CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Big Rose Colony, Inc. Natural Gas Pipeline Easement
Proposed Implementation Date:	Spring 2025
Proponent:	Big Rose Colony, Inc., PO Box 905, Shelby, MT 59474
Location:	SW¼SE¼ of Section 8, T32N, R2W
County:	Toole
Trust:	Capitol Buildings

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Big Rose Colony, Inc. proposes, under an easement application, to install a buried natural gas pipeline located on state land, referred to herein as the "Project". The gas pipeline will transport gas from the southwest to the northeast within the SE¼SE¼ of the state land tract. The Project will be 641 feet in length and result in approximately 0.29 acres of soil disturbance, see **Attachment A**, Project Location Map. The installation of the gas pipeline will serve Big Rose Colony for domestic purposes and result in an increase in trust revenues on state tract Section 8, T32N, R2W.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

The Project is located on state-owned land and Big Rose Colony is the proponent. Agencies involved in the permitting process include the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, (DNRC) – Trust Land Management Division – Real - Estate Management Bureau.

Grazing: Surface Lessee – Lease # 6531 – Juanita Hasquet

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

DNRC is not aware of any other agencies with jurisdiction or other permits needed to complete this Project. The Project will be permitted under a Right of Way Easement in State Lands.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A (No Action) – Deny Big Rose Colony permission to install the natural gas pipeline for domestic purposes.

Alternative B (the Proposed action) – Grant Big Rose Colony permission to install the natural gas pipeline for domestic purposes.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

Soil Properties:

There is one type of soil found within the Project footprint.

(62A) Vaeda silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
These soils consist of very deep (more than 80 inches), well-drained soils. These soils are found within Fans. Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches is about 6.70 inches; the mean annual precipitation for the region is 10 to 14 inches. (Soil Survey of Toole County, Montana, 2024).

Soil Stability:

K – Factor:
The soil identified within the Project footprint have a Soil Erodibility (K) Factor of 0.37 (Soil Survey of Toole County, Montana, 2024). The K Factor range is 0.02 to 0.69 (0.69 being the most susceptible to sheet and rill erosion by water.) The K Factor is moderate for the Project site which indicates a moderate susceptibility to erosion by water.

Wind Erodibility Group:
The soil identified within the Project footprint have a Wind Erodibility Group (WEG) of 4 (Soil Survey of Toole County, Montana, 2024). The WEG range is 1 – 8 (1 being the most susceptible to wind erosion and 8 being the least susceptible). The WEG is moderate for the Project site which indicates a moderate susceptibility to erosion by wind.

Suitabilities and Limitations for Use:

Shallow Excavations:
The soil identified within the Project footprint is classified as having “Somewhat Limited” soils for shallow excavations. The surrounding soils are classified as having “Very Limited” soils for shallow excavations (Soil Survey of Toole County, Montana, 2024). “Somewhat limited” indicates the soils have features that are moderately favorable for shallow excavations. NRCS indicates that “the limitations can be overcome or minimized by special planning, design, or installation”.

BMPs:
Big Rose Colony shall comply with land rehabilitation conditions stated in the ROW easement. This includes backfilling, grading, and re-seeding the disturbed area with a seed mixture approved by the DNRC Conrad Unit Office, and monitoring for noxious weeds.

Determination:
Effect, Not Likely to Adversely Effect. The Project has the potential to impact soils, however, given its low to moderate susceptibility to erosion, its suitability for shallow excavations, and the implementation of the BMPs described above, the Project is not expected to have negative cumulative effects on soil.

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5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:
Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

Surface or Groundwater Resources:
Verden Lake is located approximately 0.85 air miles south and 1.1 air miles northwest of the Project. There are no known surface water diversions or groundwater diversions located within Section 8 of T32N, R2W. There is one permitted “Place of Use” water right (41P 30072608) for Stockwater and one “Point of Diversion” water right (41P 30072608) located in Section 8 of T32N, R2W. For additional information see http://wrqs.dnrc.mt.gov/default.aspx.

BMPs:
Big Rose Colony shall comply with land rehabilitation conditions stated in the ROW easement. This includes backfilling, grading, and re-seeding the disturbed area with a seed mixture approved by the DNRC Conrad Unit Office, and monitoring for noxious weeds.

Determination:
Effect, Not Likely to Adversely Effect. The Project has the potential to impact Verden Lake through stormwater runoff of disturbed soils. However, given the estimated disturbance acreage (≈ 0.29 acres), the relatively small change in elevation from the Project area to Verden Lake, and the BMPs described above, the Project is not expected to have negative cumulative effects on water quality.

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6. AIR QUALITY:
What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

Air Quality:
There are no Non-attainment areas located on or near the Project, per the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Nonattainment area maps (NEPAssist, 2025). The proposed activities will not result in any new air emissions.

Determination:
No Effect. It is not anticipated that the Project would result in negative cumulative effects on air quality.

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7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:
What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

Vegetative Community:
Vegetation around the Project site consists of native grazing land containing Western Wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), Green Needlegrass (*Nassella viridula*), Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*), Blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), Sandberg Bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), Prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*), Threadleaf Sedge (*Carex filifolia*), Needle-and-thread Grass (*Hesperostipa comata),* Fringed Sagewort (*Artemisia frigida*), and various forbs. Noxious weeds were not identified within the Project footprint.

The Natural Heritage Program database identifies Long-sheath Waterweed (*Elodea bifoliate*) as a species of concern within Section 8, T32N, R2W.

BMPs:
Big Rose Colony shall comply with land rehabilitation conditions stated in the ROW easement. This includes backfilling, grading, and re-seeding the disturbed area with a seed mixture approved by the DNRC Conrad Unit Office, and monitoring for noxious weeds. The recommended re-seeding mix shall consist of 35% of Western Wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), 35% Slender Wheatgrass (*Elymus trachycaulus*), 15% Bluebunch Wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), 10% Green Needlegrass (*Nassella viridula*), and 5% Lewis Blue Flax (*Linum lewisii*) or Purple Prairie Clover (*Dalea purpurea*). The mix shall be Certified Noxious Weed Seed Free, drilled at a seeding rate of 8 lbs./acre Pure Live Seed (PLS), if broadcast seeding, poundage shall be doubled and harrowed, and seeding shall occur either in the fall (after September 15) or early spring (before May 1).

Determination:
Effect, Not Likely to Adversely Effect. Project activities will result in a temporary disturbance of the vegetative community within the Project footprint. The BMPs proposed above will mitigate any long-term adverse effects and therefore negative cumulative effects on vegetative resources are not expected.

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8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:
Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

Habitat:
The Project site is not considered Critical Habitat per the EPA. The surrounding area provides habitat for a variety of big game species, predators, upland game birds, other non-game mammals, birds of prey, and various songbirds.

BMPs:
Big Rose Colony shall comply with land rehabilitation conditions stated in the ROW easement. This includes backfilling, grading, and re-seeding the disturbed area with a seed mixture approved by the DNRC Conrad Unit Office, and monitoring for noxious weeds.

Determination:
Effect, Not Likely to Adversely Effect. The Project has the potential to impact wildlife temporarily through the operation of heavy equipment during actual construction days. However, the Project will not significantly impact wildlife forage, cover, or travel corridors. Nor will this action change the juxtaposition of wildlife forage, water, or hiding and thermal cover. Wildlife usage is expected to return to "normal" (pre-action usage) following the installation of the gas pipeline. Overall, the Project is not expected to have negative cumulative effects on wildlife or habitat.

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9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:
Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

Species of Concern/Threatened/Endangered:
Federally listed mammal species that occur in Montana include Black-footed Ferret (*Mustela nigripes*), Canada Lynx (*Lynx canadensis),* Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*), and Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Federally listed avian species that occur in Montana include Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), and Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). For additional information and additional species (fish, plants, & insects) see https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/species-listings-by-state?stateAbbrev=MT&stateName=Montana&statusCategory=Listed

The National Heritage Program database identifies various species as species of concern within Section 8, T32N, R2W, see **Attachment B**, Species of Concern for additional information.

Wetlands:
The National Wetland Inventory (NWI) identified several Freshwater Emergent Wetland habitats (Verden Lake) within a half mile radius of the Project, see **Attachment C,** Wetland Map. For a complete description of wetland classification codes, go to https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/Mapper.html.

BMPs:
Big Rose Colony shall comply with land rehabilitation conditions stated in the ROW easement. This includes backfilling, grading, and re-seeding the disturbed area with a seed mixture approved by the DNRC Conrad Unit Office, and monitoring for noxious weeds.

Determination:
Effect, Not Likely to Adversely Effect. The Project has the potential to impact wildlife temporarily through the operation of heavy equipment during actual construction days. However, the Project will not significantly impact wildlife forage, cover, or travel corridors. Nor will this action change the juxtaposition of wildlife forage, water, or hiding and thermal cover. Wildlife usage is expected to return to "normal" (pre-action usage) following the installation of the gas pipeline. The Project has the potential to impact Verden Lake through stormwater runoff of disturbed soils. However, given the estimated disturbance acreage (≈ 0.29 acres), the relatively small change in elevation from the Project area to Verden Lake, and the BMPs described above, the Project is not expected to have negative cumulative effects on Verden Lake. Overall, the Project is not expected to have negative cumulative effects on wildlife or habitat.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

Historical and Archeological Sites:

A Class I (literature review) level review was conducted by the DNRC staff archaeologist. This entailed inspection the DNRC's sites/site leads database, land use records, General Land Office maps, and control cards for potential cultural resources in the proposed project area. That series of searches indicated that no cultural or paleontological resources have been identified in the project area of potential effect. No additional archaeological investigative work is recommended.

Determination:

No Effect. The proposed activities are expected to have *No Effect* to *Antiquities*.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

Visual and Noise:

The Project is located approximately 2 miles northwest of Shelby, Montana (population 3,169), and is not legally accessible.

BMPs:

Big Rose Colony shall comply with land rehabilitation conditions stated in the ROW easement. This includes backfilling, grading, and re-seeding the disturbed area with a seed mixture approved by the DNRC Conrad Unit Office, and monitoring for noxious weeds.

Determination:

No Effect. The Project is not legally accessible and given the short duration of the Project, all Project materials will be buried, the distance from a populated area, and that reclamation is required, it is not expected to have cumulative impacts on aesthetics.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects on environmental resources.

Determination:

No Effect. The Project will not affect the demand on environmental resources such as land, water, air, or energy. The Project will not consume environmental resources that are limited in the area. There are no other projects in the area that will affect the proposed Project. Negative cumulative effects on environmental resources are not expected.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

Determination:

No Effect. Surrounding land is owned by the state with a surface use of grazing under State Lease # 6531. Any future development in the area will likely be restricted to utility or mineral development, with minimal impacts on the surface. Future development of projects is not expected to have negative cumulative effects.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Human Health and Safety:
Personnel involved with the Project activities include Big Rose Colony and the hired contractor's personnel, where health and safety risks consist of the normal day–to–day operations of installing gas pipelines.

Determination:
No Effect. Any risk to human health and safety will be restricted to Big Rose Colony and the hired contractor's personnel during the normal day–to–day operations of installing natural gas pipelines and it is assumed that they will abide by all Occupational Safety and Health Administration laws.

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15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:
Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

Land Use:
The current land use on which the gas pipeline will be installed on state lease # 6531 consists of 360.00 grazing acres.

Production:
The Project will benefit the Capitol Buildings Trust in terms of a one-time easement fee. The Project will not impede the existing production of State Lease # 6531.

BMPs:
Big Rose Colony shall comply with land rehabilitation conditions stated in the ROW easement. This includes backfilling, grading, and re-seeding the disturbed area with a seed mixture approved by the DNRC Conrad Unit Office, and monitoring for noxious weeds.

Determination:
Effect, Beneficial Effect. The Project is expected to increase the overall production of state tract Section 8 of T32N, R2W, while not impeding the existing production of the surface for State Lease # 6531. The Project is not expected to have negative cumulative effects on future land use activities.

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16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:
Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

Determination:
No Effect. The Project would not result in any new jobs nor eliminate any, therefore negative cumulative effects on the employment market are not expected.

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17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:
Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

Determination:
Effect, Beneficial Effect. The Project is expected to slightly increase the overall tax revenues, although the scale of the project is so small that cumulative impacts will be very minor.

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18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:
Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

Demand for Government Services:
The Project is not legally accessible. Additional government services (e.g. fire protection, police, schools, etc.) are not required for gas pipeline installation. This Project is of a small scale and being funded by Big Rose Colony. There will be no excessive stress placed on the existing infrastructure of the area.

Determination:
No Effect. Future Project activities are not expected to impact traffic, increase demand for government services, or place excessive stress on the existing infrastructure of the area. Therefore, the Project is not expected to have negative cumulative effects on government services.

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19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:
List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

Determination:
No Effect. The Project follows State and County laws and will be permitted under the DNRC easement process (pending land board approval). No other management plans are in effect for the area.

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20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:
Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

Legal Access and Recreation Opportunities:
The Project is not legally accessible to the public and therefore does not offer any recreation potential.

Determination:
No Effect. The Project will not result in any new permanent impacts on the surface of the land, impact access, or recreational opportunities. The Project is not expected to have negative cumulative effects on recreational and wilderness activities.

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21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:
Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing

Determination:
No Effect. The Project will not require additional housing and is not expected to have negative cumulative effects on population and housing.

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22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:
Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Social Structures:
The Project is located approximately 5 miles southeast of Big Rose Hutterite colony (the proponent) and is approximately 16.5 miles east of Blackfeet Nation. No archeological sites were identified within the Project footprint.

Determination:
No Effect. The Project is consistent with the surrounding land use, therefore, negative cumulative effects on native or traditional lifestyles or communities are not expected.

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23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:
How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

Determination:
No Effect. The Project will not result in any new activities to occur in the area and therefore it is not expected to have negative cumulative effects on the unique quality of the area.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

The Project will benefit the Capitol Buildings Trust in terms of a one-time easement fee for the additional gas pipeline. The Project will not impede the existing production of State Lease # 6531.

Any future development in the area will likely be restricted to utility or mineral development, with minimal impacts on the surface. Future development of projects is not expected to have negative cumulative effects.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	**Name:** Abby Brett	**Date:** 2/25/2025
	Title: Land Use Specialist, Conrad Unit, Central Land Office	

V. FINDINGS

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative B (the Proposed action) – Grant Big Rose Colony permission to install the natural gas pipeline for domestic purposes.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

No significant impacts are expected. Small scale and temporary disturbances will occur as a result of the proposed action, but it has been determined the effects will not be cumulative or significantly adverse.

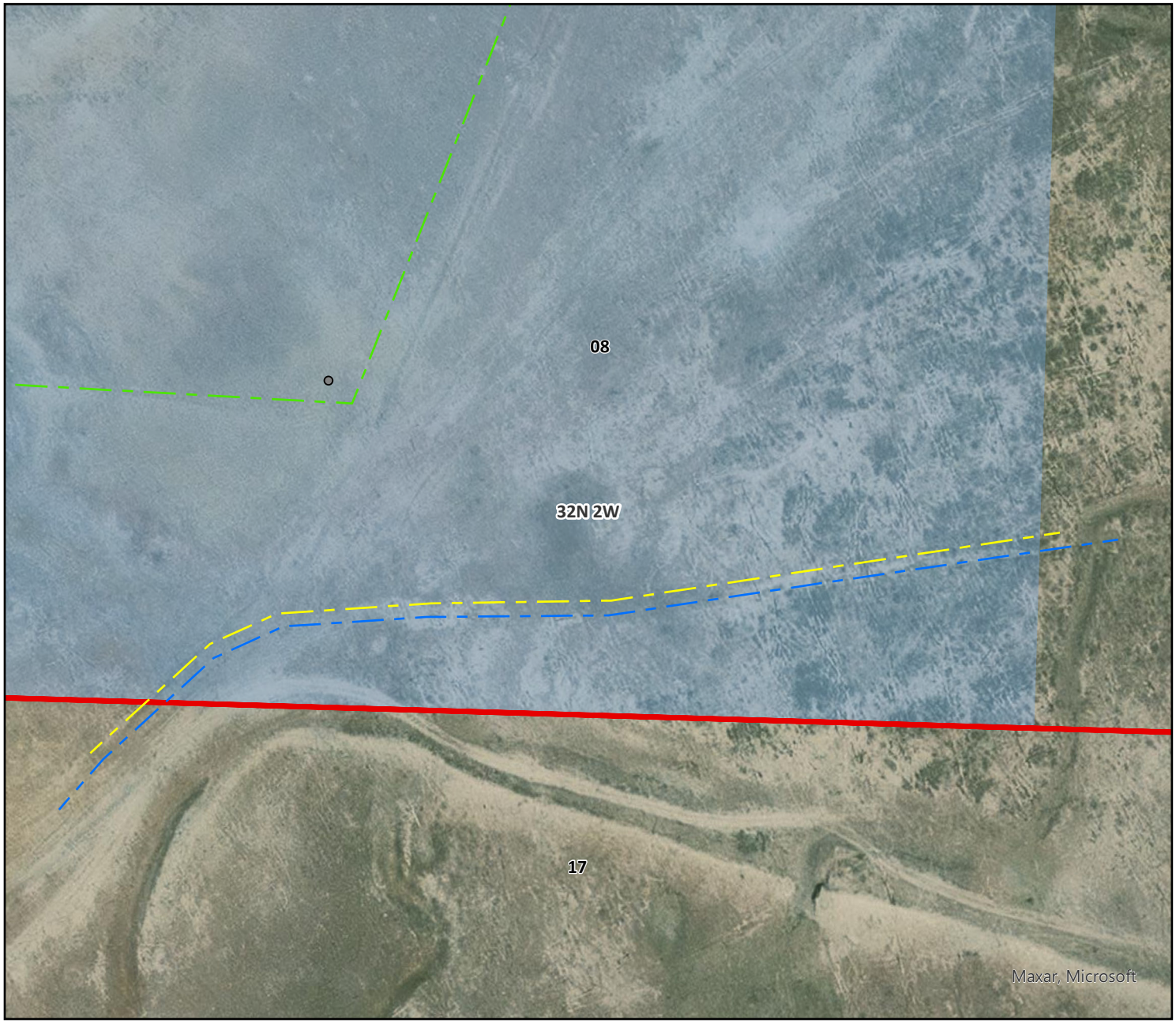
27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

☐	EIS	☐	More Detailed EA	X	No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name:**	Erik Eneboe
	Title:	Conrad Unit Manager, CLO, DNRC
Signature:		**Date**: 3/3/25

Attachment A
Project Location Map

Big Rose Colony Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline

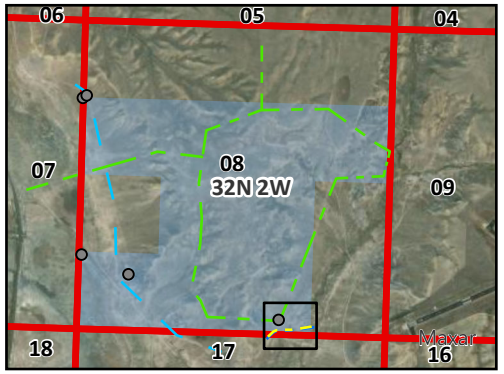


Legend

Line Type

- Fence
- Proposed Gas Pipeline
- Water Pipeline
- Township
- Lease AG-6531

Vicinity Map



N

Attachment A
Project Location

0 0.01 0.02 0.04 0.06 0.08 Miles

Author: Abby Brett
DNRC Conrad Unit Office
03/03/2025

SW1/4NW1/4 | SE1/4NW1/4 | SW1/4NE1/4 | SE1/4NE1/4

N 00°05'07" W 5278.61' (M)
N 00°05' W 5280.00' (GLO)

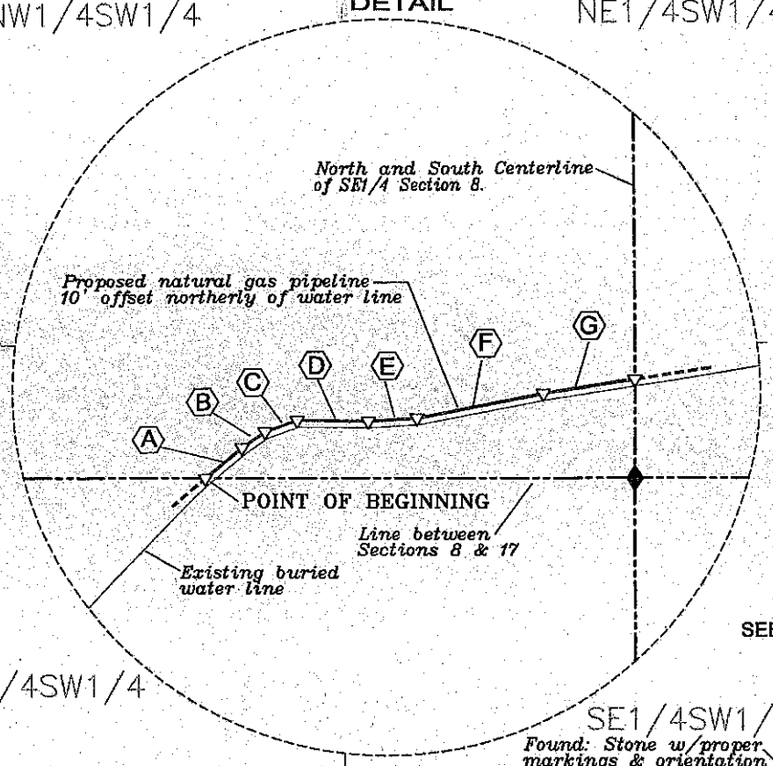
8

Found: Stone w/proper markings & orientation

N 00°04' W 5280.00' (GLO)
N 00°03'03" W 5274.03' (M)

NW1/4SW1/4 | NE1/4SW1/4 | NW1/4SE1/4 | NE1/4SE1/4

DETAIL



39.89 ACRES (M)(40.00 AC.GLO)
0.29 ACRES (NEW EASEMENT)
38.39 ACRES (REMAINDER)

North and South Centerline of SE1/4 Section 8.

1.50 ACRES(ACTUAL AREA OCCUPIED BY EXISTING WATER LINE)

SW1/4SE1/4 | SE1/4SE1/4

SEE DETAIL (LEFT)

SW1/4SW1/4 | SE1/4SW1/4

Found: Stone w/proper markings & orientation

Found: Stone w/proper markings & orientation

Found: Rebar (no cap) (Dubois –See State Land Water crossing)

Found: Stone w/proper markings & orientation

7 | 8 | 9

18 | 17 | 16

N 89°57' W 2641.32' (GLO)
N 89°55'55" E 2642.63' (M)

1/4 Section Cor. of Sections 8&17

Line between Sections 8 & 17

N 89°55'19" E 709.4' (M)

S 89°55'19" W 1316.87' (M)

POINT OF BEGINNING

S 89°55'19" W 1316.87' (M)

S 89°55'19" W 2633.74' (M)
N 89°57' W 2641.32' (GLO)

LEGEND:

- SECTION CORNER (SHADED IF FOUND)
- 1/4 SECTION CORNER (SHADED IF FOUND)
- MONUMENT FOUND (SEE DESCRIPTION OF MONUMENT FOUND)
- ANGLE POINT IN NEW NATURAL GAS PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)
- SIXTEENTH CORNER (SHADED IF FOUND)
- (M) MEASURED VALUE
- (GLO) RECORD VALUE (U.S. GENERAL LAND OFFICE)
- (A) DIMENSION INDEX LETTER
- SECTION LINE
- CENTER LINE OF SECTION
- SIXTEENTH LINE

SEGMENT	BEARING	DISTANCE
A	N 48°21'35" E	69.1'
B	N 53°02'54" E	40.1'
C	N 69°51'12" E	48.9'
D	S 89°24'59" E	100.7'
E	N 86°24'14" E	68.9'
F	N 78°42'42" E	182.2'
G	N 81°13'30" E	131.1'
	TOTAL LENGTH	641.0'

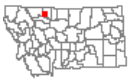
NOTE: MEASUREMENTS AS ILLUSTRATED AND DESCRIBED ARE GROUND MEASUREMENTS.

Attachment B
Species of Concern

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
A program of the **Montana State Library's Natural Resource Information System**

Legend

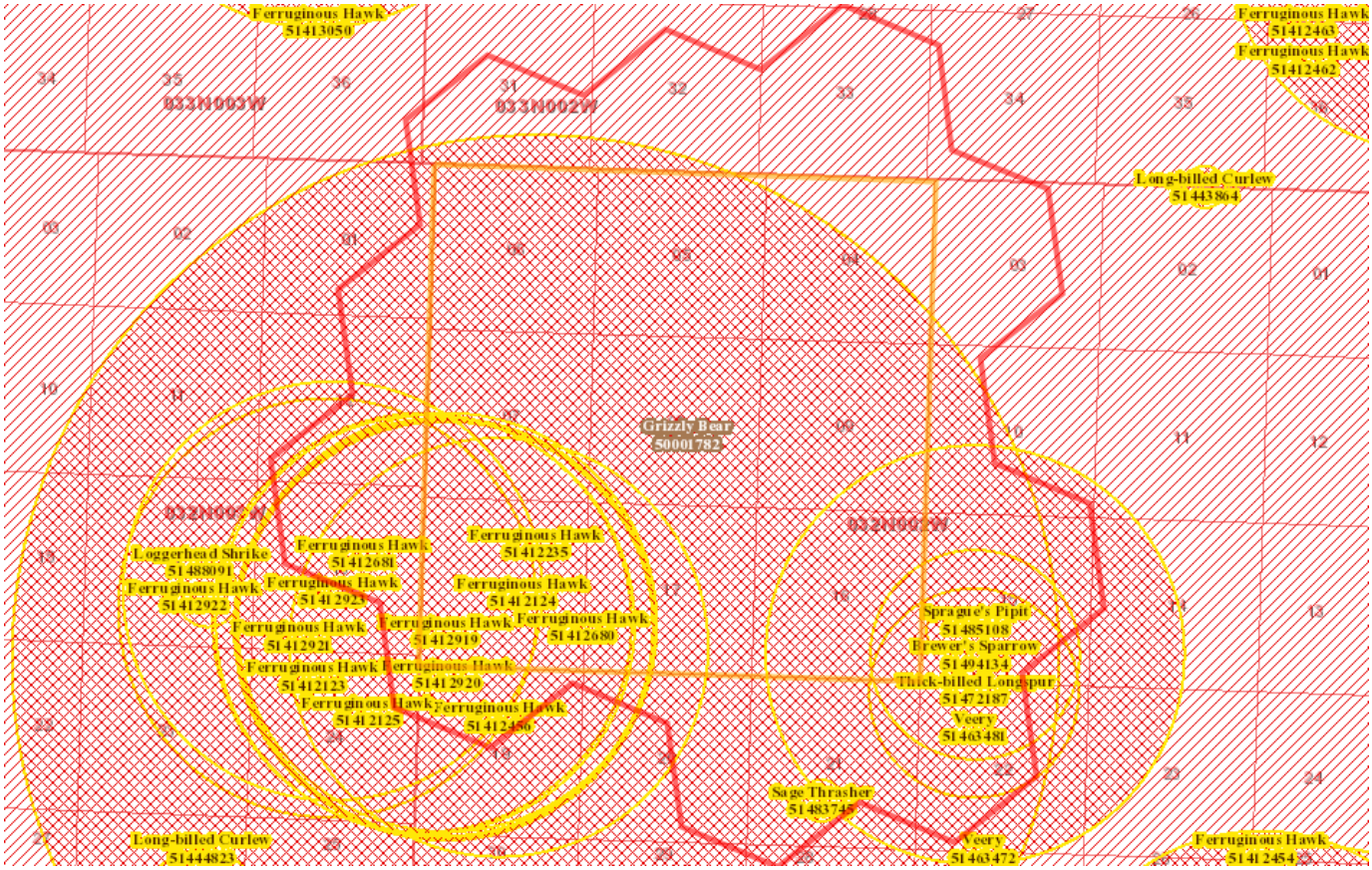
Model Icons	Habitat Icons	Range Icons	Num Obs
N Suitable (native range)	C Common	Y Native / Year-round	Count of obs with 'good precision' (<=1000m)
O Optimal Suitability	O Occasional	S Summer	+ indicates additional 'poor precision' obs (1001m-10,000m)
M Moderate Suitability		W Winter	
L Low Suitability		M Migratory	
I Suitable (introduced range)		N Non-native	
		H Historical	



Latitude	Longitude
48.50570	-111.83991
48.58191	-111.94434

Native Species

Summarized by: **32N 2W Sec 8 Environmental Summary** *(Custom Area of Interest)*
Filtered by:
Native Species reports are filtered for Species with MT Status = Species of Concern



Species Occurrences

	USFWS Sec7	# SO	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
V - Elodea bifoliata *(Long-sheath Waterweed)* SOC		3	3		Y

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4G5** State: **S2?** Plant Threat Score: **No Known Threats**

Delineation Criteria Individual occurrences are generally based upon a discretely mapped area provided by an observer and are not separated by any pre-defined distance. Individual clusters of plants mapped at fine spatial scales (separated by less than approximately 25-50 meters) may be grouped together into one occurrence if they are not separated by distinct areas of habitat or terrain features. Point observations are buffered to encompass any locational uncertainty associated with the observation. (Last Updated: Oct 27, 2023)

Predicted Models: O 18% Optimal (inductive), M 59% Moderate (inductive), L 23% Low (inductive)

B - Ferruginous Hawk *(Buteo regalis)* SOC		12	30 +		S M

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed nesting area buffered by a minimum distance of 2,000 meters in order to encompass the average home range size reported for the species and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 5,000 meters. (Last Updated: Sep 25, 2024)

Predicted Models: M 100% Moderate (inductive)

B - Sprague's Pipit *(Anthus spragueii)* SOC	7	1	5		S M

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G3G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC11; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **1**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 115 meters in order to encompass the maximum breeding territory sizes reported for the species in Montana and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 5,000 meters. (Last Updated: Dec 26, 2024)

Predicted Models: M 71% Moderate (inductive), L 29% Low (inductive)

B - Thick-billed Longspur *(Rhynchophanes mccownii)* SOC		1	1		S M

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 100 meters in order to encompass the maximum breeding territory size reported for the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 5,000 meters. (Last Updated: Dec 20, 2024)

Predicted Models: M 65% Moderate (inductive), L 35% Low (inductive)

B - Brewer's Sparrow *(Spizella breweri)* **SOC** 2 8 S M

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**

Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 100 meters in order to encompass the maximum territory size reported for the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 5,000 meters. (Last Updated: Dec 26, 2024)

Predicted Models: M 24% Moderate (inductive), L 65% Low (inductive)

B - Sage Thrasher *(Oreoscoptes montanus)* **SOC** 1 1 S M

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**

Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **3**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 75 meters in order to encompass the maximum breeding territory size reported for the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 5,000 meters. (Last Updated: Dec 26, 2024)

Predicted Models: M 12% Moderate (inductive), L 88% Low (inductive)

B - Veery *(Catharus fuscescens)* **SOC** 1 3 S M

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**

Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**

Delineation Criteria Observations with evidence of breeding activity buffered by a minimum distance of 300 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing home ranges and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 5,000 meters. (Last Updated: Dec 20, 2024)

Predicted Models: L 47% Low (inductive)

M - Grizzly Bear *(Ursus arctos)* **SOC** 7 1 Y H

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**

Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3** USFWS: **LT** BLM: **THREATENED** FWP SWAP: **SGCN2-3**

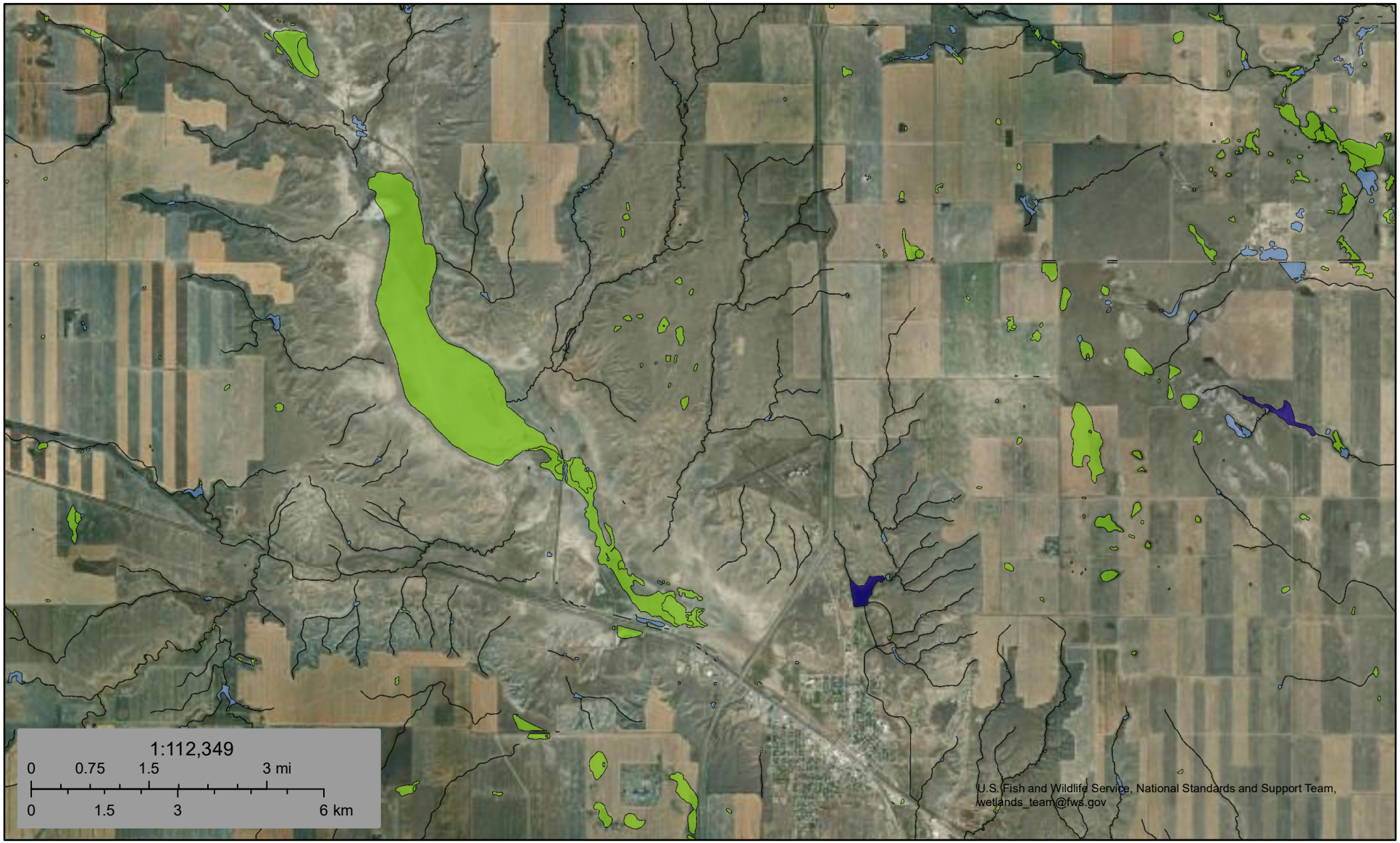
Delineation Criteria Species Occurrence polygons represent areas delineated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that encompass both home ranges and potential transitory movements based on verified sightings. Within these areas, the USFWS wants project proponents to consider whether the species "may be present" when evaluating the potential impacts of a project and to work with the USFWS to develop and implement best management practices to minimize or eliminate project effects on the species. (Last Updated: Dec 26, 2024)

Predicted Models: L 35% Low (inductive)

Attachment C
Wetland Map

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wetlands Inventory

Big Rose wetlands map



February 25, 2025

Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

End of Documentation