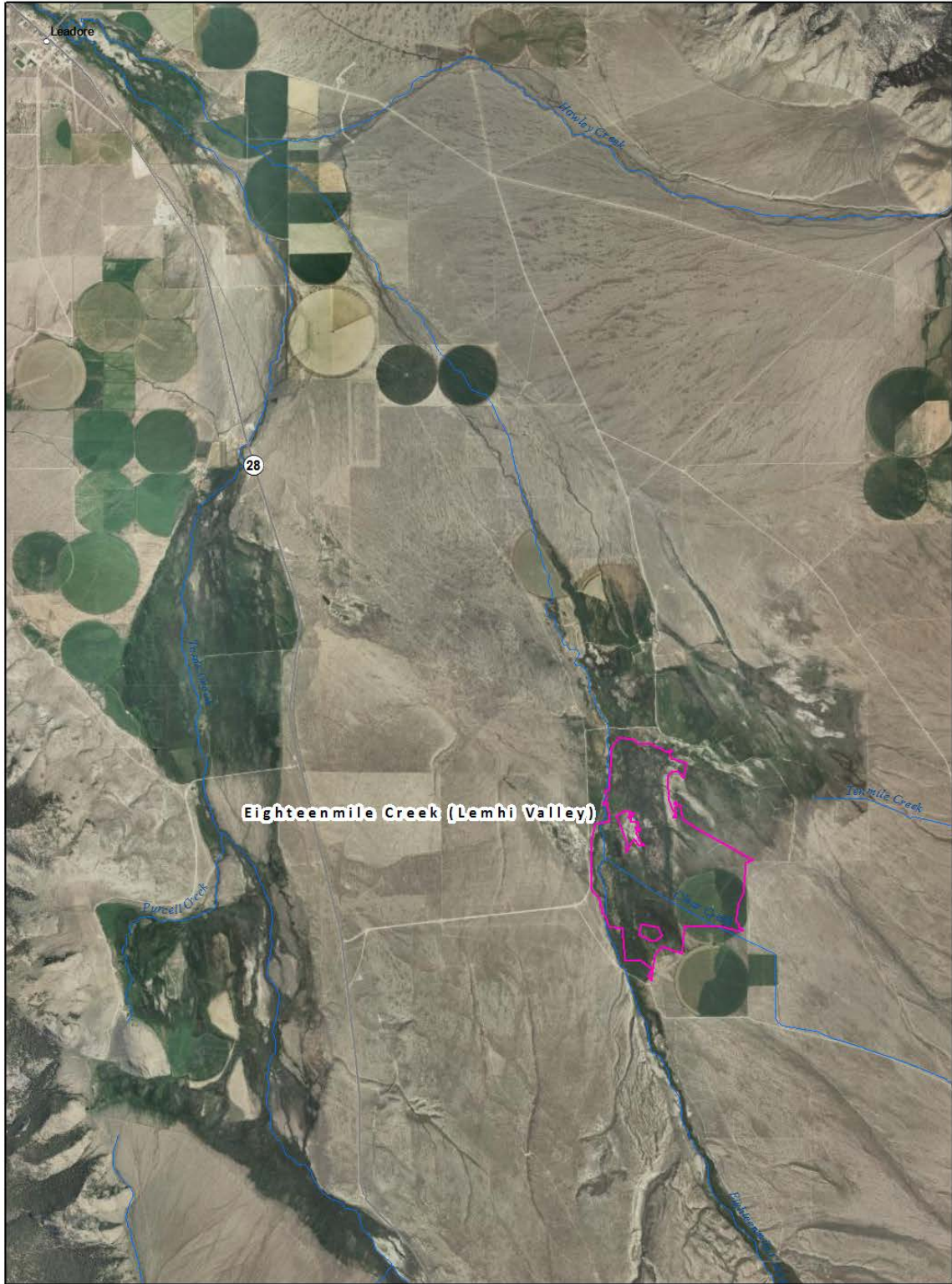




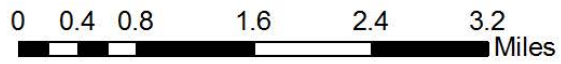


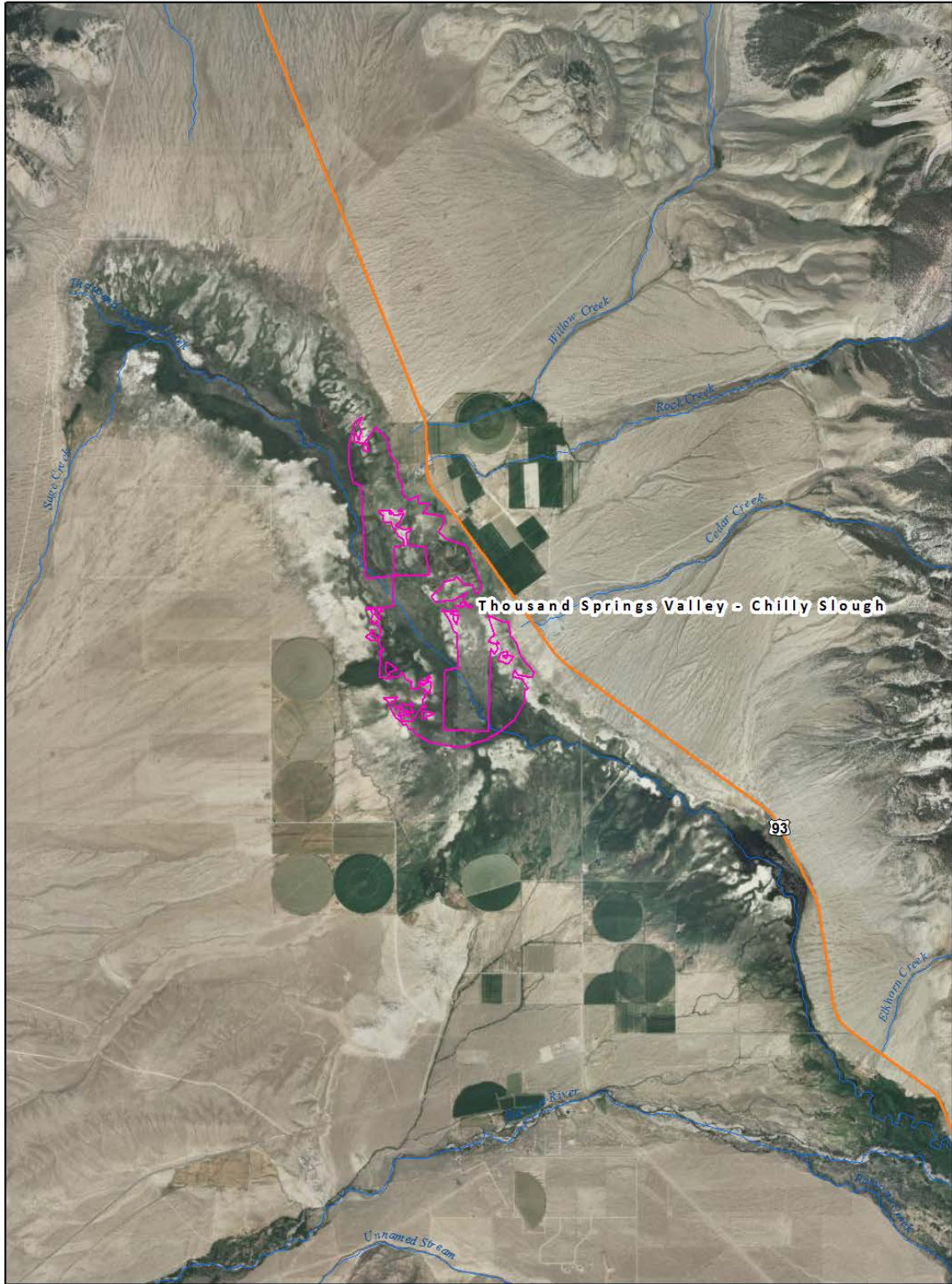
 **Priority Wetland Sites**





**Priority Wetland Sites**

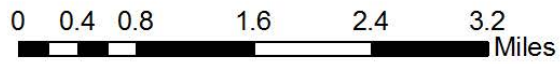




Thousand Springs Valley - Chilly Slough



Priority Wetland Sites



## Eastern Idaho Sites

**Henrys Lake** — Extensive wetland complexes occur along the north, east, and southwest shores of Henrys Lake. Shrublands dominated Geyer's, Booth's, and diamondleaf willows are present along streams entering the valley from adjacent mountains. Short willow (e.g., Wolf's and shortfruit willow) communities are common and often associated analogue sedge where fed by springs. White spruce swamps occur on the northeast shore. Broad wet meadows also occur in this scenic area. The area is highly valued for recreation. Five rare plant species are known. The site is habitat for waterfowl and shorebird species, including wintering trumpeter swans.

**Henrys Fork - Flat Ranch** — Flat Ranch lies within Henrys Lake Flat, a large wet meadow on alluvial sediments with springs, seeps, and creeks that contribute to the flow of the Henrys Fork River. The site is a mosaic of different meadow types, ranging from beaked sedge, common spikerush, and analogue sedge in wet depressions to tufted hairgrass on slightly drier soil. Booth's willow communities occur on stream banks and seasonally flooded flats. Silver sagebrush occurs on margins. The site supports trumpeter swans. It is a popular fishing area.

**Henrys Fork (Teton River to Snake River)** — The Henrys Fork River corridor is dominated by cottonwood gallery forest (narrowleaf near the Snake River, black upstream) with a dense shrubby understory of redosier dogwood, willows, and water birch. The lower Henrys Fork is large river system with a dynamic floodplain that moves much sediment. There is a mosaic of riparian and wetland habitats, from forests and shrublands to wet meadows and marshes, occupying islands, sloughs, and oxbows along the river. The main Snake River and the Henrys Fork are significant resting areas for thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds during migration. The site is wintering habitat for trumpeter swans. Yellow-billed cuckoo have been observed. Habitat for globally rare snails and plants is present. The area has high recreation value.

**Snake River (Roberts to Jefferson - Bonneville County line)** — This site includes islands of the Snake River and an area of wide floodplain just downstream of Roberts. These habitats include scattered ponds in old oxbows and marshy depressional wetlands in meander scars and sloughs. Scattered cottonwood trees, Russian olive, and willows are present. Although surrounded by agriculture, this section of the Snake River is valuable because it has a high concentration of bird species, including wintering trumpeter swans, and provides habitat for Yellowstone cutthroat trout and globally rare snail species.

**Teton Basin** — This extensive wetland complex occurs in the cold, high mountain basin between the Big Hole Range and the scenic Teton Mountains. Numerous mountain streams and spring-fed creeks emanating from the valley floor coalesce to form the headwaters of the Teton River. Among these spring-nourished habitats are large areas of peat soils (fen wetlands). Riparian and wetland communities along the Teton River and tributaries typically contain a mosaic of sedge, Baltic rush, and grassy meadows, shrubby cinquefoil, willow riparian

shrublands, and cottonwood and aspen forests. Agriculture and rural housing is common. Teton Basin supports habitat for trumpeter swans and globally rare snail species.



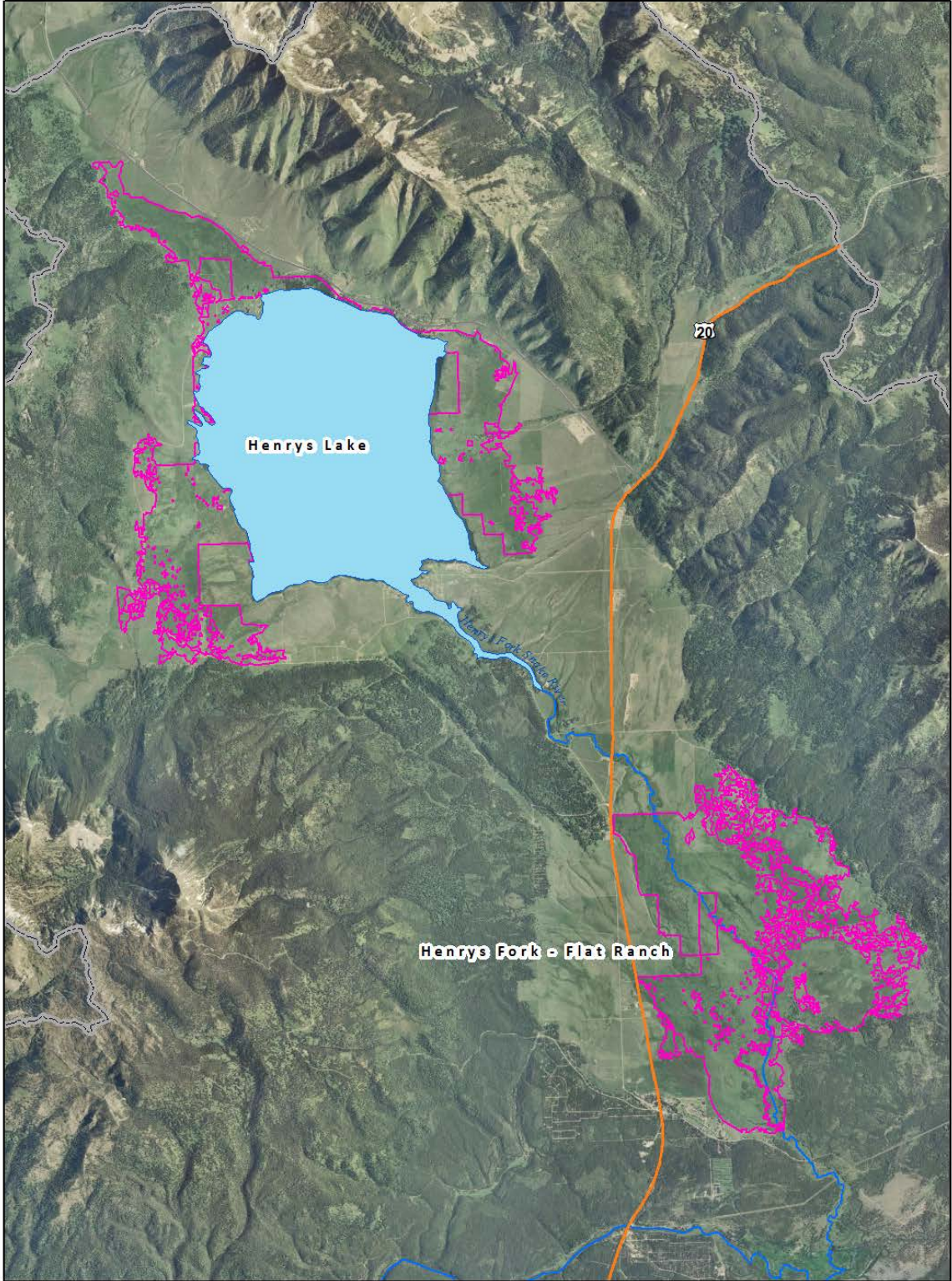
Teton Basin wetlands flooded by the Teton River during late spring. Photo by C. Murphy.

**South Fork Snake River - Swan Valley** — This site is comprised of the broad, dynamic South Fork Snake River floodplain from Palisades Dam through Swan Valley. It supports an extensive narrowleaf cottonwood gallery forest and riparian shrublands of silverberry, redosier dogwood, water birch, and willows on the many islands present. The site includes tributary stream riparian areas and valley bottom wet meadows. Besides having a world famous native Yellowstone cutthroat trout fishery, the site is valuable habitat for many bird species (including trumpeter swans) and a federally listed Threatened orchid species, Ute ladies'-tresses.

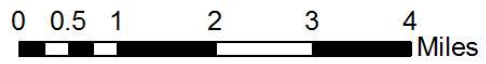
**Snake River (Firth to Blackfoot)** — This reach of the Snake River has a broad, active floodplain occupied by an extensive cottonwood gallery forest. Riparian shrubs fill gaps, creating a dense and productive habitat for common and rare bird species, such as yellow-billed cuckoo. The river provides habitat for Yellowstone cutthroat trout and globally rare snail species.

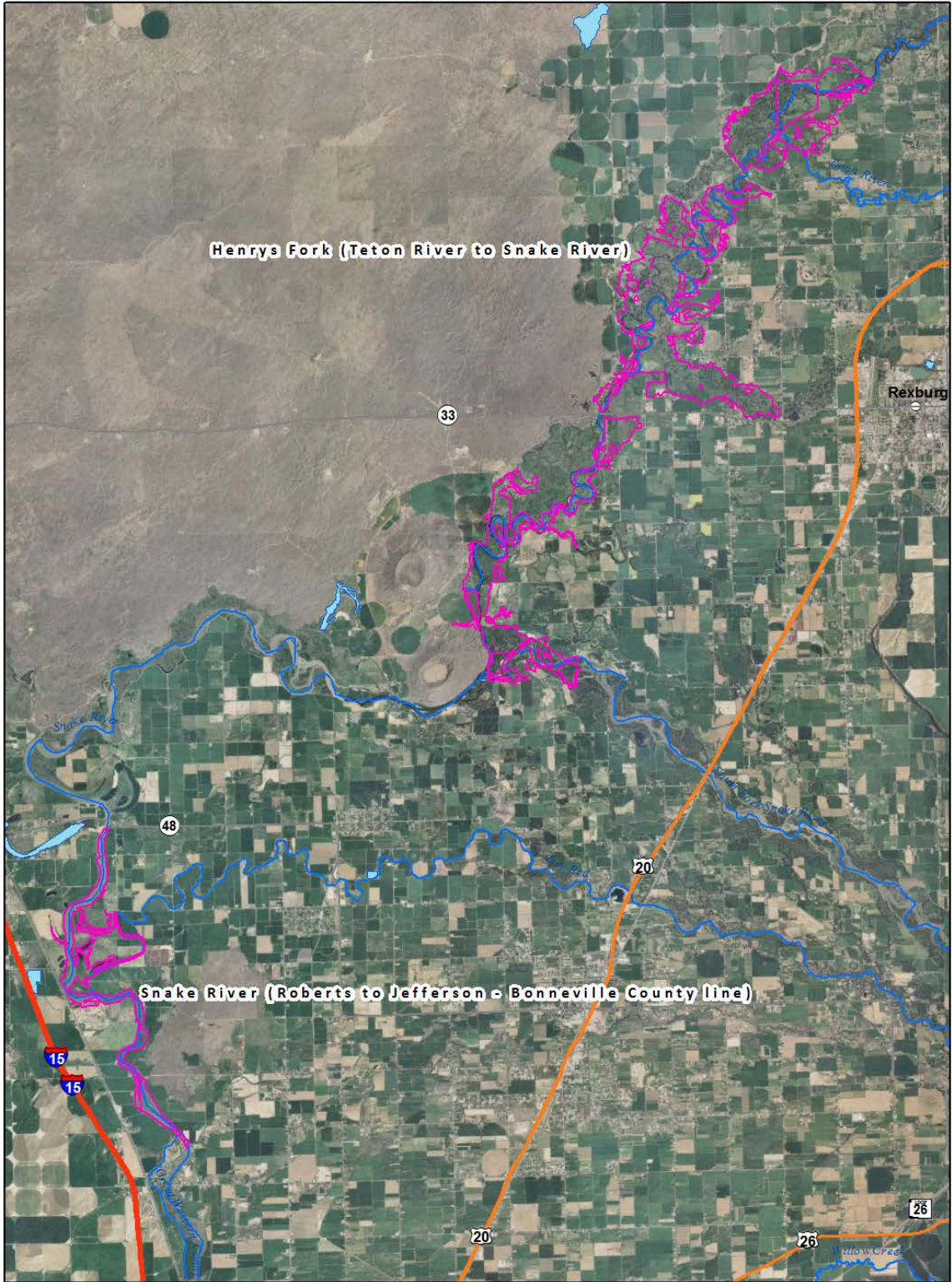
**Blackfoot River - Blackfoot Equalizing Reservoir** — A raised water table enhanced by a reservoir and irrigation water supports a large wetland complex along the Blackfoot River. The reservoir has an extensive marsh of cattail and hardstem bulrush in permanent to semi-permanently flooded areas. Most of the site occurs on very sandy soils, with dry dunes alternating with marshy swales. There are also large areas of Baltic rush wet meadow and alkaline wetlands with inland saltgrass. Russian olive and patches of coyote willow also occur.

**American Falls Reservoir (Snake River to Sterling)** — This site includes wetlands and low-lying areas stretching from where the Snake River enters American Falls Reservoir, west to IDFG's Sterling WMA. The delta of the Snake River includes cottonwood and willow riparian areas that provide habitat for colonial nesting birds. Wetlands influenced by groundwater and springs include marshes and meadows. Alkaline wetlands support a globally rare plant species. Russian olive woodlands are widely distributed. The reservoir and its mudflats provide habitat for shorebirds and waterbirds. Habitat for northern leopard frog, a rare species, is present.



 **Priority Wetland Sites**

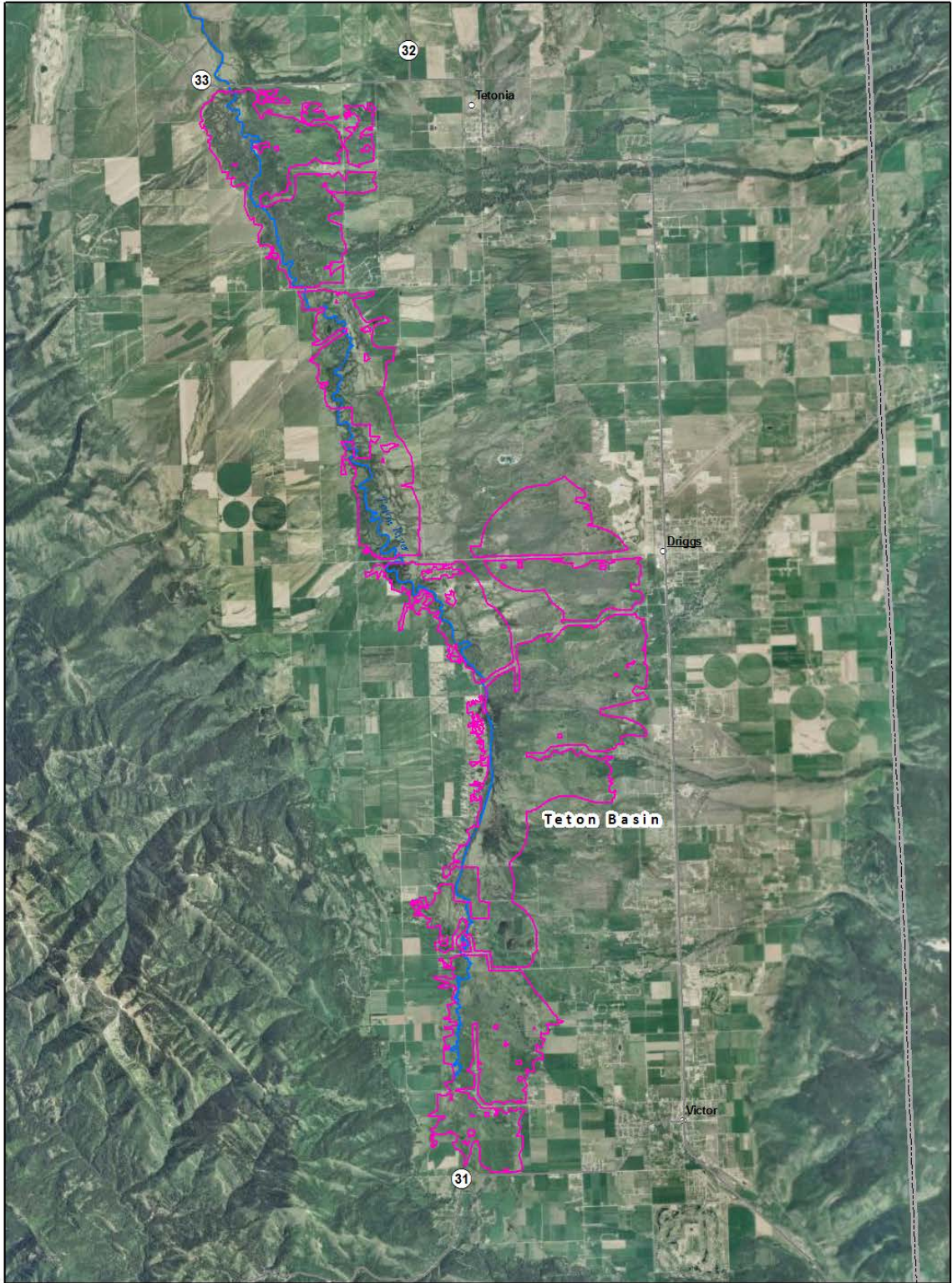




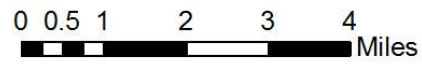
 **Priority Wetland Sites**

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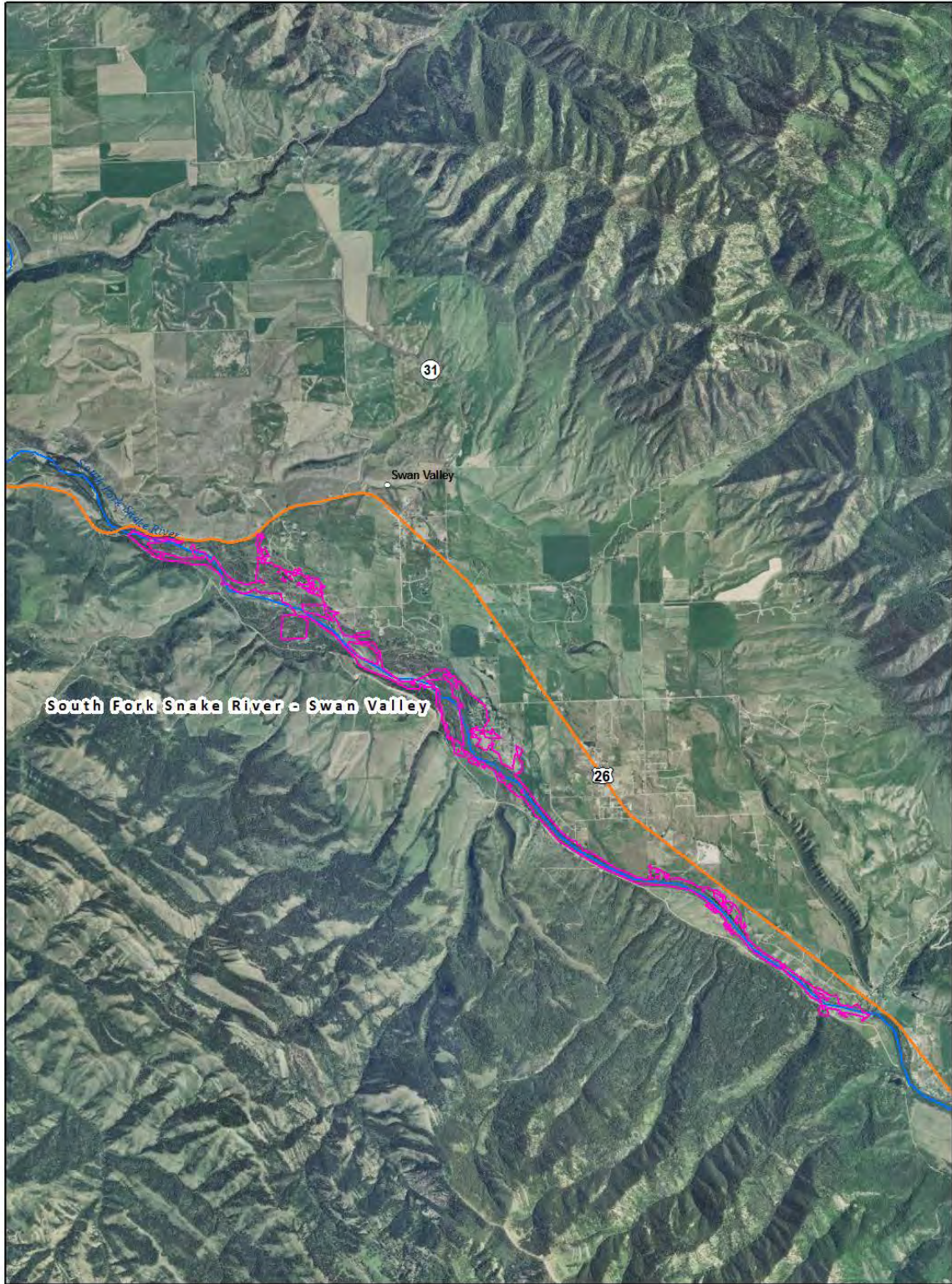




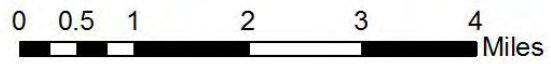
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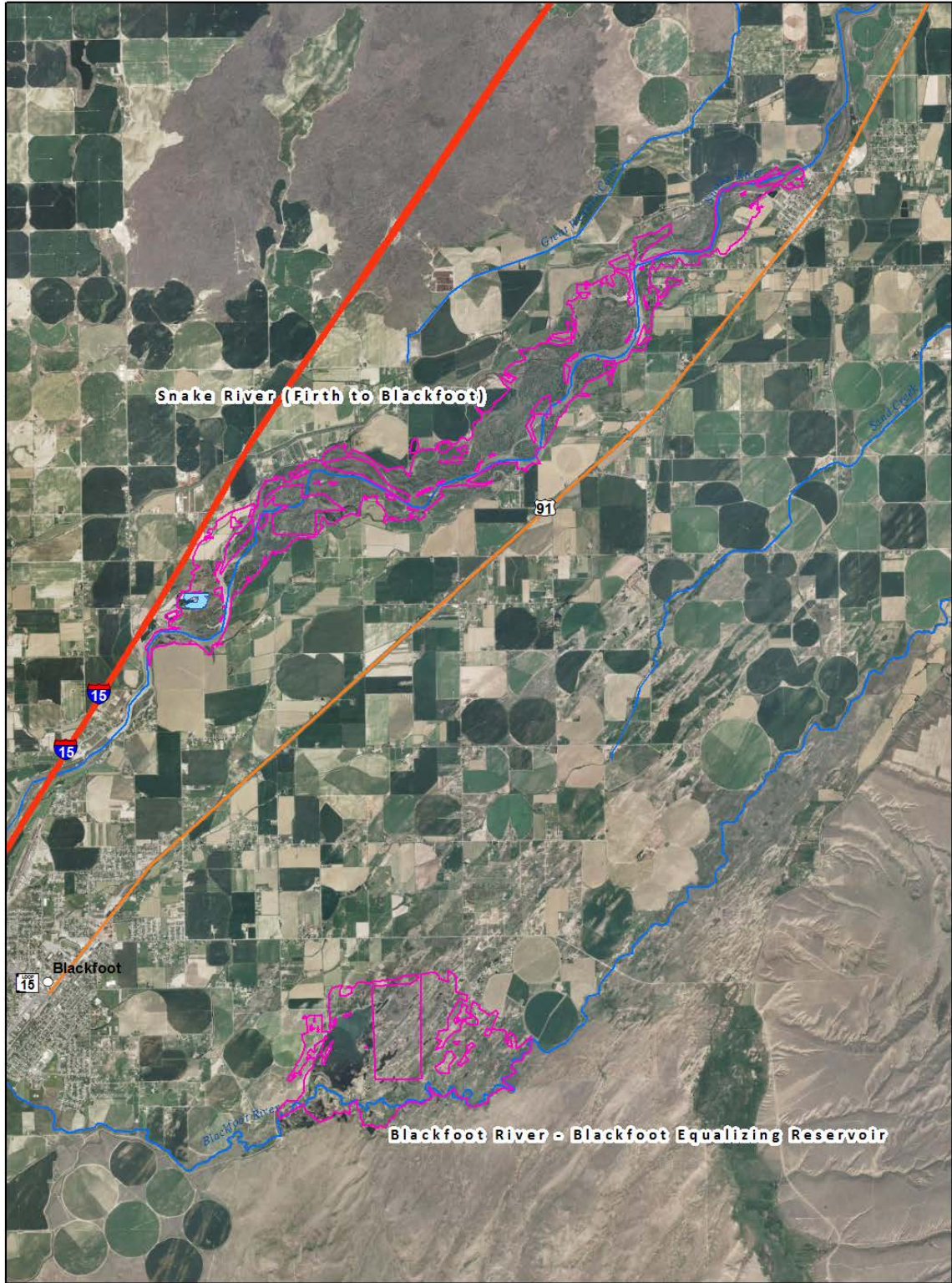




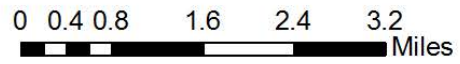


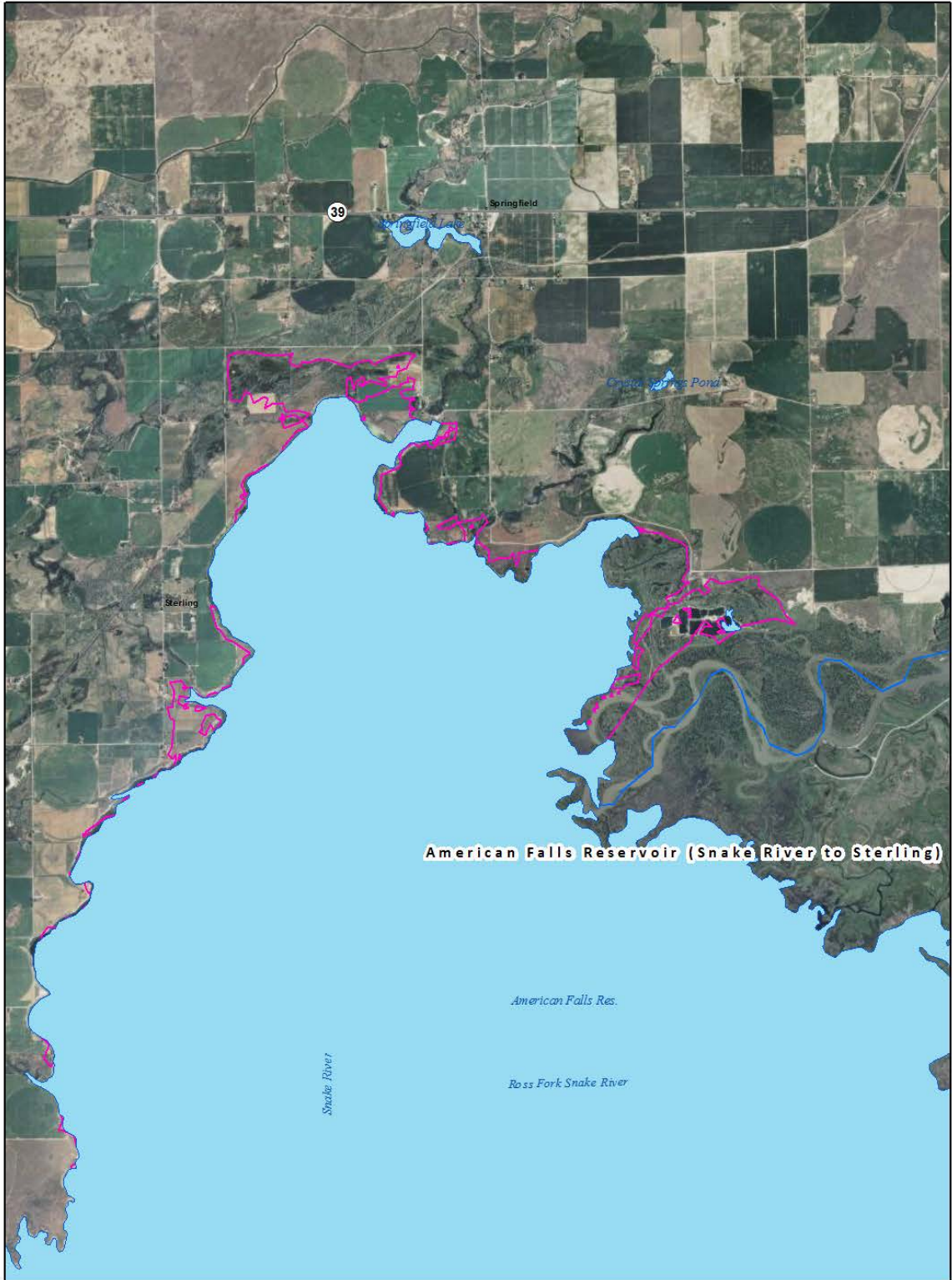
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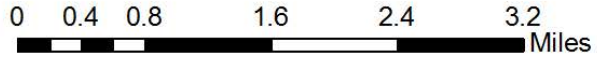


 **Priority Wetland Sites**





**Priority Wetland Sites**



## Southwest Idaho Sites

**Boise River (Caldwell to Notus)** — Wetlands are associated with the Boise River floodplain, including its oxbows, sloughs, swales, and islands. The sandy banks and islands below the average high water line support unusual ephemeral plant species, some of which are rare in Idaho. The river valley contains numerous natural and human-made ponds and marshes supporting cattail, bulrush, and common reedgrass. Water levels are maintained by a network of ditches fed by irrigation return flow from surrounding agricultural lands. Ponds and riverine floodplains function to enhance water quality and provide valuable wildlife, waterfowl, and wading bird habitat. While much of the lower Boise River floodplain is dominated by non-native trees and shrubs, native black cottonwood trees also occur with willow, rose, and golden currant. Adjacent, alluvial valley bottom supports remnant alkaline wetland vegetation. The landscape is being rapidly urbanized and impacts related to flood control remain. In part due to urban development, the value of the floodplain as open space for natural floodplain processes, recreation, and wildlife habitat is increasing.

**Snake River (Marsing to Homedale)** — The banks and numerous islands of the Snake River characterize this site. These habitats support patchy alkaline wetland vegetation (e.g., greasewood and inland saltgrass), riparian coyote willow shrubland, and scattered native (e.g., peachleaf willow) and non-native trees (e.g., Russian olive, maples, box elders, ash). The river corridor is important habitat for numerous waterbird and colonial nesting bird species, including Canada geese, ducks, herons, shorebirds, gulls, cormorants, and songbirds. There is habitat for rare mollusks. High recreation opportunities exist. Portions of the site fall within the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge.

**C. J. Strike Reservoir - Snake River** — This site includes wetlands in the backwaters of C. J. Strike Reservoir where the Snake River enters. Habitat includes hardstem bulrush and cattail marsh, alkaline wetlands, and greasewood uplands. Riparian areas support willows and Russian olive. The variety of habitats found at C. J. Strike support a diversity of wildlife species. The site is a major waterfowl production and wintering area. There is a high concentration of waterbird species, including great egret nesting. Numerous songbirds, amphibian, and mammalian species utilize the marshes and riparian habitats. The site is very popular for fishing, hunting, and water sport recreation.

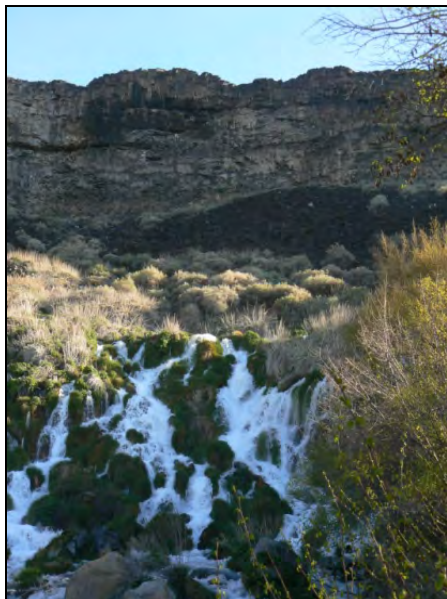
**C. J. Strike Reservoir - Bruneau River** — This site includes extensive wetlands in the backwaters of C. J. Strike Reservoir and valley of the Bruneau River. Habitat within this site consists of hardstem bulrush and cattail marsh, sedge and rush meadow, and alkaline wetlands. Riparian areas support forb and grass vegetation with an overstory of willows and Russian olive. The variety of habitats found at C. J. Strike support a diversity of wildlife species. The site is a major waterfowl production and wintering area (supporting 30,000 - 90,000 ducks). Songbirds, mammalian species (including beavers and minks), and northern leopard frog (a species of

conservation concern) inhabit riparian areas around ponds, rivers, and the reservoir. The site is very popular for fishing, hunting, and water sport recreation. Geothermal springs are present in the Bruneau River valley.

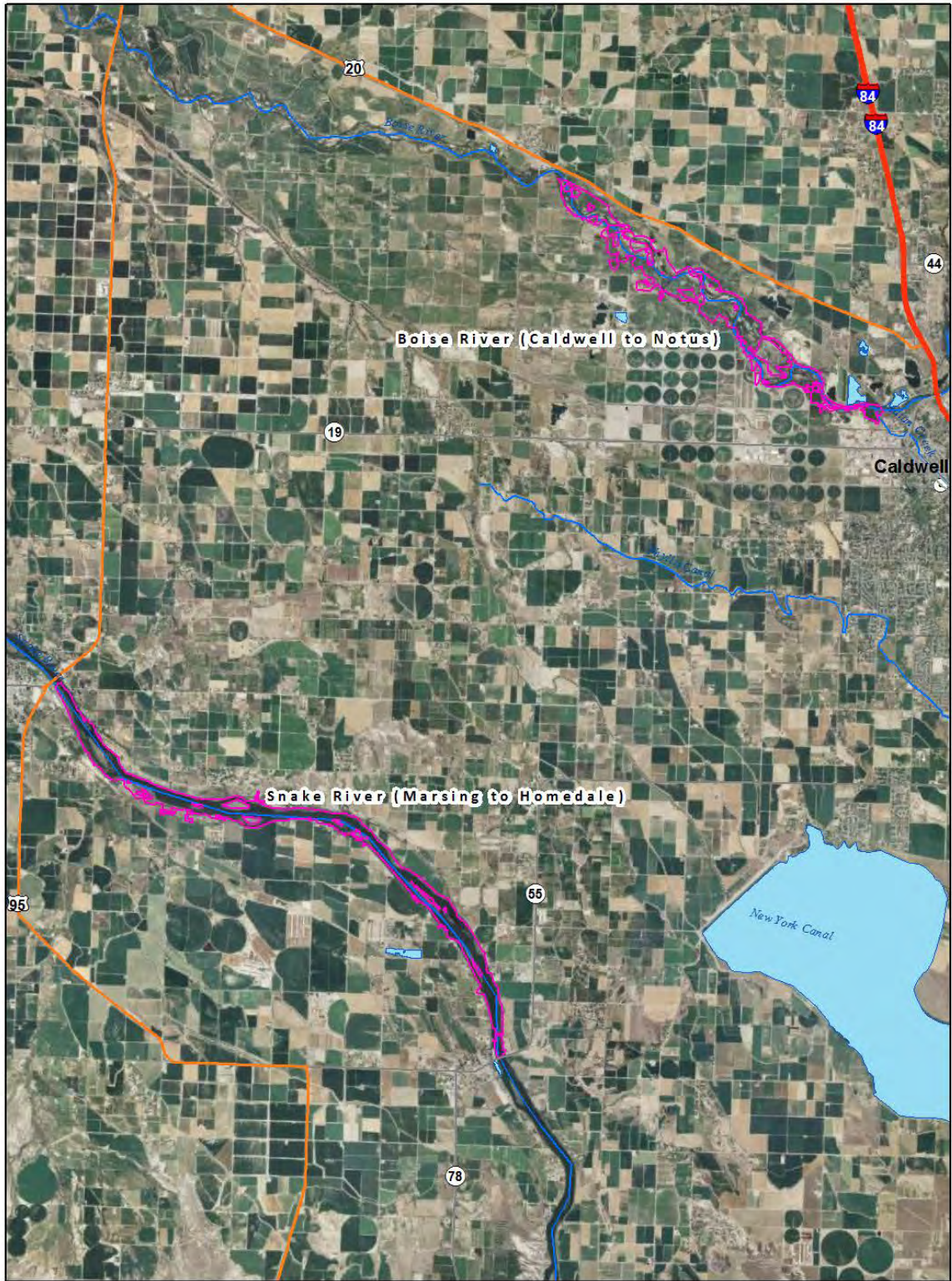


Cattail and hardstem bulrush marsh in Bruneau River valley. Photo by C. Murphy.

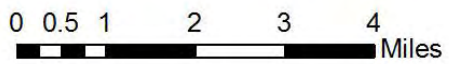
**Snake River (Twin Falls to Niagara Springs)** — In the reach of the Snake River below Twin Falls, numerous high volume springs fed by the Snake River aquifer emerge from basalt walls and alcoves on the northern side of the canyon. All of the springs within this site, including Crystal and Niagara Springs are valued for their high water quality and unique aquatic ecosystems. The picturesque springs gush out of canyon walls and cascade over and through talus fields to form deep, crystal clear pools and stream channels that drain into the Snake River. These channels are habitat for several locally endemic snail species, globally rare Shoshone sculpin, and a rare mussel. Patches of aquatic plants and wildflowers, including the rare giant helleborine orchid, carpet many springs. In addition to the rich aquatic ecosystem, spring and stream margins support relatively undisturbed examples of riparian vegetation. Water birch and skunkbrush sumac form dense thickets with common reedgrass interspersed. Adjacent, slightly drier slopes support alkaline wetland vegetation. The area is important for wintering waterfowl.

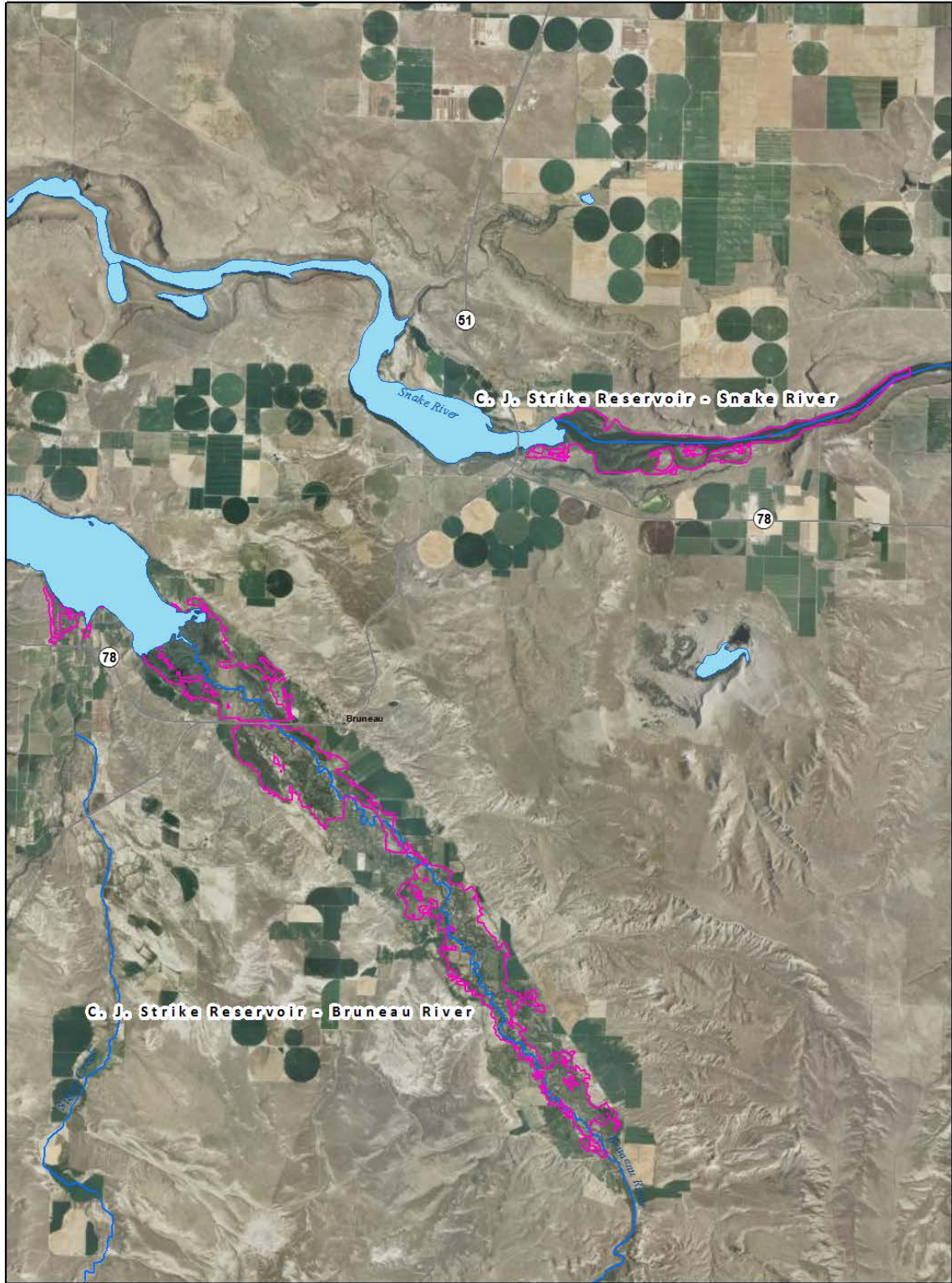


Niagara Springs. Photo by C. Murphy.

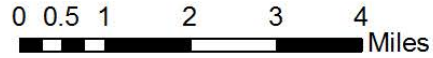


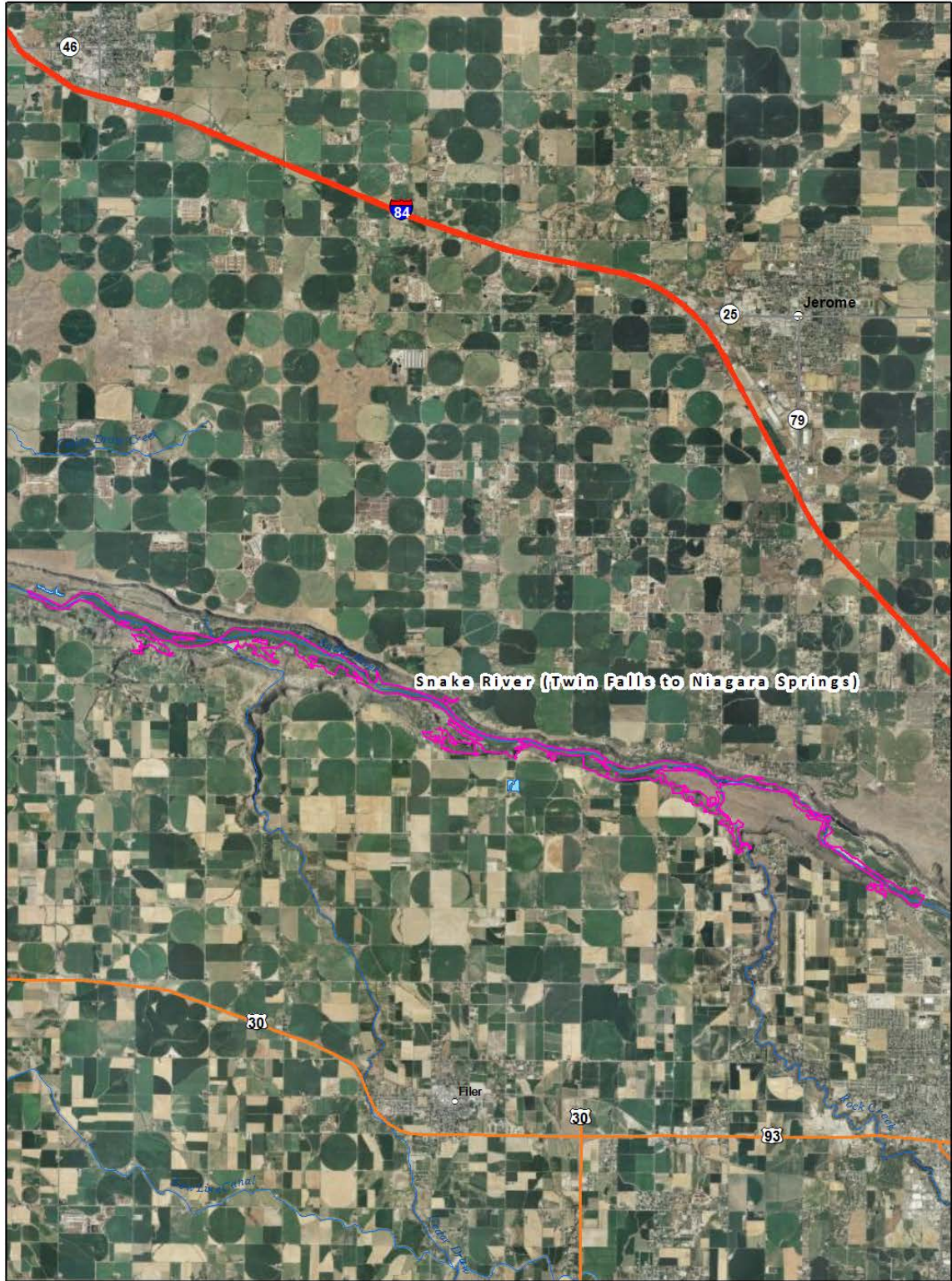
 **Priority Wetland Sites**



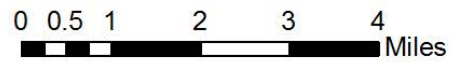


 **Priority Wetland Sites**





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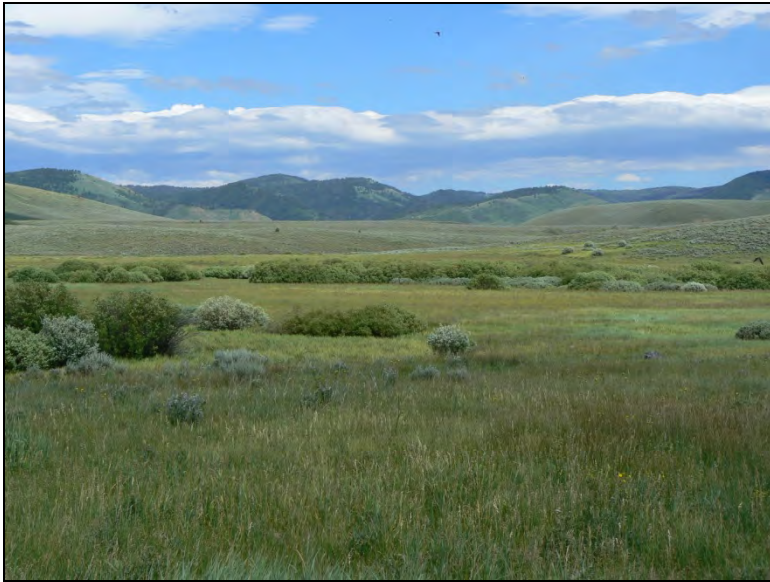
## Southeast Idaho

**Marsh Creek - Marsh Valley (Downey)** — Marsh Creek is a slow moving stream that meanders across the bottom of Marsh Valley. The valley has a long history of agricultural use, but nearly half of the valley is still dominated by native vegetation. Permanently saturated sites are associated with springs, which emerge at or near the valley wall. Existing natural vegetation in the valley is a complex mosaic of cattail and hardstem bulrush marsh in the wettest depressions and extensive wet meadows elsewhere. Saturated meadows support Nebraska sedge, while tufted hairgrass and Baltic rush dominate slightly less wet meadows. Western wheatgrass dominates meadows that dry by mid-summer. The site is habitat for the rare northern leopard frog and globally rare snail species.

**Oxford Slough** — Oxford Slough is a large freshwater marsh fed by Swan Lake and nearby mountain drainages. Deep-water marshes dominated by cattail and hardstem bulrush are widespread. Shallowly flooded marsh and wet meadow communities characterized by alkali bulrush, Baltic rush, beaked sedge, and reed canarygrass occupy margins of the marsh. Grassy alkaline meadows of alkali cordgrass and inland saltgrass are interspersed, with greasewood on higher ground. There is a high concentration of waterbird and colonial nesting bird species, including black tern and Forster's tern. Much of the site is managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Service as a Waterfowl Production Area; conservation opportunities exist on adjacent private lands.

**Bear River (Riverdale to Highway 91)** — This reach of the Bear River meanders through a wide valley and supports an extensive riparian woodland and shrubland in its floodplain. Wet meadows and pastures occupy open valley bottom areas. These wetlands support northern leopard frogs and Bonneville cutthroat trout, both species of concern in Idaho.

**Blackfoot River - Upper Valley - Lanes Creek** — The upper Blackfoot River and Lanes Creek valleys are situated in cold, high elevation intermountain basins. The Blackfoot River has a moderately wide, low-gradient, sinuous channel with a wide floodplain that supports a diverse mosaic of wetland plant communities. Tall willows (e.g., Booth's and Geyer's willows) and short willows (e.g., Wolf's willow) are abundant throughout the site. Silver sagebrush occurs on drier margins of wetlands. A rich mosaic of native wet meadows occur, including extensive tufted hairgrass and analogue sedge communities, with pockets of beaked sedge, aquatic sedge, common spikerush, and Baltic rush. Several springs emerge within the site. Peat accumulation is likely. There are several ponds and seasonally flooded depressions present. The Blackfoot River supports native Yellowstone cutthroat trout.



Blackfoot River wetlands in Upper Valley.  
Wet meadows and willow shrubland.  
Photo by C. Murphy.

**Blackfoot River - Lower Valley - Slug Creek** — The Blackfoot River in Lower Valley is highly sinuous, with a low gradient. This fully functioning reach of the river has a very wide floodplain with numerous oxbow ponds, meander scar depressional wetlands, and wet meadows. Cattle pastures also occur in the valley. There are extensive, intact willow-dominated habitats along the river. The Blackfoot River supports a valuable native Yellowstone cutthroat fishery.



Blackfoot River wetlands in Lower Valley.  
Wet meadow pasture and willow  
shrubland. Photo by C. Murphy.

**Alexander Reservoir - Soda Springs** — This site is adjacent to Alexander Reservoir on the Bear River near Soda Springs. It is influenced by groundwater, springs, and spring channels. Wetlands are mostly characterized by alkaline soils and support unusual limber pine and Rocky Mountain juniper woodland plant associations, as well as wet meadows dominated by shrubby cinquefoil and tufted hairgrass. Extensive marshes provide habitat for trumpeter swans and springs include habitat for globally rare snail species. A portion of the site has been designated as the Soda Springs Natural Scenic Area.

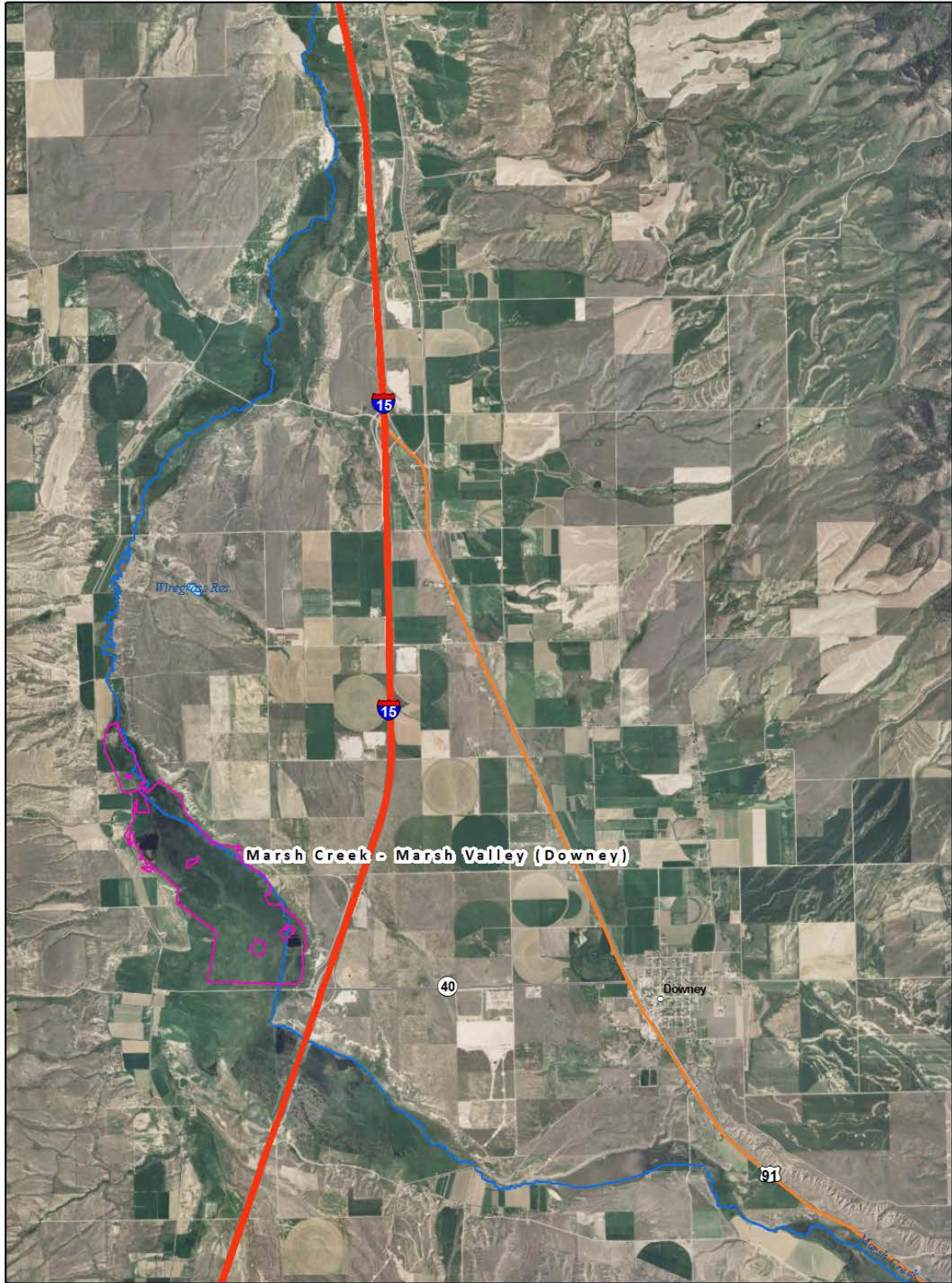
**Bear River (Georgetown Summit to Eightmile Creek)** — This site encompasses broad wet meadows and willow riparian shrubland in the valley of the Bear River. Portions of the site fall within the floodplain of the Bear River as it meanders across the valley. Several small ponds are present. There is habitat for northern leopard frog and globally rare snail species. The Bear River is habitat for endemic Bonneville cutthroat trout.

**Nounan Valley** — This site lies in the broad meadow valley of Stauffer Creek and its tributaries upstream of the Bear River. Stauffer Creek is a low gradient, highly sinuous stream that supports a relatively large, but little known wetland. There is an extensive wet meadow complex and willow-dominated riparian shrubland lines stream channels. Stauffer Creek provides habitat for Bonneville cutthroat trout and globally rare snail species.

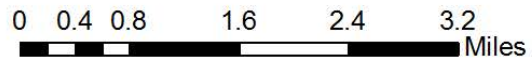
**Bear Lake Valley** — This site is primarily influenced by the Bear River, a wide, low-gradient river meandering through the intermountain basin of Bear Lake. Riparian corridors are a mosaic of narrowleaf cottonwood forest and dense shrublands of willows and other species. Wet meadows of tufted hairgrass, sedges, and Baltic rush are extensive, many of which are associated with side channels and tributaries. Many meadows are managed for agricultural uses. Marshes of common cattail and hardstem bulrush are interspersed in old oxbows and depressions. This large wetland provides habitat for rare amphibian, snail, and plant species.

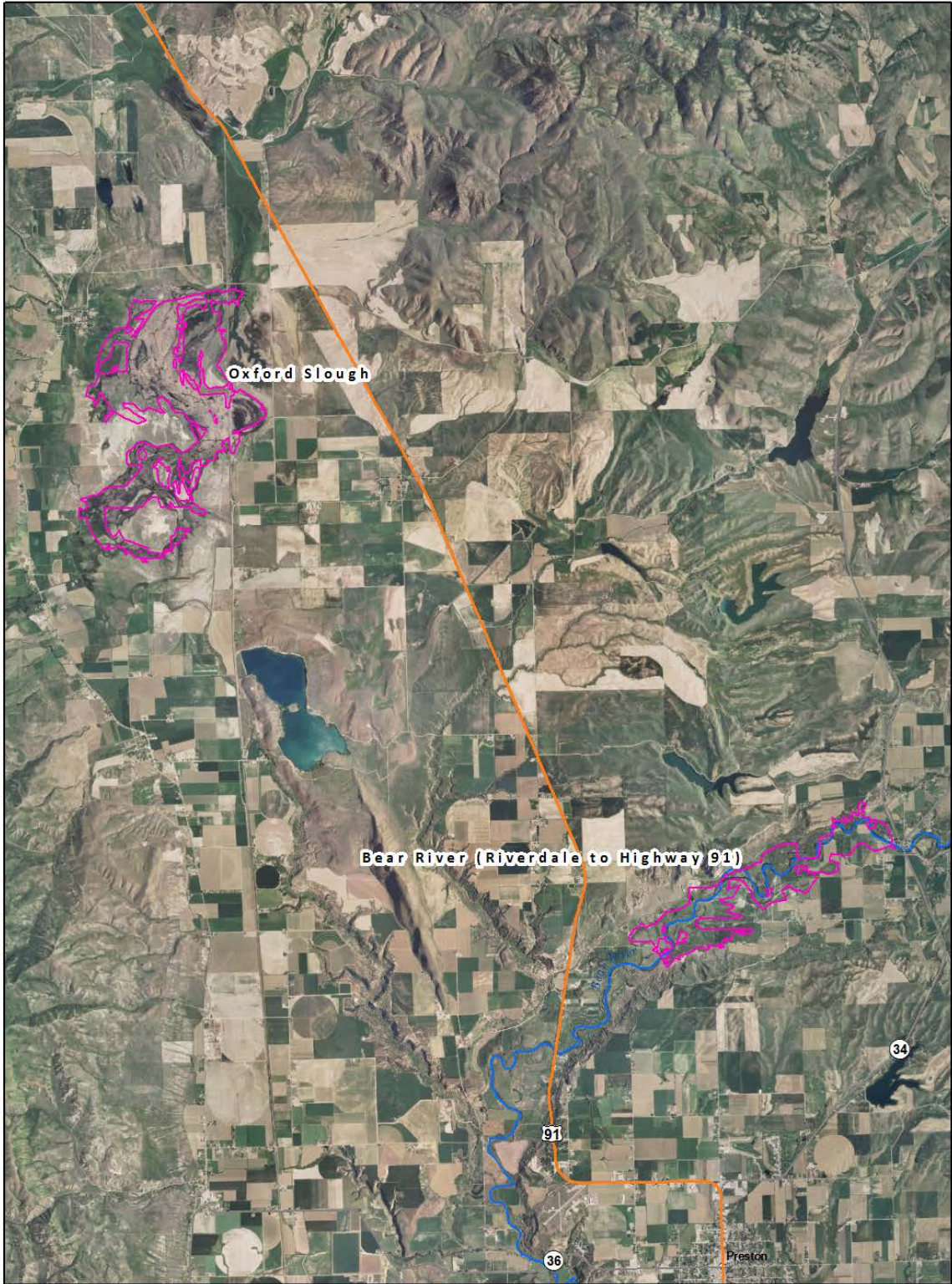
**Thomas Fork Valley - Bear River** — The Thomas Fork Valley is characterized by a mosaic of native meadow communities and interspersed marshes. The Thomas Fork is a wide and deep stream that meanders slowly through the valley. Beds of pondweed occur in its channel. Bordering the stream are stands of coyote and Booth's willow. Bulrush, cattail, common spikerush, and beaked sedge marshes occur in old meanders and depressions. Meadows are commonly dominated by tufted hairgrass, but also include some hayfields and pockets of alkaline soil. The wetland complex supports a high concentration of colonial nesting bird species, including black tern and Forster's tern, as well as habitat for northern leopard frogs.

**Bear Lake** — This site includes the margins of the Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Bear Lake. It is primarily characterized by wet meadows and alkaline flats with riparian shrubland lining stream and canal channels. Bulrush and cattail marshes occur in depressions and channels within a meadow matrix of Baltic rush, common spikerush, sedges, reed canarygrass, and common reedgrass. Alkaline wetlands supporting inland saltgrass are present. Drier margins can have greasewood. Extensive riparian coyote willow shrublands line tributary streams. Margins of Bear Lake include sparsely vegetated beaches and mudflats. There is a high concentration of waterbird species, including a black tern colony and trumpeter swan habitat. Globally rare snail species are also present.

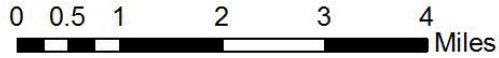


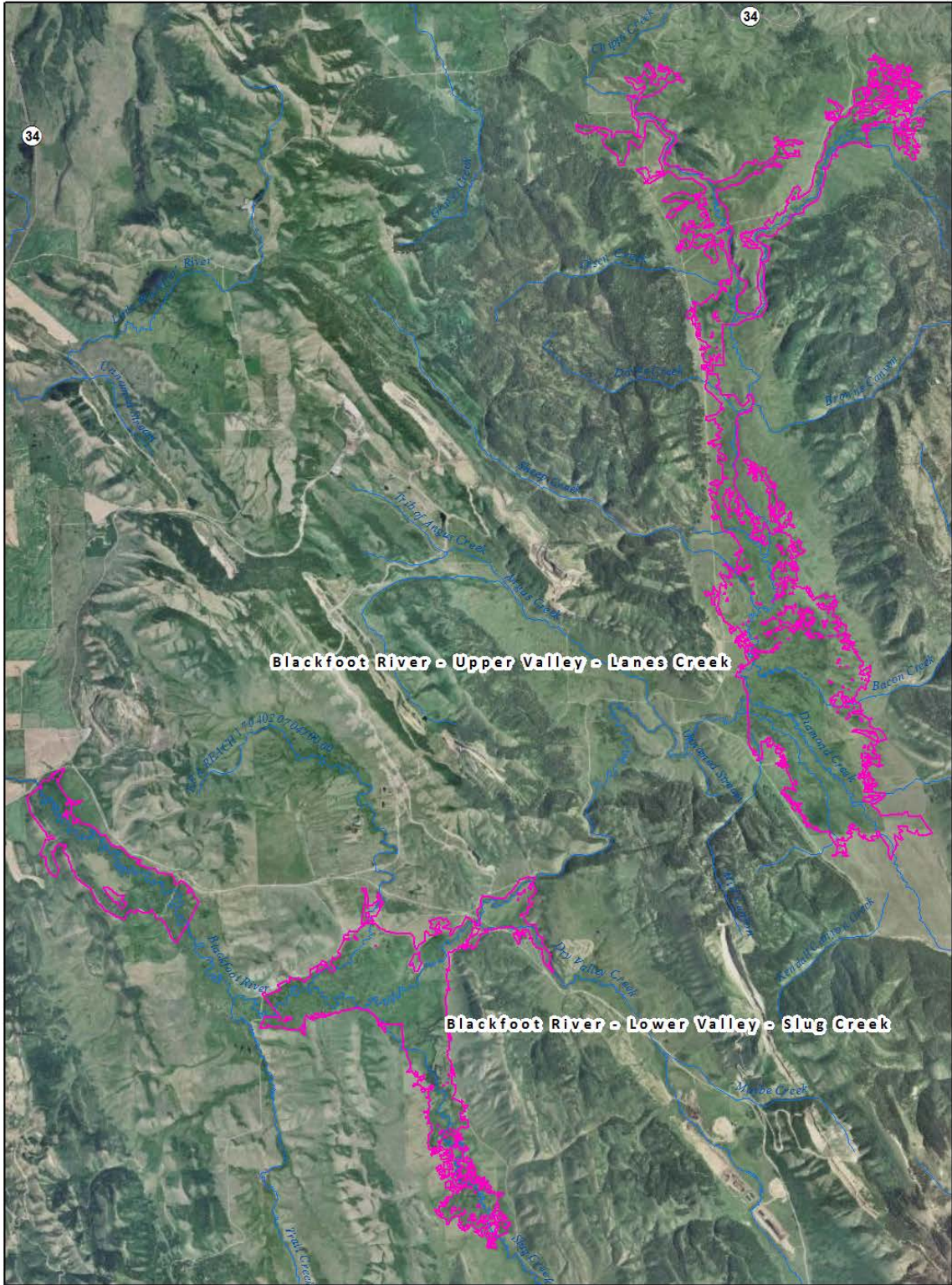
**Priority Wetland Sites**



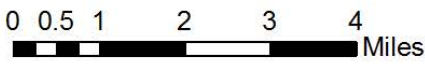


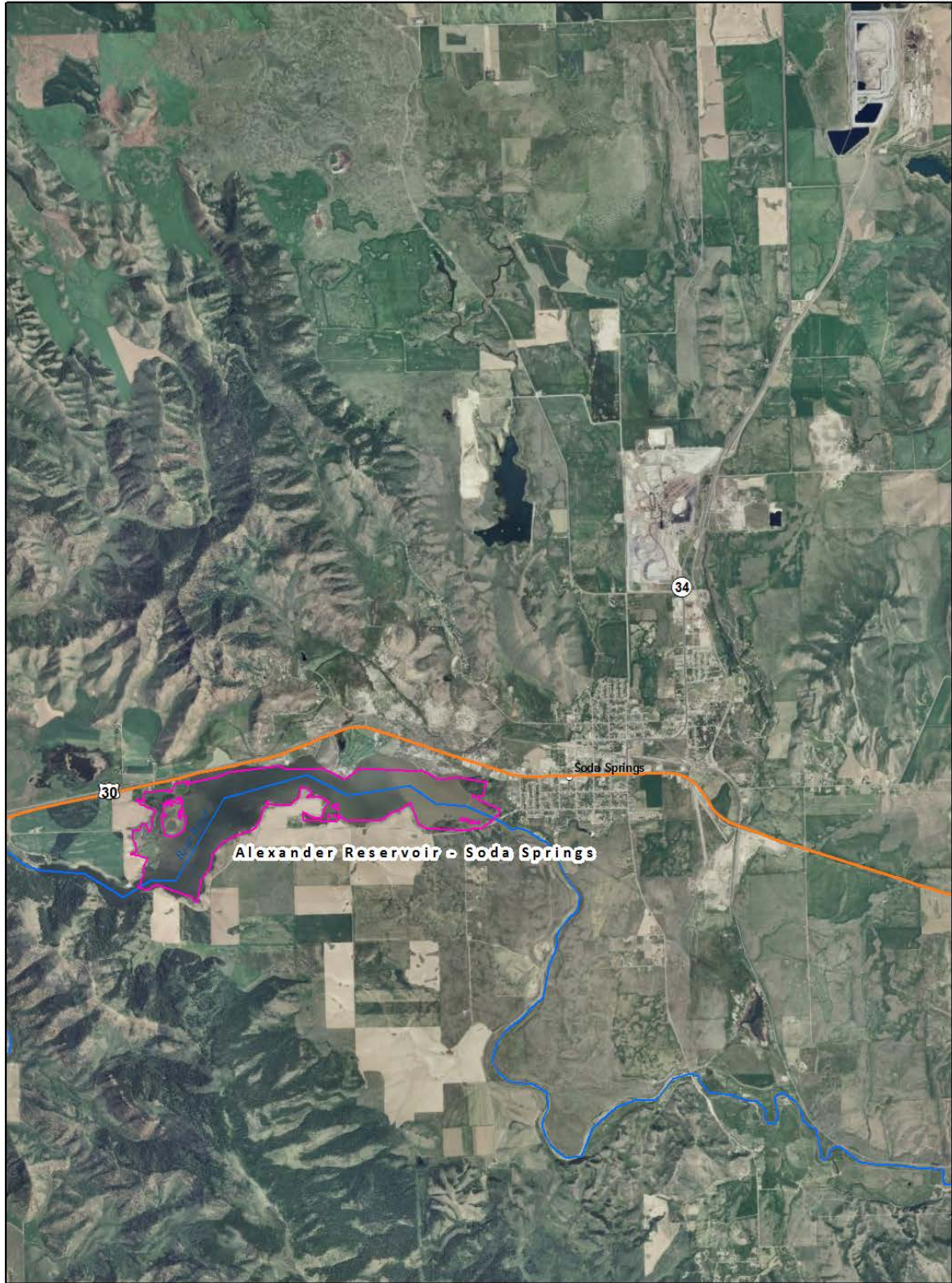
 **Priority Wetland Sites**



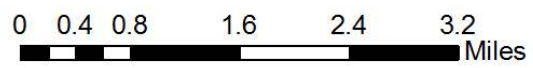


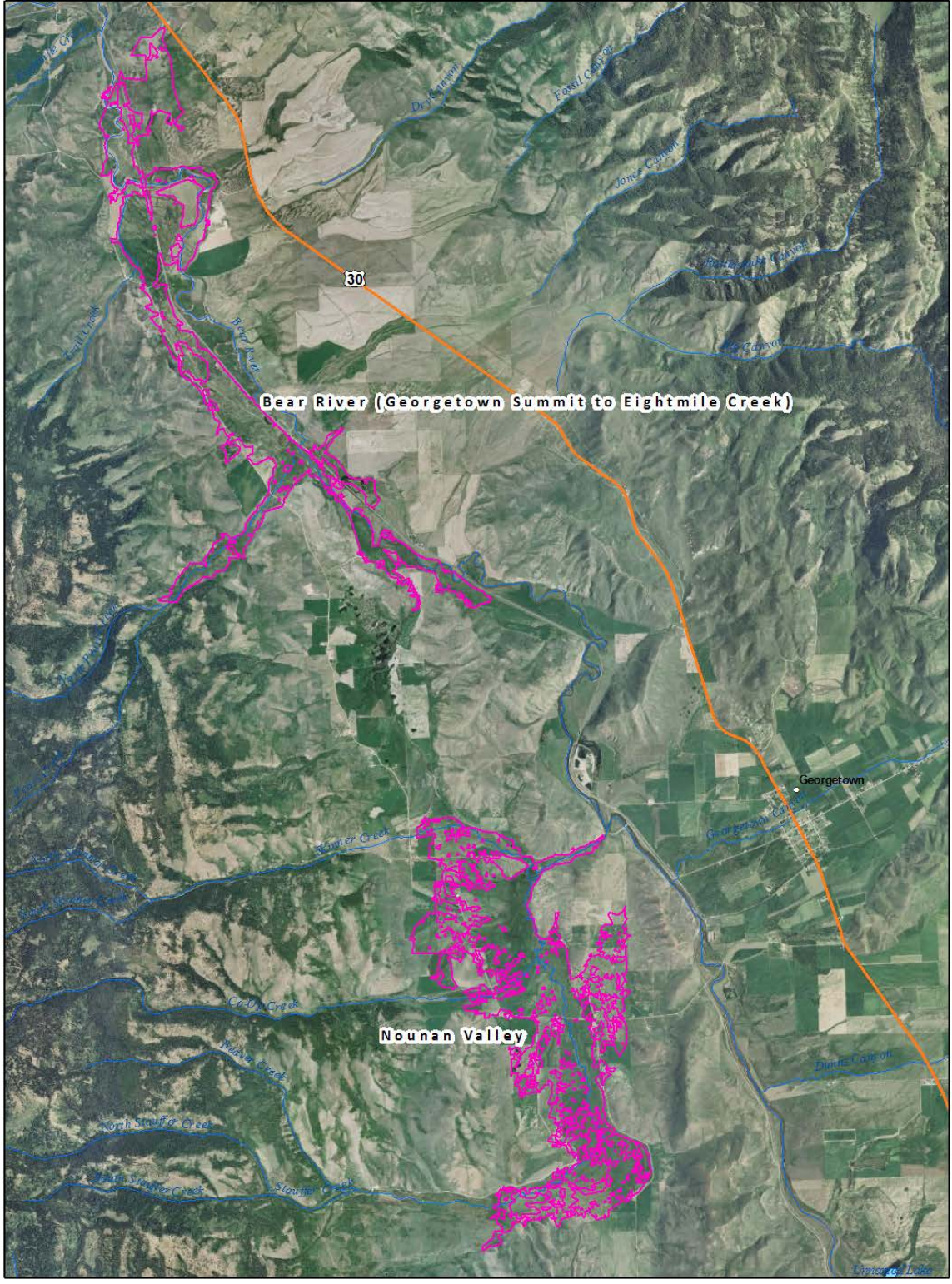
 **Priority Wetland Sites**





**Priority Wetland Sites**



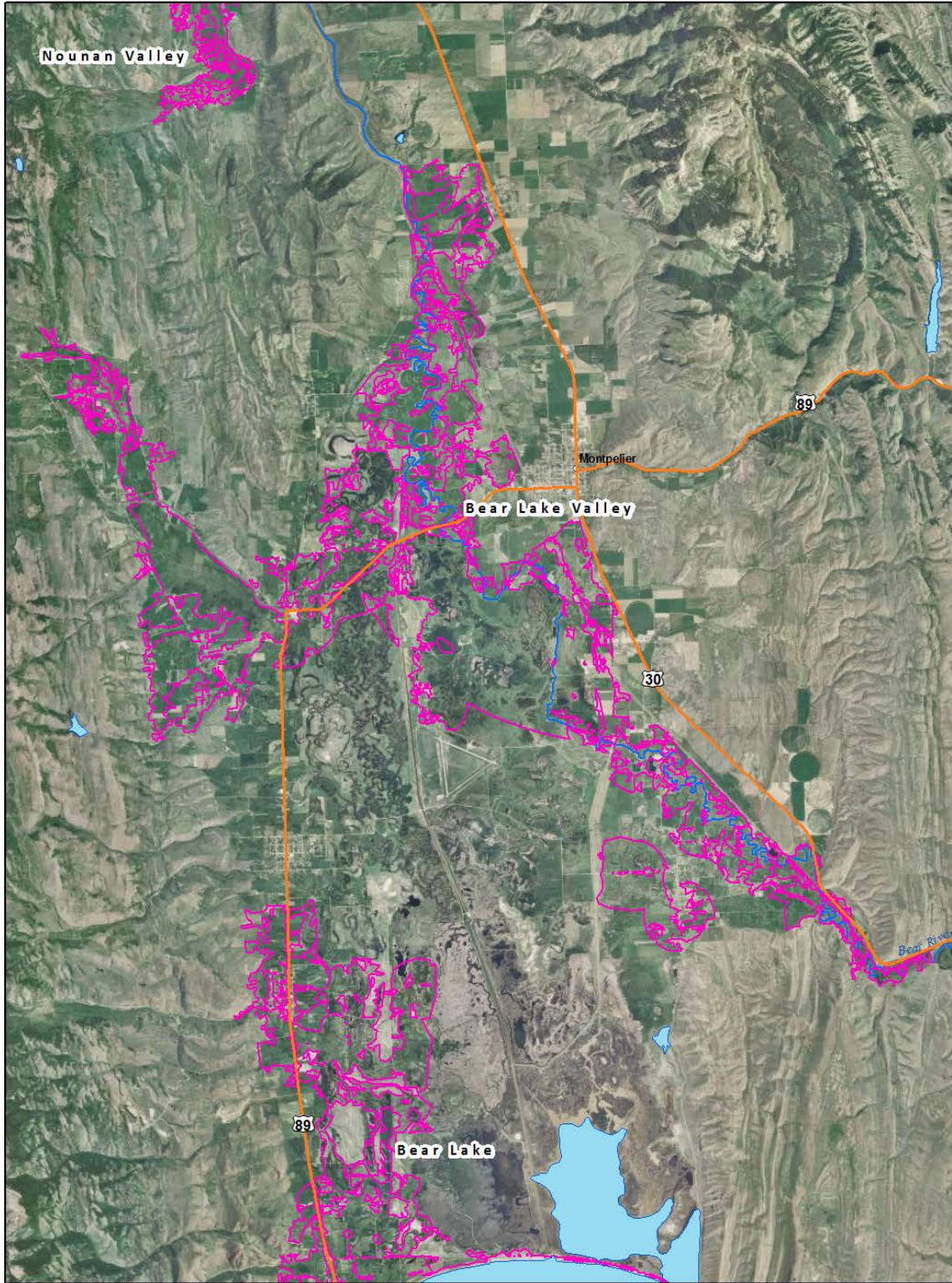


**Priority Wetland Sites**

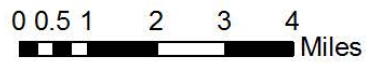
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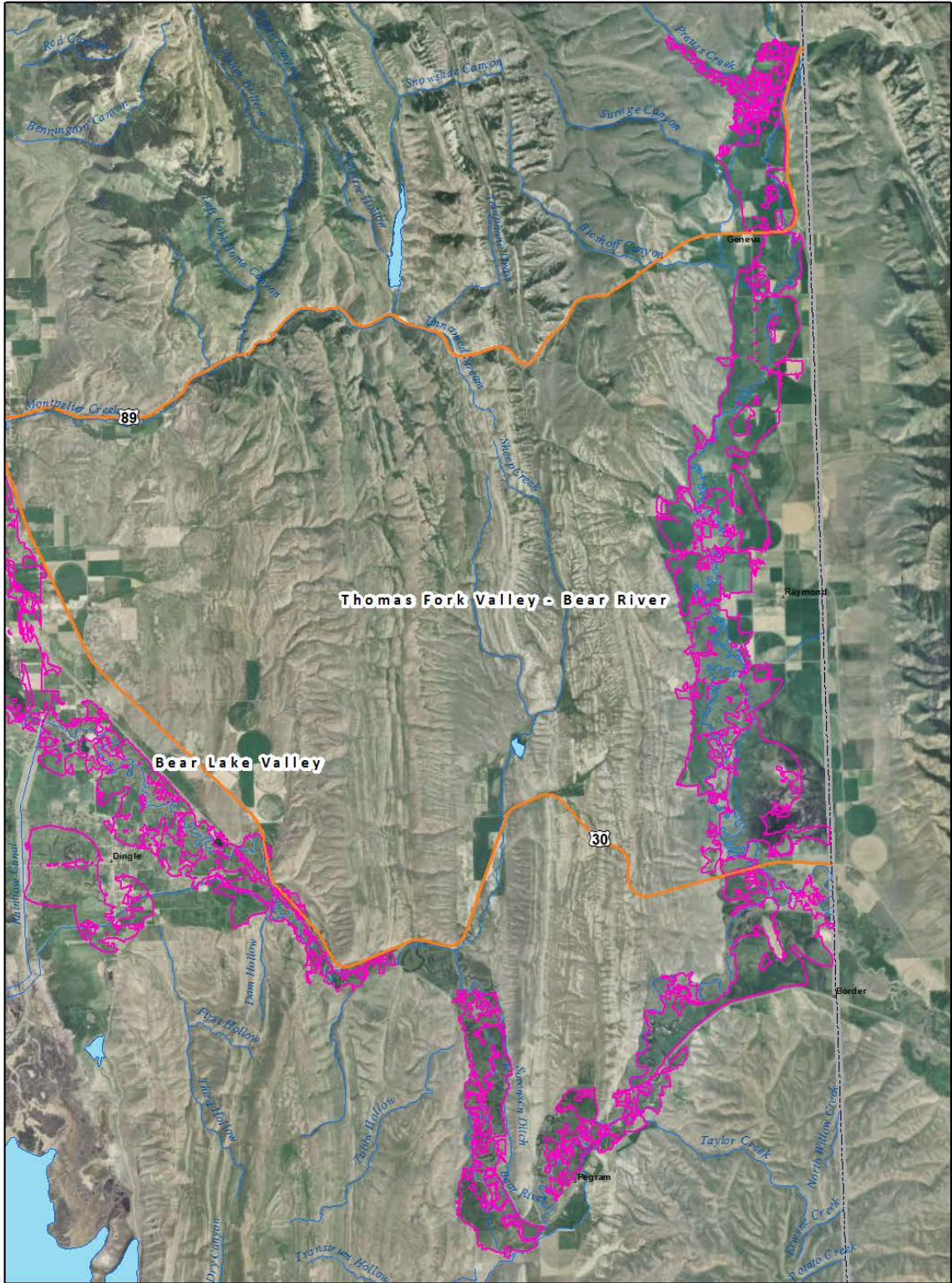
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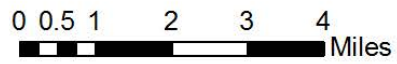


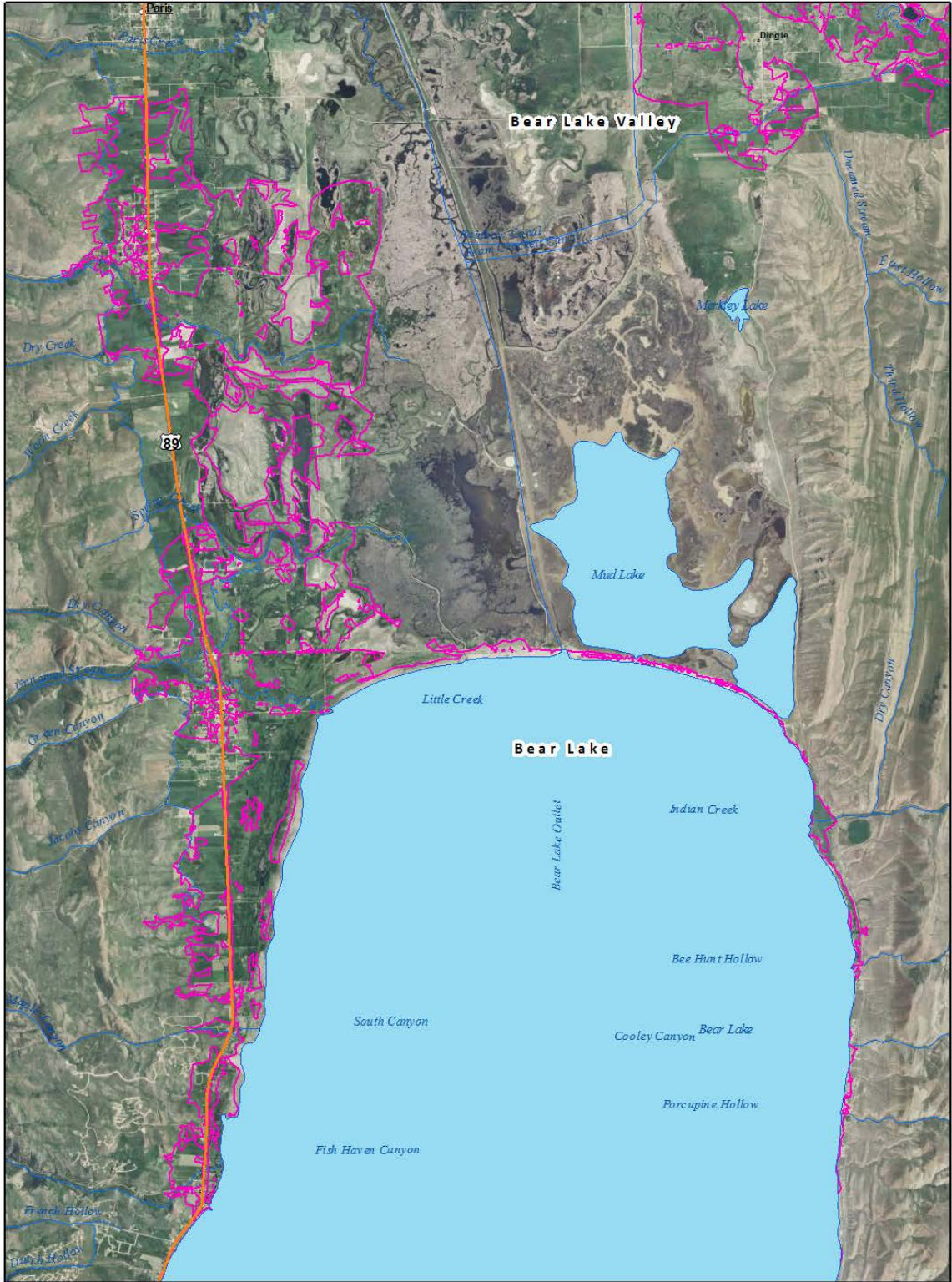
 **Priority Wetland Sites**





**Priority Wetland Sites**





**Priority Wetland Sites**

