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Chapter 6 – Public Services, Facilities and Utilities

Vision Blaine County government improves quality of life by providing efficient and effective public services. As stewards of citizens’ resources, we serve our diverse community with teamwork, integrity, and commitment to excellence.

Key Guiding Principles

Providing necessary public services, maintaining and improving community infrastructure and well-functioning utilities for residents and visitors raise the quality of life in Blaine County. These elements also contribute to the County’s economic competitiveness.

A primary function of county government is to ensure that residents, visitors and businesses have essential services and infrastructure that support their current and future needs.

The community depends on local government to manage infrastructure and service delivery by:

- planning for health, safety and general welfare.
- budgeting responsibly.
- adapting to future needs resulting from changes in demographics, funding availability consumer demand and environmental conditions.
- adopting new technologies.

Since development in remote areas increases costs and time spent on providing public and emergency services, long-established land use policies and existing zoning discourage such development.

Housing and other development close to infrastructure and emergency services is cost-efficient. The cost of delivering services increases as the distance from service centers increases, especially in locations off the main transportation corridors. Extended travel times for emergency services in remote areas make responders unavailable for other emergencies. Thus low-density zoning and requirements for adequate mitigation are appropriate for remote areas.

Setting

Because this Plan is foremost a land use planning document, this chapter focuses on public services and facilities that relate to land use and land development. It also describes many critically important county services that have a lesser impact on land use. Other County guiding documents, as well as the County's website (blainecounty.org), give additional information on Blaine County government.

Blaine County provides a variety of public services to its constituents, in many cases serving the citizens of the incorporated cities as well as the unincorporated areas of the County. Some services are mandated by state law. Others are provided because County leaders have found them to be important for the public health, safety and welfare and quality of life. Some public services and utilities are provided by other jurisdictions and service providers. For example, the County does not manage or directly provide water or sewer services, fire services, schools, or public transportation, though these are closely connected to land development in the unincorporated county. Services and facilities are not siloed. The constant interplay between interagency departments and external partners is key to delivering good local government to the people we serve.

This chapter first reviews the services provided by the County, then covers services related to land use and development that other entities provide. Included are two related components that Idaho requires in comprehensive plans: School Facilities & Transportation, and National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors. Maps and other location-specific information on public facilities are found at the end of the chapter. Map 6.1 shows an overview of public facilities County-wide and in the incorporated cities.



Old County Courthouse – Carol Waller



County Annex Building –Blaine County

County Services and Facilities

Many County services are provided through facilities in Hailey, the county seat. The courthouse block in downtown Hailey, owned by the County, houses most departments and offices. It serves as a community portal to numerous County services and as a gathering point for community dialogue on all levels of County policy planning. The historic Old County Courthouse, the County Annex building, the Judicial Building, and the McBride Building make up the courthouse block. Some facilities are located outside this campus.

General Governance, Budget and Finance

Board of County Commissioners

The three County Commissioners create a governing board that has executive, quasi-judicial and legislative duties. On most Tuesdays, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) have a regular meeting that is open to the public. In these meetings the public is welcomed to voice comment,

department heads and elected officials give reports, the Board passes ordinances and holds hearings on land use applications and other proposals. Each year, the Board spends many hours preparing an outcome-based budget, aligning County resources to the strategic objectives and priorities that drive the results that matter most to County citizens. Regular Board meetings conducting necessary business are essential for transparency, leadership, and creating a countywide culture of delivering excellent customer service.

Property Assessment

The Assessor's primary mission is to determine equitable values on both real and personal property for property taxation purposes in accordance with Idaho law. The law requires that all taxable property be assessed at comparable market value each year. Enhanced technology in appraisal programs, appraiser reporting and GIS has improved internal efficiency and made more information available to the public online. The Board of Commissioners serves as the Board of Equalization for appeals of property valuation.

The Assessor's Office keeps accurate and complete plat books of land in the County, with up-to-date

ownership records. It also acts as the agent of the Idaho Department of Transportation in titling and registering vehicles.

Recorder and Clerk’s Office

The Recorders and Clerk’s Office records subdivision plats, surveys, deeds, easements and other documents related to land and land transactions. Once recorded, they are “of record” and are permanently available to the public. This office also records other documents such as marriage licenses, birth certificates and alcoholic beverage permits. It provides public notice for and records all public meetings, and keeps the records for public review.

The Clerk’s Office provides both indigent services and veteran referrals. The state mandates counties to provide indigent assistance – financial assistance for medical and non-medical purposes as a “last resort” to County residents who have no other resources available for their emergency needs. Services for veterans is currently limited to referrals to other veteran service providers.

Other functions of the Clerk’s Office include Audit and Finance, Budget, Elections, and Courts.

Treasurer

The County Treasurer is responsible for collecting property tax and other fees on behalf of all the taxing districts, investing it safely, and apportioning the correct amount to individual taxing districts. The Treasurer is also the Public Administrator, the person who accounts for and disposes of the assets of a deceased person in the absence of next-of-kin.

Internal County Departments

Three departments provide internal services to the County organization: Information Technology, Human Resources and Facilities. A proposed new Office of Sustainability and Resilience would work with all departments to formulate and implement strategic objectives.

Land and Development Services

Land Use and Building Services

Effective land use planning is one of the highest priorities of Blaine County. Planning begins with long-range comprehensive planning efforts that provide background and policy direction. Comprehensive Plans serve as guiding tools for the creation of development codes including zoning and subdivision ordinances. In turn, those ordinances establish the standards by which the Planning and Zoning Commission, Hearing Examiner, and Board of County Commissioners judge property-specific land use applications.

In 2010, the Planning and Zoning Department and the Building Department merged to become Land Use and Building Services (LUBS). This Department provides guidance and technical expertise to elected officials, the Planning and Zoning Commission, public agencies and citizens on community land use and building issues and applications. LUBS staff supports the County’s long-term commitment to the public’s health and safety through orderly land development, protection of the natural environment and adherence to adopted zoning, subdivision, building and related codes.

Land use applications include quasi-judicial applications: subdivision of land, plat amendment, conditional use permit, variance, and rezone applications, as well as applications related to overlay districts such as floodplain permits, stream alterations, and Mountain Overlay District site alterations. Also handled are legislative reviews (text amendments to ordinances and the Comprehensive Plan) and various administrative permits (e.g. signs, parcel determinations, and categorical exclusions for certain development in the Mountain Overlay District or Scenic Highway Overlay District).

LUBS has a certified floodplain manager on staff to support the County’s voluntary participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Over the past years, the County’s efforts to exceed NIFP

requirements have resulted in lower premiums for flood insurance holders.

LUBS has observed ongoing development pressure and building trends such as generally increasing home sizes and greater attention to energy saving provisions. Technological advances in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping services, aerial photography and the availability of digital data including plats continue to improve internal efficiency and public access to information.

GIS Mapping Services

Strong mapping tools are crucial for good policy planning. The GIS Department has a repository of data layers and information that serves a variety of functions including land use planning, emergency services, road and bridge construction and maintenance, natural resources management, parcel assessment, voting and weed management. Much of this information is available free to the public via the County web site.

This department provides regional services in the form of:

- free, interactive web-based applications available to the public.
- contractual arrangements with the cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley for GIS services within city limits to promote regional cooperation and sharing of information.
- a variety of information available via file transfer protocol (FTP), giving other agencies and the public access to a wealth of GIS information.

County Engineer

Safe and environmentally conscious engineering decisions are a critical element of land use and infrastructure planning. The County Engineer is a contracted position which provides technical review, evaluation and design of County Road and Bridge projects and infrastructure. The engineer assists Land Use and Building Services with permit applications and development review. The position also provides

support, analysis and evaluations to other departments as needed.

Noxious Weeds Department

Blaine County meets its statutory obligation to control the spread of noxious weeds through its Noxious Weeds Department. (Chapter 5, Natural Environment, addresses this serious environmental threat.) The department has two primary functions:

1. Operations: to control noxious weeds along roadways and on public and private land where needed. The shop for these operations is located in Carey.
2. Public outreach including free site inspections and weed management plans; herbicide information and methods of application; weed identification and methods of control; publications and education materials; trainings and other engagements.

Blaine County is one of 20 parties comprising the Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) - a partnership of landowners, interested organizations and land managers approaching noxious weed management through a collaborative process.





Public Safety Facility–Blaine County

Public Safety

Sheriff's Office and Public Safety Facility

Public safety is an essential component that affects quality of life. As in most U.S. counties, the Sheriff is an elected position. The Blaine County Sheriff's Office provides all aspects of law enforcement: patrol and community policing, detention, search and rescue, Emergency Response Team, marine division (patrol on certain water bodies), snowmobile patrol, prisoner transport as well as civil responsibilities of driver's licensing, civil processing, records management and community service programs. The Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement in the unincorporated county, to the city of Ketchum via contract, and to the City of Carey. The cities of Sun Valley and Hailey operate their own police departments, as does Bellevue through the Bellevue Marshall. All employees of BCSO are provided exceptional career training, including a field training program within each division and career-long continuing education. For certified Patrol deputies, the field training consists of 14 weeks of on the job training and 15 weeks of academy training.

A 36,000 square foot Public Safety Facility opened in 2008 in Hailey, near Friedman Memorial Airport. Within this facility, the Blaine County Detention Center contains 66 beds capable of housing male and females in the four jail pods providing minimum, medium and maximum-security classifications, including special needs cells. An additional 20 inmates can be housed in male and female work

release dorms and up to four juveniles can be held for up to 24 hours in segregated holding cells, for a total of 90 beds. The facility is designed to allow for additional block expansion that could house up to 48 beds.

Map 6.2 shows the Sheriff's Office/Public Safety Facility as well as police stations.

Emergency Communications

Blaine County provides emergency communications for all county residents, including those within the cities. Emergency Communications serves as "the public safety answering point" (PSAP) for all of Blaine County, providing enhanced 9-1-1 and Text-to-9-1-1 services and Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD). In the future, emergency communications will focus on transitioning to the Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1), providing IP based 9-1-1 services to enhance caller location and system redundancy.

The County and all five cities formally consolidated emergency communications in 2007, creating a working partnership between the jurisdictions. The Emergency Communication Center, located in Public Safety Facility, processes emergency and non-emergency calls for all police, fire and EMS agencies within Blaine County. The PSAP is responsible for maintaining recordings of all calls for service, and oversees the County's community alert system. The Center also works with ILETS (Idaho Public Safety and Security System) and NCIC (National Crime Information Center), which includes background checks for officers, jail and courts.

Emergency Medical Services

Idaho code authorizes counties to establish and maintain ambulance service districts. The County Commissioners serve as the Ambulance District Board and the County Medical Director establishes operational procedures and medical protocols for all ambulance services. The ambulance district contracts with the City of Ketchum Fire Department, Wood River Fire and Rescue and Carey Fire Districts to provide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to nearly all of Blaine County.¹ The Ketchum Fire Department handles all EMS calls in the entire north county including in the City of Ketchum, City of Sun Valley, Sun Valley Resort, and the Sawtooth National Forest. The Wood River Rural Fire District handles EMS call in all of southern Blaine County including Hailey, Bellevue and Carey. EMS calls make up the largest portion of calls to the three fire-based agencies in the ambulance district. In Blaine County, nearly all EMS personnel are also trained fire fighters.

Disaster Services

Blaine County has developed a proactive Disaster Services Coordinator position to fulfill a requirement of Idaho Statute. The Coordinator assists the County, municipalities, the Blaine County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and other agencies in prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery from disastrous events such as fires, floods, avalanches, hazmat incidents, pandemics, and other natural or human-caused crises. Blaine County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) details roles and responsibilities in a disaster emergency event. Disaster Services supports the lead agency during emergencies and is the primary point of contact for all related grant funding. The Coordinator also maintains and updates the All Hazards Mitigation Plan, which is a key element of preparedness and avoidance of disasters.

The County has assisted with some fire mitigation/prevention activities such as understory and debris

removal in targeted locations near homes. It has also been involved as a key participant in planning and funding post-fire restoration projects.

In March 2020, the County declared a State of Emergency during the COVID-19 pandemic. Responses to the medical crisis by the Board of Commissioners included:

- Internal policy changes including payroll continuation.
- Emergency expenditures for County needs including personal protective equipment for staff and customers, technology to accommodate remote working capability for staff and remote meeting capability for staff and the public, and health and safety upgrades to County facilities.
- Emergency expenditures by the Ambulance District for an additional ambulance and associated emergency medical technicians to conduct patient transports and additional personal protective equipment for first responders.
- Funding assistance to a long-term recovery committee and non-profit organizations.

During the eight-week closure of County buildings to the public, County services continued to be provided by staff working remotely and minimal in-office staffing. Public meetings continued to be conducted via remote platforms. Ongoing information regarding the pandemic was disseminated via press releases, special website pages, and multiple virtual town hall meetings.

Judicial Services

The Courts, Prosecuting Attorney, Public Defender, Probation, and Coroner are critically important services. The County also provides court services for all of its cities.

The chief deputy prosecuting attorney provides legal assistance to County departments, elected and appointed officials on all quasi-judicial land use matters as well as code writing and other land development topics.

¹ The Minidoka Ambulance District serves the Yale area.

Infrastructure

Roads and Bridges

The Road and Bridge Department maintains County roads, bridges and rights-of-way to provide a safe and cost efficient road system, including all aspects of its design and maintenance. Regular maintenance includes grading, drainage, crack sealing, chip sealing, dust guarding, pothole repair and other road and bridge repair, sign posting and tree cutting. Seasonal maintenance requires different services such as snowplowing nearly 300 miles of roadway, and avalanche and mudslide removal.

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) maintains the state and federal roadways in the County and inspects all bridges, including the County's. ITD has a maintenance facility just north of Hailey. City departments maintain the public roadways within the incorporated city limits. Cooperative agreements and activities exist between the County and cities, as well as ITD, BLM and USFS.

The County Road & Bridge Department operates out of two shop locations, one in Carey and one on West Glendale Road. The department utilizes three gravel pits: at the Glendale Road shop location, in East Magic, and on 80 acres of land along Laidlaw Park Road east of Carey that will serve the County's needs for the next twenty years or longer.

Chapter 2, Transportation, addresses most transportation planning issues. The plan encourages road designers to consider pedestrian and bicycle use as well as motorized vehicle use.

Stormwater Management and Drainage

There are no public centralized storm sewer systems. Instead, runoff from roadways is usually handled via borrow ditches and culverts. Catch basins, drywells and drainage swales typically handle drainage on private property. Much of the County has well-drained porous soils, handling most drainage on site. Poorly drained soils in certain areas, flooding and seasonal high water tables can cause short-term interruptions to on-site drainage and road use.

Recycling

Blaine County provides a recycling service that aligns with community values. The Blaine County Recycle Center was built in 2004 at the Ohio Gulch Transfer Station (between Hailey and Ketchum). Recycling has steadily increased 10 to 20 percent every year since the County's program began in 1998. The County operates a "multi-stream" program, meaning that recycling is sorted into separate bins prior to transport and sale. The multi-stream program has both environmental and economic benefits: lower levels of contamination, higher quality and more valuable recovered material, and lower costs to process the collected recyclables. Fees from County residents who pay for trash and recycling services and the sale of recyclable commodities help to finance the Recycle Center's operations.



All of the incorporated cities (except Carey) offer curbside recycling for paper, plastic, aluminum and tin. The Recycle Center at Ohio Gulch and the Carey transfer station accept all recyclables. Drop-off sites for a variety of recyclables are located in and near the cities, in Smiley Creek, and near West Magic.

In addition to recyclables, a significant amount of inert materials (e.g. glass, wood waste, scrap metal) and household hazardous waste are stored at the Ohio Gulch Transfer Station. The County's recycling and diversion programs reduce the amount of trash that must be trucked 100 miles to the landfill at Milner Butte (see Map 6.3), thereby avoiding those hauling costs.

Waterways

Access to waterways is important to residents and visitors. The County operates approximately 60 docks, boat launch sites and restroom facilities at five bodies of water: Alturas and Pettit Lakes, and Fish Creek, Little Wood and Magic Reservoirs. (See the Recreation chapter appendix for the dock inventory.) Independent contractors provide maintenance services to the waterways program. Grants from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and registration fees fund the program.

Fairgrounds

The County owns an approximately two-acre fairground in Carey. In cooperation with the University of Idaho Extension Office and the 4-H program, the County Fair Board plans and operates an annual County Fair and a variety of other seasonal events at the fairgrounds. The fairground includes a number of buildings and structures suitable for housing livestock during events, community gatherings and educational youth camps.

Snowmobile Grooming

Idaho statute requires counties to provide snowmobile trail grooming services if they choose to receive funds from snowmobile registration fees. In 2019, Blaine County moved from a contract for services to in-house grooming operations. The County also provides public education and outreach, in coordination with the Sawtooth Avalanche Center (avalanche forecasting) and the Blaine County Recreation District (groomed trail mapping). Map 6.4 shows the groomed areas.



Photo courtesy of University of Idaho Extension

Public Services and Facilities Provided by Other Entities

This section includes basic information about public services and facilities provided by entities other than Blaine County government. It focuses primarily on services related to land use and development, covering other services and facilities briefly at the end.

Fire Protection

Blaine County has several rural fire districts: Smiley Creek, Ketchum Rural, Wood River Rural, Carey, West Magic and Minidoka. (See Map 6.2.) The cities of Sun Valley, Ketchum, Hailey and Bellevue each have separate municipal fire departments that operate within city limits. While the municipal fire department boundaries are much smaller than the rural fire districts, the majority of emergency calls originate in the cities because of higher residential densities, commercial uses and traffic levels. All agencies have mutual aid agreements for sharing resources based on the size and scope of the event. A table in the Appendix shows service area and facilities for each agency in Blaine County.

Wood River Fire District

Wood River Fire District provides fire protection and rescue services to much of unincorporated southern Blaine County outside the cities of Hailey and Bellevue. The fire district also provides paramedic level emergency medical services to all of southern Blaine County through a contract for services agreement with the Blaine County Ambulance District.

Wood River Fire District and the City of Hailey are actively exploring the consolidation of fire services. These two entities adopted a Joint Powers Agreement in the spring of 2017, which establishes a plan for future efforts based on the “Cooperative Efforts Feasibility Study” completed in 2011.

Ketchum Rural Fire District

As of 2019, the Ketchum Rural Fire District has a contract with the City of Sun Valley Fire Department, and all Ketchum Rural firefighters are employees of the City of Sun Valley. The City of Sun Valley Fire Department is a combination fire department that responds to all hazards emergencies, provides Basic Life Support- level EMS, is actively involved in fire prevention, and community risk reduction.

Carey Rural Fire District

The Carey Rural Fire District provides fire protection and rescue services to the City of Carey and to the largest geographic area of the districts serving unincorporated Blaine County. They report that 90% of their calls are wildland/grass fires. The ambulance district also contracts with the Carey Rural Fire District to provide medical first response and transport.

Smiley Creek Fire District

Smiley Creek serves northernmost Blaine County, and has mutual aid agreements with Stanley and Ketchum Rural Fire Districts.

West Magic Fire District

West Magic Fire District has mutual aid agreements with seven other agencies and the BLM. Coordination with Camas County is high because the district straddles the County line.



Photo courtesy of City of Hailey

County Areas outside of Fire Districts

In the areas of Blaine County that are outside of designated fire districts (see Map 6.2), the County Sheriff acts as the primary decision maker as to whether to bring in resources to fight a fire on private land. It is common for the sheriff to request first responder resources from the closest jurisdiction if the fire is threatening to spread into their established fire district, city or onto state or federal lands. If a city fire department or fire district provides resources to extinguish a fire, that entity can charge a responsible fee for the services provided and have a lien upon the property serviced. The County Building Official is the Fire Code Official in these areas and is responsible for plan review and inspections.

Federal Lands

The federal land agencies (primarily BLM and USFS) provide firefighting services for federal lands. Local fire departments and rural fire districts cooperate with federal agencies fighting large fires. Aerial

firefighting support comes from the Boise area, more than an hour away.

Local departments house federal agency firefighters seasonally. The Wood River Station 3 (south of Bellevue) houses BLM firefighters from late May-October. A BLM Guard Station is located in Carey. Seasonal USFS firefighters work out of a forest service warehouse in Ketchum and the USFS has a Helitac crew at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) headquarters.

While the Idaho Department of Lands provides fire prevention and protection in some areas of the state, none are within Blaine County. Blaine County lies within the USFS and BLM fire protection boundaries established through an interagency cooperative fire agreement between the state and federal protection agencies.

Wastewater Service

Retaining excellent surface and ground water quality requires effective wastewater treatment and is a key goal of the County. Proper treatment is of critical importance as wastewater is either returned to the Big Wood River (from most centralized treatment plants) or disposed of in the ground (through private septic systems and some municipal plants with lagoon systems).

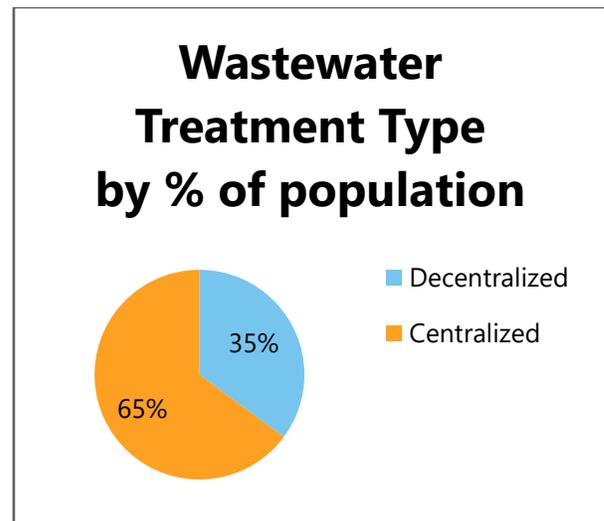
Blaine County, like many rural counties in Idaho, does not directly provide wastewater services or manage community wastewater systems.

Wastewater systems collect and dispose of household, commercial and industrial wastewater. Any structure or business with running water must be connected to one of the following wastewater disposal systems:

- Centralized systems transport wastewater to a central location for treatment. These include public sewer systems that serve cities and private treatment systems that serve multiple hook-ups, as well as septic systems that discharge to a community drainfield.
- Decentralized systems do not connect to a central sewer system. Wastewater is treated on site and discharged to a drainfield.

South Central Public Health District requires one acre of land per dwelling unit for on-site septic systems. This requirement is a significant policy issue as it dictates minimum lot sizes and housing density throughout the unincorporated County. New technologies in wastewater treatment and disposal may provide opportunities for flexibility in density while continuing to maintain high groundwater quality.

The following chart shows the proportion of centralized and decentralized wastewater treatment in Blaine County by population. This correlates with the national average of 36 percent of households served by on-site septic systems.



Regulation of Wastewater Systems

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) has established standards for all wastewater treatment. Centralized facilities must obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The permit limits what can be discharged and includes other provisions to ensure that the discharge does not harm water quality. State and federal agencies require rigorous testing at centralized treatment plants.

IDEQ has also set minimum standards² for the design, construction, siting and use of individual and subsurface sewage disposal systems, as well as requirements for obtaining permits. Idaho's seven public health districts administer these standards and requirements, inspect septic systems and conduct site evaluations to determine a site's suitability for a septic system. Blaine County is part of the South Central Public Health District.

The County established an Onsite Wastewater Management Program in 2007 to oversee inspection and management of septic systems (Title 3, Chapter 7 of the Blaine County Code). Unfortunately, the County discontinued implementation of the program in 2009 due to lack of funding during the recession.

² [Individual/Subsurface Sewage Disposal Rules](#) (IDAPA 58.01.03)

Decentralized systems

Most homes and other buildings in unincorporated Blaine County use on-site septic systems to dispose of wastewater. These systems use a septic tank and underground (subsurface) drain field to treat wastewater, releasing it into the ground. Careful management of these systems is critical. An improperly sited system may release nutrient-rich and bacteria-laden wastewater into the ground water and/or surface water. A properly designed, located, constructed and maintained septic system is imperative to protecting human health, the aquifer and the environment.

The County maintains a database of septic permits. As of 2019, South Central Public Health District had issued approximately 3,700 septic permits. The densest concentration of septic systems occurs in the Wood River Valley, particularly between Hailey and Ketchum, and just north of Ketchum in Hulen Meadows Subdivision.

There are a small number of private community disposal systems in the unincorporated County, as shown on the subarea pages. Homeowners' associations manage most of them.

Centralized Systems

The cities in Blaine County provide the public sewer systems necessary for urban development. The Meadows Manufactured Home & RV Park south of Ketchum also has a centralized system. Wastewater from public treatment plants is discharged to the Big Wood River or to lagoon systems. All of the discharge points and lagoons are located in unincorporated Blaine County (see the water maps on the subarea pages at the end of this chapter). Biosolids from the public sewer plants are disposed of at the Ohio Gulch Transfer Station. A table in the Appendix describes the capacity and treatment type for each of the public wastewater treatment plants.



Rainbow trout from the CSI Aquaculture program flourish in treated wastewater in this tank at the Ketchum/Sun Valley treatment plant.

(Photo courtesy of Ketchum/Sun Valley Water & Sewer Dist)

Drinking Water

Generally, city residents get their water from municipal potable water systems, while residents in the unincorporated County get their drinking water from individual wells. A water right is not required for an individual domestic well, provided that the volume of water does not exceed 13,000 gallons per day, including irrigation of not more than ½ acre.

Blaine County is known for high quality drinking water, all of which comes from groundwater sources. IDEQ regulates Idaho's drinking water. Idaho's seven health districts contract with DEQ to regulate a portion of the public drinking water systems.

The Natural Environment Chapter outlines the importance of and challenges related to the water resources of Blaine County. It also features a chart of water use by category in Blaine County.

Public Water Systems

All of the municipal water treatment plants and regulated community water systems meet or exceed DEQ standards. A table in the Appendix summarizes municipal water sources. A number of these water sources are located in unincorporated Blaine County. In addition to municipal providers, there are 51 community wells serving homeowners associations or remote locations such as the SNRA headquarters. (The water maps on subarea pages at the end of this chapter show these.)

Irrigation Water

Water Districts

Water is considered a state resource. The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) manages water in the State of Idaho through water allocation and distribution processes. Water districts assist state agencies in performing certain statutory functions related to water distribution, including local improvements. Each district's water master, supervised by the director of IDWR, ensures that water users comply with their water rights.

Blaine County has adopted a Local Public Interest Water Policy as it pertains to various applications brought before IDWR requesting the appropriation, transfer, or management of water resources. It states the public's interest in the conservation and protection of all surface and ground water resources.

Blaine County is primarily within District 37, encompassing the Big Wood and Little Wood rivers and their perennial tributaries. A portion of Blaine County is in District 36 (Yale area) and District 71 (north of Galena summit). See appended map.

Irrigation Organizations

Irrigation districts and private irrigation companies own water rights and deliver water. In Blaine County

there are several such organizations. As noted in the Natural Environment Chapter, agricultural irrigation is the County's single largest water user. Irrigation organizations and related stakeholder groups are working together to find ways to reduce water consumption.

Flood Control Districts

Idaho Statute authorizes Flood Control Districts to help manage the flood risk in rivers, streams, their tributaries, and related structures within the district boundaries with a goal of protecting life and property from flooding. This work can include removing debris from waterways, repairing and stabilizing stream banks, constructing and maintaining structural works. A flood control district also has the authority to declare a flooding emergency and help fight floods. Blaine County contains two flood control districts: Big Wood River District #9 and Little Wood River District #2.

Groundwater Districts

In response to conjunctive management of water rights, the Galena and South Valley groundwater districts were formed to represent members in water-use issues and develop mitigation and aquifer recharge plans.



Photo credit: Carol Waller

Solid Waste Disposal

Residents and businesses in the unincorporated County, and each municipality, contract with a trash hauler for residential and business waste. Operators are available for hauling waste from short-term construction projects. Trash and municipal solid waste is deposited at a transfer station and then transferred by truck 100 miles to the landfill at Milner Butte. U.S. Ecology Idaho near Boise accepts certain toxic waste items not taken at Milner Butte.

The Milner Butte Landfill is operated by Southern Idaho Solid Waste (SISW), a regional solid waste district. Formed in 1994, its members are Blaine, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls counties. SISW also operates a network of 14 waste transfer stations in the region, including the County-owned Ohio Gulch and Carey transfer stations. West Magic and Smiley Creek also have drop-off stations.

The landfill is at 30 percent capacity of the current footprint. It has an additional footprint that is not yet permitted but would support the solid waste needs of the region until 2100. Since 2018 SISW's gas-to-energy project converts methane and other gases from decomposing garbage to energy, reducing greenhouse gases and serving as a model for distributed power generation, creating enough power to fuel 2,500 homes.

Blaine County's biggest solid waste expense is hauling to Milner Butte landfill, so it has developed a robust diversion and recycling program. Certain materials may be diverted at the Ohio Gulch Transfer Station, including glass, yard/landscaping waste and clean wood and hazardous household waste. SISW (in a pilot program as of 2020) prepares mulch from yard waste at the Transfer Station and offers it for sale to private businesses.

Composting

Private enterprises offer composting services including drop-off of compostable items and purchase of finished compost. One of these operates on 7.5 acres of leased Idaho Department of Lands' property.



Photo courtesy of Environmental Resource Center

Health and Social Services

South Central Public Health District

South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) is governed by an eight-member Board of Health representing each of the eight counties served: Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Twin Falls. SCPHD has offices in Bellevue, Heyburn, Gooding, Jerome and Twin Falls, and a clinic in Shoshone. As part of a statewide system of seven public health districts, SCPHD programs include:

- Women, Infants and Children.
- clinical services.
- disease prevention and treatment.
- healthy living.
- public health preparedness.
- environmental health.

The Environmental Health Division works directly with other state and local agencies to ensure safe drinking water, safe food and healthful environments in our communities.

Environmental Health Specialists issue permits, conduct plan reviews and make environmental assessments for a variety of programs including land development, subsurface sewage disposal systems, drinking water, food safety and childcare. The district performs educational and preventative as well as regulatory functions.

South Central Behavioral Health Board

Blaine County is also a member of the South Central Behavioral Health Board, collaborating with other southern Idaho counties. The Board seeks to improve the care of those affected by behavioral health issues, focusing on prevention, treatment, recovery, and overall wellbeing of people with behavioral health problems. This Board serves the same eight counties as the SCPHD.

St. Luke's Wood River

From the 1950s through 1991, there were two hospitals: the Moritz Hospital (owned by the City of Sun Valley) in Sun Valley and the County Hospital (owned by the County) in Hailey. In 1992, these merged to become the Wood River Medical Center. In 1996, the City of Sun Valley and Blaine County entered into an agreement with St. Luke's Medical Center in Boise to build and operate a new, state-of-the-art hospital in the County. The St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center, located just south of Ketchum, opened in 2000. An adjacent Medical Office Building was added in 2006, and the St. Luke's Clinic in Hailey in 2008. St. Luke's Wood River provides comprehensive emergency room service as well as ICU, medical imaging and many levels of professional medical care not usually accessible in rural communities. Ambulance and helicopter service is available for transporting patients in need of tertiary hospital services. The St. Luke's Clinic offers limited urgent care services during clinic hours.

The St. Luke's Center for Community Health, operated out of the St. Luke's Clinic in Hailey, provides health and wellness classes, programs and screenings, as well as serving as a clearinghouse for local and regional health care services and other health care referrals. They are a key collaborator with other government, nonprofit and private health and wellness organizations. The St. Luke's Mental Health Clinic also operates out of the St. Luke's Clinic.

Social Services

The collaborative efforts of many government agencies, nonprofit organizations, churches and St. Luke's Wood River provide most social services. An "interagency cooperative" meets regularly to discuss trending issues, service gaps and other topics broadly related to community health. Services include mental health care, food relief, shelter from domestic violence, emergency shelter, hospice and more.

Senior Care Facilities

Cove of Cascadia is a 32-bed skilled nursing and 16-bed assisted living facility located in the northeastern corner of Bellevue. It is privately owned and operated. In 2015, this facility replaced the previously County-owned “Blaine Manor” nursing home in Hailey. The operators of this facility are contractually required to provide a minimum of 16 dedicated skilled nursing beds, and to accept Medicare and Medicaid, until 2023.

Silvercreek Living, a private facility in Hailey, has 16 assisted living units (open in 2017) and 16 memory care units (open in 2018). The facility has separate buildings for its assisted living units and its memory care units.

The Senior Connection in Hailey offers programs County-wide from Carey to north of Ketchum to help older adults enjoy healthy, active, independent yet connected lifestyles. Its nine program and service divisions are: Nutrition, Home and Family Care, Health & Wellness, Transportation, Home & Safety, Leisure & Education, Intergenerational, Senior Volunteer & Job Corps and Senior Information, Resources and Referral Center.



Photo courtesy of The Senior Connection

Hospice

Hospice and Palliative Care of the Wood River Valley was incorporated as a not-for-profit, volunteer intensive program in 1985. This program is the sole provider of hospice and palliative care in Blaine County, and is free of charge. The program is not a Medicare certified hospice, but serves the needs of patients, families and the community following the Hospice Standard of Care. High utilization of volunteers, both lay and professional, support the staff. This hospice has established strong relationships within the local medical community, health care facilities, schools, businesses and first responders.

Partnerships

Local public-private partnerships with nonprofit health and social service organizations now play a growing role in providing services, expanding the capacity of the government. The County contracts with and provides partial funding for approximately 20 community service agencies (see Appendix for the FY2020 funding list). The fundraising capabilities of non-profit organizations leverage tax dollars, resulting in greater efficiency and value than if the County attempted exclusively to provide such a wide variety of services. Partner agencies work collaboratively with County Probation, the Sheriff's office and ambulance services.

Strong partnerships have played an important role in the current overall good health of Blaine County. The 2019 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ranking of county health placed Blaine second highest overall out of the 42 participating Idaho counties.

School Facilities and Transportation

Blaine County is served by one public school district, and several private schools. Total enrollment across all K-12 schools is approximately 4,200 students. Demographics in the Blaine County Schools have changed noticeably since the last comprehensive plan. The Blaine County School District (BCSD), which comprises over 80 percent of all students in the County, has a demographic of 54 percent white and 42 percent hispanic students. BCSD has the largest budget of all government agencies in the County, with a FY2020 General Fund budget of \$63 million.

In 2006, the Idaho legislature eliminated property tax from school district funding, replacing the funding sources for Idaho schools with state sales and income tax. However, property tax still funds four school districts in Idaho because of the negative impact this would have created on some district budgets. BCSD is one of them. Known as the Budget Stabilization Levy, this levy remains at the amount of property tax collected in 2006, providing nearly \$30 million of the BCSD budget.

All schools are currently located within city limits. Locations are shown on Map 6.5. For other details see Table 1 below.

Table 1. Schools in Blaine County

Blaine County Schools	Location	Grades	Building Size	2018 Enrollment
Alturas Elementary	Hailey	K - 5	58,375	410
Bellevue Elementary	Bellevue	K - 5	58,650	227
Carey Public School	Carey	Pre - 12	99,175	244
Ernest Hemingway Elementary	Ketchum	Pre - 5	59,278	462
Hailey Elementary	Hailey	K - 5	90,315	398
Silver Creek High School	Hailey	9 - 12	12,000	51
Wood River High School	Hailey	9 - 12	181,373	937
Wood River Middle School	Hailey	6 - 8	159,544	738
				3,467
Private Schools	Location	Grades		2019 Enrollment
Pioneer Montessori School	Ketchum	Pre – 6	6,360	103
The Community School	Sun Valley	K – 12	22,067	412
The Syringa Mountain School	Hailey	K - 2	3,528	147
The Sage School	Hailey	6 - 12	7,020	81
				743
Higher Education	Location	Degrees/Certificates		2019 Enrollment
College of Southern Idaho (Blaine County Center)	Hailey	Associate Degrees, Technical and Postsecondary Certificates	110,000 ³	Academic Students: Fall=320 Spring= 334 Non-Credit Students: Fall=178 Spring= 195

³ Includes space used by other nonprofits at the Community Campus.



Photo courtesy of Blaine County School District

BCSD notes that of their eight schools, four buildings are over 50 years old and nearing the end of their planned useful life. The question for the community will be whether to continue to maintain the buildings or replace them.

Transportation

The BCSD maintains a fleet of buses for transportation to and from each school in the district. The bus maintenance shop and offices are located behind the community campus, just south of Wood River High School. Many students use the Mountain Rides bus system to get to and from school.

Higher Education

The College of Southern Idaho “Blaine County Center” is located at the Community Campus adjacent to the Wood River High School. CSI students can work toward a certificate or associate’s degree, prepare to transfer to a four-year institution, complete classes for a second degree or career change, and build job skills. CSI also offers a wide range of community education/adult enrichment classes.

The Sun Valley Culinary Institute is scheduled to open a Professional Culinary School on Main Street in Ketchum in 2021.

Other Community Resources

Extension Office

Located in the McBride Building, the University of Idaho Extension Office coordinates the County's 4-H programs and provides the community with research-based information and resources on agricultural best practices, home landscaping and gardening, youth development and firewise planning. The County recognizes the Extension Office as a partner in achieving goals related to agriculture. See more in Chapter 4, Agriculture.

The Extension Agent, 4-H Program Coordinator and office administrator are University of Idaho employees. The County helps to fund this office.



McBride Building –Blaine County

Animal Welfare and Control

Mountain Humane, (formerly the Animal Shelter of the Wood River Valley) is the County's primary provider of animal welfare programs and impound services. (Idaho Code requires counties and the Sheriff to license dogs and provide impound services to control dogs at large). It was the first "no kill" shelter in Idaho and runs a variety of adoption and other programs (dog training, licensing, spay and neuter clinics, etc.). In 2018, Mountain Humane completed its new 27,000 square-foot facility on Croy Creek Road west of Hailey. The shelter operates under a contract for services with the County and municipalities. The Sheriff's Office operates an

Animal Control Program in collaboration with the animal shelter, the impound facility for the program.

Libraries

The cities of Hailey, Bellevue and Carey have public libraries; the Community Library in Ketchum is a private non-profit. There is a law library open to the public at the County Judicial Building with online and printed resources. Libraries have increasingly become the "living rooms" of the community, providing a variety of educational, technological and cultural services. They continue to be an important resource for residents.

Museums

Three museums serve Blaine County. The Blaine County Historical Museum in downtown Hailey, funded in part by Blaine County, contains exhibits on mining, ranching, early settlers family life, Chinese settlement, the author Ezra Pound and the Joe Fuld political button collection. The Bellevue Museum offers exhibits on the area's mining heritage. The Community Library Regional History Museum (formerly the Sun Valley Museum of History) promotes a sense of place through exhibitions and programming about central Idaho.

Cemetery Districts

Five cemetery districts, shown in Map 6.6, manage Blaine County's eight cemeteries. While the growth in cemetery burials has tapered off, cemeteries remain an important part of local history and heritage. Enough land exists for cemetery growth in Blaine County for the next 20 years or so.

Transportation Services

The County is a major funder of Mountain Rides, which provides transportation services throughout the County. It operates a bus system with multiple routes serving Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum and Sun Valley. It also offers vanpool, carpool, and paratransit services, as well as bike and pedestrian programs. (More information is in Chapter 1, Transportation.)

Utilities

Strong working relationships with private utility providers help the County advance its goals.

In Idaho, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC) regulates investor-owned or privately-owned utilities that provide gas, water, electricity or some telephone services. The IPUC sets rates and makes rules governing utility operations.

Franchise agreements grant a number of utility providers the right to construct and maintain infrastructure within public rights-of-way in order to provide service. In return, they regularly pay cities a percentage of their annual revenue generated within the city limits.

Broadband

Broadband has become a key component of economic sustainability. This infrastructure only began to take shape worldwide in the early 21st century. Whereas our road systems provide the infrastructure that connects our communities physically, broadband provides the digital infrastructure that connects our communities virtually to the rest of the world. The federal government has taken on a significant role in creating public policy and funding programs to accelerate broadband development and enhance existing infrastructure, particularly to remote counties like Blaine County.

Blaine County's distance from a metropolitan area, small resident population and mountainous topography create challenges in delivering services. Local telecom and cable companies cover the vast majority of the County's residential districts with fiber optic, cable modem and DSL services. These same providers also deliver a limited amount of fiber-optic services in city business districts. Satellite dishes may be the only option for some rural residents for internet and television service.

Cox Communication

Citizens and businesses in Blaine County predominantly rely on Cox Communications, Inc., which has local headquarters in Ketchum, as their local cable television, Internet and land line telephone service provider. Cox Communications, Inc. has served Blaine County since 2001 (succeeding Texas Cable Association) and maintains a dominant market share in the residential and business markets. Many residential users subscribe to cable television, Internet and voice services. Many business users subscribe to Cox's business-class Internet and voice services.

CenturyLink

CenturyLink provides local telephone and Internet services across its DSL-based infrastructure in the County. Formerly Qwest (and, prior to that, Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph), CenturyLink has served Blaine County since 1911, and conducts its current operations from a plant in Ketchum. CenturyLink also maintains long-haul⁴ fiber-optic backbone infrastructure, which transports all of Blaine County's Internet and telephone services, routing them through Boise.

Syringa Networks

Syringa Networks provides business Internet and telephone services in Blaine County as an alternative provider of direct fiber-optic infrastructure. They do not have any offices in Blaine County. Syringa also maintains long-haul fiber optic infrastructure that connects the County with other communities.

Frontier Communications

Frontier Communications also provides home and business Internet and telephone services in the Carey area. They do not have a local office.

⁴ Long-haul transmission covers greater distances, connecting rural areas to urban fiber networks.

Telephone

Cellular

A cellular or mobile network (a communication network where the last link is wireless) provides both coverage and capacity. Providers split large geographic areas into smaller “cells” to avoid line-of-sight signal loss and to support a large number of active phones in that area. All of the “cell” sites are connected to telephone exchanges, which in turn connect to the public telephone network. Areas like Blaine County are challenging because hills and valleys cause line-of-sight signal interruptions. As of 2019, much of Blaine County is covered by smartphone service, 4G.⁵ While 4G is currently considered the fastest service, testing for 5G service is currently underway. More remote locations such as Smiley Creek only have 3G coverage. Map 6.7 shows mobile voice and broadband coverage as of 2019.

Local cellular providers include AT&T, Verizon, Sprint and T-Mobile. The County and its cities encourage co-location of wireless facilities on towers in shared locations. The primary shared sites are on Bald Mountain, Seattle Ridge, Dollar Mountain, Clear Creek Industrial, Della Mountain, Airport Way, Picabo

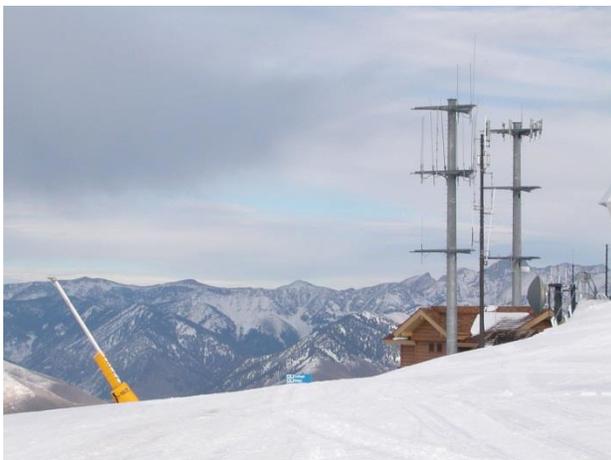


Photo courtesy of Idaho Tower Construction Co.

⁵ 4G or “4th Generation” services average 10 times the speed of 3G, allowing mobile streaming of video.

Mountain, Queens Crown, Bell Mountain and Craters of the Moon⁶. Blaine County regulates wireless communication facilities on private land through its Conditional Use Permit process, which seeks to minimize visual impacts of the towers through siting and design standards. The Appendix includes a list of permitted towers in Blaine County.

Land Lines

Cox Communications, CenturyLink and Frontier Communications are the land line providers in Blaine County. Consumer demand for land line service has fallen dramatically with the expanded use of cellular service.

Radio

Traditional radio broadcast services (public and private) are undergoing dramatic changes due to Internet and subscription services for both music and podcast. Radio service in rural counties remains a primary source of public service information in the event of disaster or emergency via the Emergency Alert System.⁷

There are approximately 20 radio stations that are currently within “distant listening range”. Of these, 12 stations are broadcast from Blaine County, several in affiliation with other radio providers such as Public Radio in affiliation with BSU.

⁶ Blaine County does not receive 911 services from all of these sites

⁷ The Emergency Alert System includes regional and national as well as local alerts.

Energy

Idaho produces energy by hydro, natural gas, coal, wind, solar and geothermal. Of these, Blaine County has wind, solar and geothermal sources, but none are developed on a commercial scale. The County uses significantly more energy than it produces. Energy users fall into four main categories: industrial, commercial, residential and transportation. Blaine County has less industrial consumption than Idaho as a whole.⁸

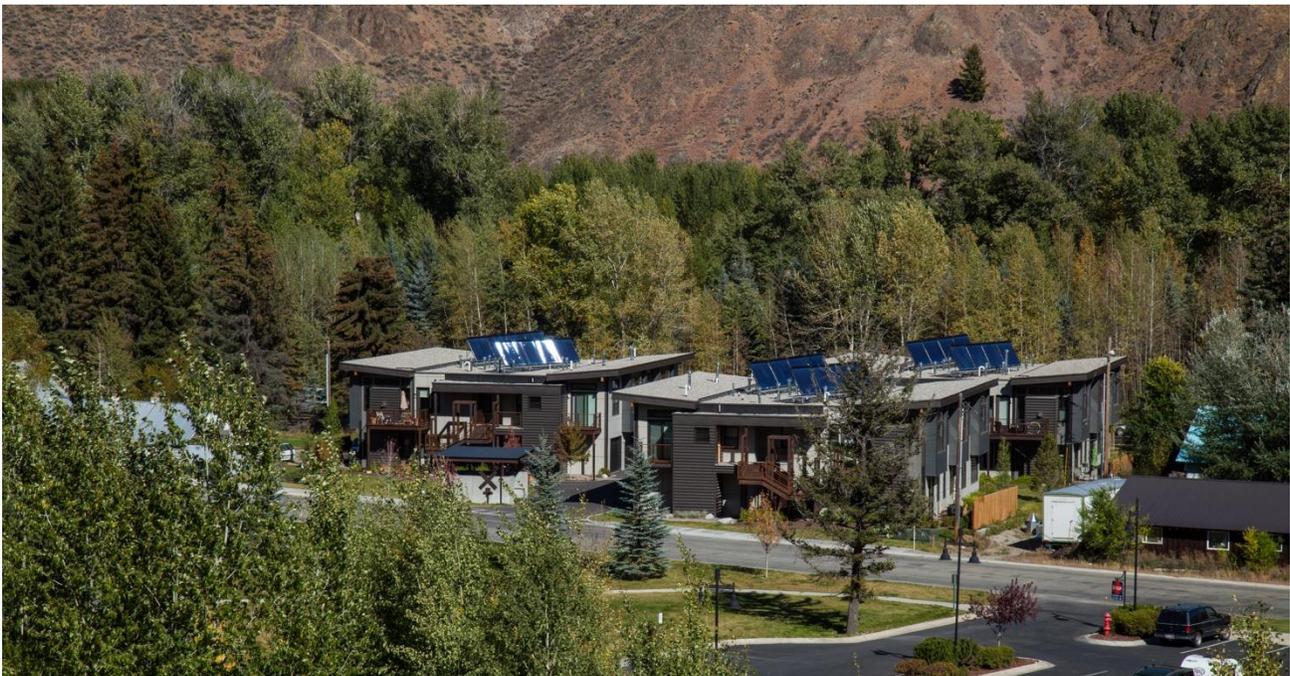
Renewable Energy

To encourage the development of renewable energy resources, the County has adopted ordinances to promote the safe, effective use of wind and solar energy. These ordinances target residential wind energy facilities and residential solar systems, not commercial facilities.

As noted in the Natural Environment Chapter, the planning and construction of renewable energy facilities must be balanced with other natural environmental values, such as wildlife habitat, migration routes and aesthetics. With increasing demand and decreasing costs of small-scale systems, the use of renewable resources will likely increase.

Solar Power

Solar resources are strong, with an average insolation of 5.5-kilowatt hours (kWh) per square meter per day, just 10 percent less than that of Texas and even greater than north Florida. Over 100 solar systems, both photovoltaic (electricity) and thermal (hot water and heating), are installed on homes and businesses throughout the County as of 2016. Local grants and financing programs are in place to encourage the installation of solar systems. County permit fees have been reduced and the permitting process streamlined to incentivize the use of solar power.



Solar panels on Cold Springs Crossing – Michael Doty Assoc.

⁸ Idaho Energy Primer, February 2016

Wind Power

Wind is an important energy source in Idaho, but resources in Blaine County are relatively limited, particularly north of the Picabo Hills. Anemometers have indicated that resources may be adequate for residential systems but not for commercial. Wind resources may be greater in the Yale area. Wind energy facilities are not permitted within the Mountain Overlay District or Scenic Corridor subarea of the MOD.

Geothermal

Like many areas in the West, Blaine County has relatively shallow geothermal resources. IDWR has issued no drilling permits on geothermal leases in the County to date. Several identified geothermal areas are worth further research for their potential for economic development, possibly in cooperation with other governmental, non-governmental and private organizations.

The County's geothermal resources are used primarily for recreation, with one developed hot springs at Easley and several undeveloped hot springs. Some resources with lower temperatures may prove valuable for heating, for example the Warm Springs geothermal areas.

Natural Gas

Formed in 1950, Intermountain Gas provides natural gas distribution in certain areas of southern Idaho including Blaine County. This company provides natural gas via a single pipeline into the Wood River Valley to serve Sun Valley, Ketchum, Hailey and Bellevue and along the State Highway 75 corridor. Many areas of the unincorporated county do not have natural gas service.

Intermountain Gas has an office in Hailey and has active franchise agreements with every city in Blaine County, allowing them exclusive gas service rights. To encourage conservation, the company offers a rebate program for new furnace installations that are energy efficient.



Roadside power lines – Carol Waller

Electric Power

Idaho Power Company (IPCO), a federal- and state-regulated electrical utility serving much of southern Idaho provides electric power to the County. IPCO generates electricity, maintains and operates transmission and distribution lines, sells electricity and purchases electricity from the wholesale market.

IPCO does extensive planning. Its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) examines the demand for energy over the next 20 years and the best ways to meet that demand. IPCO also prepares regional plans, including the Wood River Valley Electrical Plan (WREP). See the Appendix for more information about these plans.

Two main transmission lines come into the County from the south and merge at the Wood River Substation located just north of Hailey (also the location of IPCO's office). From there, one transmission line serves the north county and the cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley.

Reliable electric power is crucial for businesses, institutions and residents. The 1994 Comprehensive Plan included discussion of Idaho Power's plans for providing reliable service. In September 2017, the Public Utilities Commission issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity stating that there was a need for a redundant transmission line from the Wood River sub-station to Sun Valley and

Ketchum. As of 2020, the County is working with Idaho Power on options for funding to underground the entire redundant line.

One strategy for local power reliability is to pursue the development of distributed energy resources, which generate power at or near to the point of consumption. Rooftop solar and other distributed generation and storage technologies are rapidly changing. Improved storage technology will allow those with solar or wind generation to be self-sufficient.

Undergrounding of Power Lines

For aesthetic and safety reasons, there is a strong preference to have all of the power lines in the County underground. Of particular concern is the increased threat of fire due to climate change and the risks associated with above-ground power lines. Undergrounding service lines within new residential subdivisions has been a requirement since 1998. Retrofitting existing above-ground power lines is very costly, and therefore occurs in limited circumstances. Financial tools for retrofitting overhead power lines to underground include local assessment districts and consideration of a franchise fee increase.

Backup power generation

The County, cities and other essential service providers such as St. Luke's Medical Center, as well as some private businesses, have limited back-up power generation in the event of a power outage. The two diesel generators at the St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center are maintained with enough fuel to provide 96 hours of electrical power in the event of a power failure. Cellular phone towers have back-up batteries with a minimum of 72 hours. These organizations recognize the need to retain power at all times as a matter of life safety.

National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors

The Local Land Use Planning Act now requires "National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors" as a component of comprehensive planning. Idaho Code defines the "National interest electric transmission corridor" as "any geographic area designated by the Secretary of Energy as experiencing electric energy transmission capacity constraints or congestion."

The Gateway West Transmission Line Project is within such a corridor, and crosses the southernmost part of Blaine County in the "Yale" peninsula. This high-voltage line will transport power between Glenrock, Wyoming and Melba, Idaho. The portion of this line within Blaine County has been constructed. The line will transport electricity from a variety of existing and future sources including coal, hydroelectric, geothermal, natural gas and wind resources in Wyoming and Idaho. To date, no significant issues have surfaced regarding the Blaine County portion of this transmission line. The County adopted a "Power Zoning Overlay District" in 2008 to designate an area in the County for 230KV and higher voltage transmission lines, and limit the possibility of such lines in other parts of the County.



Photo credit – Carol Waller

Challenges

The County faces the ongoing challenge of strategically planning to meet the growing needs of the community in a way that aligns with available revenue and builds resilience.

Blaine County faces the following specific challenges with regard to public services and facilities.

County Services and Facilities

Land & Development Services

- Keeping pace with development pressure strains the resources of these departments.
- While long-range planning is a priority of the LUBS Department, short-term applications and daily citizen requests generally take up the majority of staff time.
- Cumulative effects of development projects are difficult to predict, manage and mitigate.
- It is difficult to keep homeowners, particularly part-time homeowners, informed about County regulations. This is especially true regarding activities within protected overlay districts.

- Growing external demands from the public have stretched limited resources in the small GIS department.
- The spread of noxious weeds continues to be a serious environmental threat, especially following wildfires and on land disturbed by development.

Public Safety

- Development in remote areas of the County result in long response time for law enforcement and EMS providers.
- Recruiting trained emergency service personnel is difficult due to lack of affordable housing, pay and other factors.
- Our local and tourist backcountry recreation create more need for backcountry rescue and EMS than in many other counties.
- Some remote areas do not currently have cellular or emergency communication service.
- Rural addresses can be particularly difficult for emergency responders to locate, due to missing or incorrect addressing on the property.
- Growing human development into hazardous areas, e.g. Wildland Urban Interface, requires significant public response to protect life and property.

- Climate change will continue to affect the frequency and intensity of disasters.
- Disaster services rely heavily upon federal and state funding in addition to local funding. Federal appropriations are unpredictable.

Infrastructure

- Keeping up with growing demands by residents in rural areas for improved roads stretches the Road and Bridge Department's budget, particularly when limited by state transportation funds.
- Rebuilding roads washed out by flooding is costly and may not be practical in all cases. Handling public pressure to rebuild all roads will be a significant challenge.
- The County has fallen behind on grading and drainage responsibilities over the years and many roads have been graded without maintaining adequate drainage.
- See Chapter 1, Transportation, for other challenges related to the Road and Bridge Department.
- Growing demand and changing consumer trends in recycling create challenges in keeping up with equipment maintenance, facility and staffing needs.
- Instability of commodity pricing creates uncertainty for the recycling program.
- Both public recycling sites and curbside recycling are easily contaminated, resulting in much of the recyclables going into the landfill. To be successful, Blaine County recycling requires regular and robust public education.
- Construction waste is one of the largest contributors to the waste stream. While Hailey and Ketchum have construction waste recycling requirements, the program is not countywide, and construction waste stream contamination on job sites remains a significant barrier to success.
- With growing recreational demand, the waterway program's limited funding sources (grants and fees) make it difficult to keep up

with repair, maintenance and improvements. The dispersed nature of the assets managed by the waterways program is also a challenge.

Public Services and Facilities Provided by Other Entities

Fire Protection

- Since the early 1980s, many new subdivisions now extend into the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) including areas in gulches with steep terrain. Many homes exist and more will be built on privately owned land in the WUI. Zoning regulations cannot always prohibit new construction in these areas, whether in platted subdivisions or unplatted parcels.
- Climate change has increased the risk of fire from multiple causes. As the size, intensity and frequency of wildfires increase, firefighting resources are strained and firefighters placed at even greater risk.
- The rising threat of wildfire combined with the crippling costs of fighting large fires is a major public policy concern in the West. The relationships between local, state and federal land managers during catastrophic wildfire events is complex and includes questions about firefighting on federal lands, cost-sharing, wildfire philosophy and climate change.
- Response time for aerial firefighting due to distance of responding federal agencies.
- Changes of use in existing buildings can be hard to track. Illegal uses can result in the loss of property and lives.

Capital and Manpower Needs

- Recruiting trained personnel is difficult due to lack of affordable housing, pay and other factors.

- Some duplication of services may exist among the rural fire districts and municipal departments. Greater efficiencies could be achieved under consolidation.
- The Wood River Rural District's primary fire station is inadequate for staffing levels, fire apparatus and storage. The district is seeking property in their service area large enough to meet their current and future needs.

Water and Wastewater

- In unincorporated areas, the level of maintenance of private wells and septic systems varies greatly because individual homeowners usually make their own arrangements for water and wastewater installation and service. The biggest challenge for septic systems is long-term maintenance and management.
- Larger community septic systems need regular and ongoing professional management, repair and maintenance, which often proves challenging for homeowners' associations.
- The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has insufficient staff to monitor on-site septic systems.
- The Community Housing Overlay District needs central water and wastewater services to develop affordable housing.
- Water District #37 faces legal issues arising from water curtailment and the cost of developing and implementing mitigation plans.
- Irrigation districts note that groundwater depletion, conveyance loss due to canal design and ongoing ditch maintenance are negatively affecting the delivery of irrigation water.

Solid Waste

- New environmental regulations, as well as escalating equipment and fuel prices, continue to increase the cost of transporting solid waste to the Milner Butte Landfill.
- Air quality regulations in the future may result in the need to modify waste disposal practices.

Health and Social Services

- The South Central Public Health District's large service area makes it difficult to respond quickly to specific needs.
- Multiple agencies and disbursed facilities require a high degree of coordination and collaboration.
- Aging in place and mobility issues are becoming greater challenges as the population ages.

School Facilities and Transportation

- The school district is concerned about maintaining adequate facilities, transportation and staffing. Housing affordable to school staff is an ongoing challenge.
- Finding appropriately sized and located parcels of land for additional facilities may become more difficult for the District.

Utilities

- Distance from metropolitan areas is a challenge for broadband services. The cost of new broadband infrastructure is high.
- Mountain topography makes line-of-sight tower connection difficult for cellular service in remote areas.
- The necessity of cellular phone coverage in the backcountry is frequently debated due to potential visual impacts. Sorting out emergency service needs versus complete cell phone coverage is a complex issue.
- Renewable energy resources require research and investment to realize on a significant scale. Small-scale renewable energy systems can be expensive for individuals to install, although costs are decreasing. Regulatory changes can hinder the viability of larger projects.
- Because Blaine County obtains the vast majority of its electrical power from outside sources, its residents are vulnerable to transmission service disruptions from lightning, freezing rain, wildfire, and other circumstances.



Photo courtesy of City of Hailey

Desired Outcomes

Desired outcomes are the intended result of our planning efforts. Each desired outcome includes several active policy statements that will guide future decision-making.

A. General

Desired outcome: Budget wisely and maintain strong partnerships to provide excellent services to Blaine County residents and visitors.

Policy Statements:

- A-1: Engage the community on strategic planning for services, facilities and infrastructure that meet community needs and is aligned with available revenues.
- A-2: Align service provision with the County's Outcome Based Budgeting process.
- A-3: Strategically address growing service needs and gaps identified by providers and partners through the County's annual outcome-based budget preparation.
- A-4: Maintain competitive salaries for all County employees to attract and retain employees.
- A-5: Plan for safety and security in all County facilities.
- A-6: Advocate at the state level for changes allowing for more efficient County governance and provision of services through more direct local control.
- A-7: Use research and nationwide tools for understanding and addressing the cumulative effects of climate change on infrastructure and public services in the West and, where available, in Blaine County.
- A-8: Implement the Office of Sustainability to examine County operations and capital plans to improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon footprint, and maximize resiliency, Invite all departments to work with the Office during the Outcome Based Budgeting process. Coordinate with other jurisdictions to achieve greatest beneficial effects.

B. County Services and Facilities

Desired outcome: Provide efficient and effective public services, facilities and infrastructure.

Policy Statements:

Land & Development Services

- B-1: Prioritize and allocate staff for long range planning activities that address development, service and infrastructure needs of the community.
- B-2: Establish annual priorities in collaboration with the County Commissioners and Planning and Zoning Commission to help guide the workload.
- B-3: Maximize the use of GIS as a planning tool.
- B-4: Provide more GIS training for all County office personnel, to help maximize its beneficial uses and reduce the burden on the GIS department.
- B-5: Seek opportunities to expand outreach and education about noxious weeds. Continue collaboration with partners in the Cooperative Weed Management Area.
- B-6: Utilize the County's website and social media for education and outreach regarding zoning regulations and planning efforts.
- B-7: Continue to review the impacts to County services in all proposals for development and require development to mitigate adverse impacts.

Public Safety

- B-8: Continue to examine carefully proposals for development in remote areas of the County where service calls may strain available resources. Maintain the goal of retaining most population growth in and adjacent to incorporated cities.
- B-9: Ensure remote development has correct and visible address signage.
- B-10: Support affordable housing opportunities for public safety providers.
- B-11: Improve communications technology deployment for emergency response especially in remote areas. Support transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 and other new technologies.
- B-12: Develop a policy regarding emergency communication towers in remote areas.
- B-13: Reduce damage from disasters through mitigation and prevention efforts, as well as effective response during and after events.
- B-14: Review and update the All Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Emergency Operations Plan on a regular basis.

Infrastructure

- B-15: Explore implementing Development Impact Fees to fund certain facilities and infrastructure.
- B-16: Continue to prioritize and efficiently maintain roads in accordance with adopted maintenance plans, handling emergency repairs and rebuilding according to need.
- B-17: Restore adequate drainage on roadways as budget allows.
- B-18: Keep up with consumer trends in recycling by providing new or expanded recycling opportunities, in order to limit the amount of trash transported to the landfill. Provide adequate space to optimize recycle operations. Expand public education on recycling to reduce contamination of recyclables.
- B-19: Offer options for, and encourage, recycling building materials on County construction sites. Expand education on construction job sites regarding recycling contamination.

- B-20: Facilitate expanded landscape/yard waste composting to reduce the waste stream. Collaborate with entities providing this service.
- B-21: Recognize the growing demand for County-provided waterways access. Seek options for maximizing the funding sources for repair, maintenance and improvements to the docks and waterways infrastructure managed by the County.

C. Public Services and Facilities Provided by Other Entities

Desired outcome: Cooperate with and support those entities providing essential services and facilities.

Policy Statements:

Fire Protection

- C-1: Continue to examine carefully development proposals in remote areas of the County where service calls may strain available resources, or where water supply/pressure limitations could affect fire suppression.
- C-2: Reduce the risk of structure loss to wildfire through siting, structural and landscape design.
- C-3: Garner more support for future resource needs and fuels reduction projects as listed in the Blaine County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), through collaboration with HOAs, elected officials, stakeholders and state and federal agencies.
- C-4: Work with other agency leaders to improve adaptability and cooperation in wildfire response.
- C-5: Support routine fire safety inspections for non-residential uses in the unincorporated areas of Blaine County.
- C-6: Continue to encourage fire department consolidation where it would eliminate service duplication and provide an equal or better level of service while conserving taxpayer funds.
- C-7: Support the goals of the rural fire districts to achieve their staffing and facility needs.

Water and Wastewater

- C-8: Enlist the assistance of homeowner associations and the SCPHD to educate private homeowners about regular monitoring and correct maintenance of their wells and septic systems. Clarify the role of HOAs in the ongoing maintenance of wells and septic systems through the subdivision process.
- C-9: Reestablish the Onsite Wastewater Management Program, including periodic inspections of septic systems, to ensure ongoing high water quality.
- C-10: Work with the South Central Public Health District and the Board of Health to ensure adequate state and district staff resources for ongoing maintenance and operation of on-site septic systems, community septic systems and community wells.
- C-11: Pursue appropriate County role in implementing necessary infrastructure to serve new housing development in the Community Housing Overlay District.
- C-12: Support irrigation districts' efforts to effectively deliver irrigation water in keeping with other goals of this Plan.

Solid Waste

- C-13: Optimize activities and programs that reduce the waste stream, thereby keeping costs of transport to the Milner Butte landfill in check.

- C-14: Stay abreast of environmental regulations that may change or increase costs of solid waste disposal.
- C-15: Continue to support Southern Idaho Solid Waste gas-to-energy program.

Health and Social Services

- C-16: Continue to advocate for local South Central Public Health District staff to best address the needs of Blaine County.
- C-17: Continue to work collaboratively with health service partners to improve community health outcomes.
- C-18: Encourage community dialogue on issues related to aging in place, including housing, mobility and health service needs of the elderly.

School Facilities and Transportation

- C-19: Continue to consider impacts of new subdivisions on school facilities and transportation.
- C-20: Cooperate with the Blaine County School District and private schools on facilities planning and planning for housing.

D. Utilities

Desired outcome: Hold providers of public utilities to high standards of service.

Policy Statements:

- D-1: Encourage expansion of broadband service delivery consistent with other goals in this Plan. Work with providers as well as other rural counties to address common issues of remoteness and infrastructure costs. Treat all providers consistently and in a non-discriminatory manner.
- D-2: Establish a policy regarding cellular phone coverage in remote areas, including Galena Summit and Trail Creek Summit, taking into consideration visual impacts, emergency needs and “social” desires.
- D-3: Consider revising subdivision requirements for telephone service, with a goal of ensuring reliable phone service whether by landline or cellular technology.
- D-4: Address land use issues that may arise with new cellular or wireless technologies in a manner consistent with the goals of this Plan.
- D-5: Support and incentivize when possible the exploration and use of local renewable energy resources available in solar, wind and geothermal sources.
- D-6: Consider visual impacts of transmission and distribution lines in all areas of the County, particularly in the scenic highway corridor.
- D-7: Work with Idaho Power to increase opportunities to underground new and existing power lines in the County. Consider increased fire risks associated with above ground power lines in the face of climate change, particularly wood-pole power lines. Add requirement for undergrounding power distribution lines associated with new subdivisions for all zoning districts.
- D-8: Continue to seek public input on decisions related to the power grid and advise the Public Utilities Commission on the community’s preferences.
- D-9: Promote alternatives for generation and storage of electrical power with a goal of increased self-sufficiency. Consider incentives for energy efficiency or self-sufficiency in new subdivisions and Planned Unit Developments.

- D-10: Continue, improve and expand the County's energy mitigation grant program.
- D-11: Seek partnership and grant opportunities to develop energy generation and storage facilities, including private/public opportunities. Proactively support and work with utility companies and other entities in the development of renewable and distributed energy resources that generate and store power at or near the point of consumption, especially for critical infrastructure such as public safety, communications and water treatment.
- D-12: Ensure that County policies do not become a barrier to cleaner, more efficient technology. Review wind energy and solar energy regulations with regard to potential barriers in locating facilities, consistent with the goals of this Plan.
- D-13: Routinely update emergency plans for a sustained power outage. Strategically assess critical load backup opportunity to provide greater resilience and cost savings, particularly at County building operations.
- D-14: Monitor issues and trends related to reduced dependence on natural gas, which is a contributor to climate change.



Photo courtesy of Blaine County

Appendix – Chapter 6 Public Services, Facilities and Utilities

County Services and Facilities

Noxious Weeds Department

There are 25 known noxious weeds in Blaine County.

1. Black Henbane
2. Canada thistle
3. Curlyleaf Pondweed
4. Dalmation Toadflax
5. Diffuse knapweed
6. Dyer's Woad
7. Field Bindweed
8. Hoary Alyssum
9. Houndstongue
10. Johnsongrass
11. Jointed Goatgrass
12. Leafy spurge
13. Mediterranean Sage
14. Oxeye daisy
15. Perennial Pepperweed
16. Perennial Sowthistle
17. Poison hemlock
18. Puncturevine
19. Rush Skeletonweed
20. Russian knapweed
21. Scotch Thistle
22. Spotted Knapweed
23. Vipers Bugloss
24. Hoary Cress
25. Yellow Toadflax

Idaho's Noxious Weeds is online, currently at: <https://www.invasive.org/species/list.cfm?id=41>

The County's ordinance #2016-01 regarding toxic Yew plants is linked [here](#).

Emergency Communications

The Blaine County Emergency Communications Center operates a call center located at the Public Safety Facility at 1650 Aviation Drive. Blaine County Emergency Communications is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), answering E9-1-1 calls for Blaine County and all of its cities.

Blaine County operates an enhanced 9-1-1 system. This system is driven by a statewide database that automatically identifies the street address, resident's name, phone number and Electronic Serial Number (ESN) which identifies the location of an individual placing a call for emergency assistance. Wireless 9-1-1 calls are automatically plotted onto the mapping system, allowing dispatchers to easily identify caller location. Repeat queries will automatically re-plot the location of a moving cellular caller at regular intervals. The integration between the 9-1-1 phone system and the mapping system enables public safety personnel to locate callers more rapidly than previous systems.

The PSAP operates over UHF, VHF, HAM and 700 MHz trunked radio systems. The PSAP oversees the 700 MHz radio system and infrastructure at Blaine County's three repeater sites.

The Blaine County Community Alert System (BCCAS) is part of Blaine County's effort to continuously improve communications during emergency situations within Blaine County. Through the alert system, pre-recorded alert notifications are sent by the emergency communications center in a variety of communication methods such as email, cellular, landline, SMS (Text Messaging) or via social network (Facebook and Twitter).

Road and Bridge

The county inventory includes: 60 bridges, 800 culverts, and 120 miles of paved roads, 1000 signs and 316 miles of gravel roads and plowing 293 miles of roadway.

The Road and Bridge shop is located on a 40-acre piece of land located at 186 Glendale Road. The shop building is relatively new. The Carey shop is located on a 5-acre parcel at 20459 Main Street in the City of Carey. Both shops include areas for vehicle maintenance and storage.

Recycling

Current recycled materials include paper and cardboard, plastics, aluminum cans, rinsed aluminum foil, e-waste and plastic film. The following recycle drop-off sites are available for individual and business use:

- Blaine County Recycle Center (Ohio Gulch)
- Carey Transfer Station
- Hailey Park & Ride (NW corner River/Bullion)
- Hailey Fire Department (617 3rd Ave. South)
- YMCA, Ketchum
- Sun Valley City Hall (All sorted materials except glass)
- Elkhorn Fire Station (All sorted materials)
- Smiley Creek (across from Lodge)
- West Magic

Social & Health Services and Partners

Funding for Outside/Partner Agencies

Funded Outside Agencies	FY20 Funding Approved
ARCH Community Housing Trust	\$ 50,000
BC Housing Authority	65,000
BC Fair Board	32,000
Blaine Soil Conservation	18,000
Crisis Hotline	5,000
Blaine Co Historical Museum	28,800
Hunger Coalition	7,500
St. Luke's	10,000
Mountain Rides	154,000
National Association of Mental Illness	10,000
Region IV Development	2,424
SC Community Action	3,000
Senior Connection	55,000
Sun Valley Economic Development	22,500
University of Id Ext Office	113,253
Wood River Wolf Project	5,000
Mountain Humane	24,000
Sober House For Men	5,000
TOTAL	\$ 610,477

Public Services and Facilities Provided by Other Entities

Fire Protection

District	Service Area (sq. miles)	Facilities
Wood River Rural Fire District	143.4 (Fire) 1,500 (EMS)	3 Fire Stations: Hailey 1, Hailey 2-South of Bellevue (joint with BLM)
Ketchum Rural Fire District	43.5 698.8 (EMS)	2 Fire Stations: Hulen Meadows, Greenhorn Gulch
City of Sun Valley Fire Department	9.89	2 Fire Stations: Elkhorn and Sun Valley City Hall
City of Ketchum	3.2	Ketchum Fire Station
City of Bellevue Fire Department	1.19	Bellevue Fire Station
City of Hailey Fire Department	3.55	Hailey Fire Station
Carey Fire District	157	Carey Station; Gannett Station
West Magic Fire District	5.6	(3) 10,000 gallon cisterns
Smiley Creek Fire District	0.33	1 station; 1 water tender, 1 pumper truck, 1 jump truck.

Wastewater Service

Municipal and Community Wastewater Treatment Plants

Facility Provider	Current Use, Million Gallons per day or annual	Planned Capacity	Treatment Type
City of Bellevue	14.6 MG (.04MGD)	36.5MG or .10 MGD	
City of Carey	.04 MGD	36.5 (.1 MGD)	
City of Hailey	Annual: 180 MG	1.6 MGD	Biosolids plant underway in 2016
City of Ketchum/Sun Valley Water and Sewer District (Joint)	1.02 MGD Annual: 372.28 MG	1467.3 MG (4.02 MGD)	Extended aeration activated sludge treatment with tertiary filtration and disinfection
Meadows WW Plant	Annual: 10 MG		Activated sludge plant

Wastewater reuse is an emerging goal. The cities of Ketchum, Sun Valley and Bellevue have wastewater reuse plans. The Ketchum/Sun Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant is permitted by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to provide up to 3.1 million gallons per day of recycled water, which is currently used only for irrigation and fire suppression but also is permitted to be used for snowmaking. The plant produces Class "A" recycled water which is acceptable for irrigation in residential neighborhoods. Ketchum and Sun Valley are developing plans for the construction and delivery of recycled water in the near future. The City of Bellevue also has a water reuse program. The treated water is used for irrigation.

Public Water Systems

Municipal Potable Water Systems

Facility Provider	Current Water Use, Million Gallons (annual and per day)	Maximum Day Demand (MGD)	Current Capacity	Notes
City of Bellevue	392.5 MGY 1.08 MGD	3.3 MGD	5.5 MGD	Seamans Creek springs, 2 wells and a 1 million gallon storage tank
City of Carey	45 MGY	.35 MGD	2.4 MGD	3 storage tanks and 3 wells
City of Hailey	888.2 MGY 2.5 MGD	7.0 MGD	9.79 MGD	Main Spring in Indian Springs Canyon ⁹ plus 4 municipal wells and 2 storage tanks totaling 3 MG.
City of Ketchum/ Sun Valley Water and Sewer District (Joint)	970.4 MGY	5.5 MGD	7.63 MGD	6 wells, 2 booster stations, and 3 storage tanks totaling 3 MG

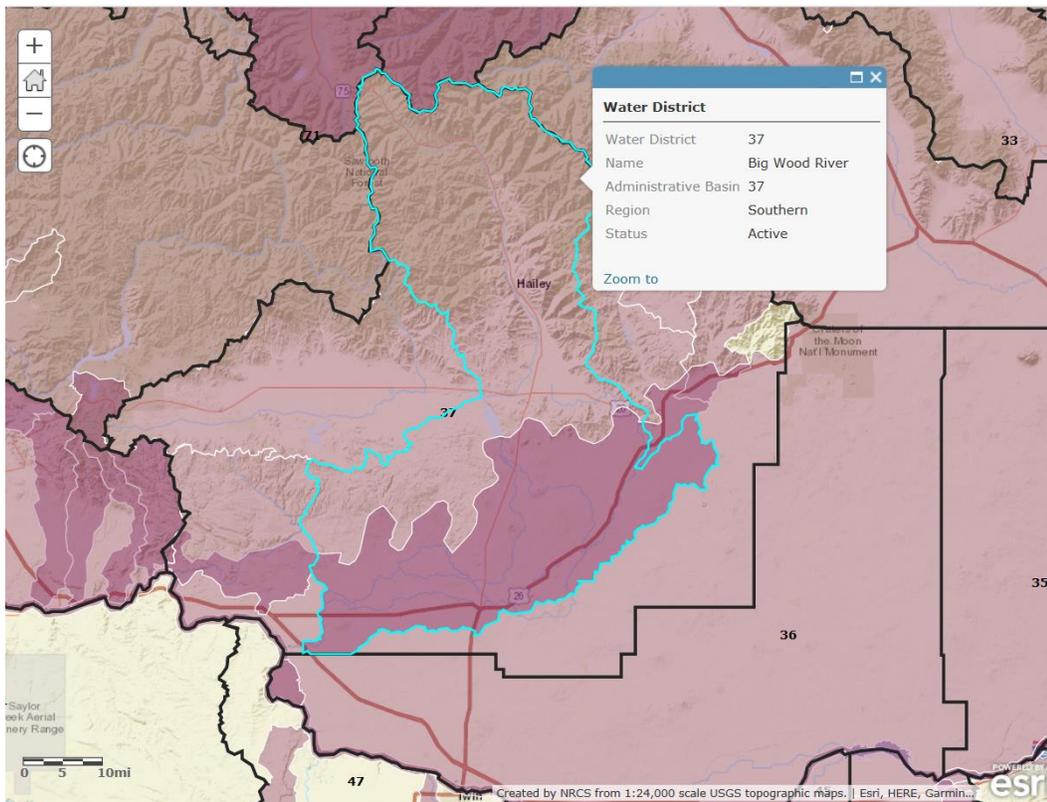
Non-municipal public water systems are shown on the subarea pages. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has defined three types of public water systems:

1. Community Water System (CWS): A community water system is a public water system which serves at least 15 service connections used by year round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year round residents.
2. Non-Transient Non-Community Water System (NTNCWS): A public water system that regularly supplies water to at least 25 of the same people at least six months per year, but not year-round. Some examples are schools, factories, office buildings, and hospitals which have their own water systems.
3. Transient Non-Community Water System (TNCWS): A public water system that provides water in a place such as a gas station or campground where people do not remain for long periods of time.

⁹ This source also generates electricity which the City sells back to Idaho Power

WATER DISTRICTS

Water District 37



(Link to interactive map is currently found at:

<https://idwr.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=142033118a85430dad6e1dfb6fb38ecf&find=37>)

More information on Idaho's water districts can be found on IDWR's website, currently at:

<https://www.idwr.idaho.gov/water-rights/water-districts/>

Utilities

Cellular Service

The following table lists cellular towers and facilities in Blaine County:

Address	City	Carrier
Unit 6 Airport Way	Hailey	Verizon
Queens Crown Hill - T2S R21E S5	Carey	Verizon
100 Della Mountain Rd	Hailey	Verizon
Dollar Mountain Ski Resort	Sun Valley	Verizon
NE 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4 S14, T4N, R17E	Ketchum	Verizon
500 Picabo Hills Rd	Picabo	Verizon
500 Picabo Hills Rd	Picabo	Alltel
Independence Gulch	Ketchum	Alltel
7.5 Miles E of Carey on HWY 20	Carey	Verizon
191 E Sun Valley Rd	Ketchum	Alltel
100 Della Mountain Rd	Hailey	Alltel
Bald Mountain, Idaho Plaza Top of Lift #9	Ketchum	Alltel
Queens Crown Hill - T2S R21E S5	Carey	Edge/ATT
200 Trail Creek Rd	Sun Valley	Edge/ATT
400 S Main St	Hailey	Edge/ATT
100 Della Mountain Rd	Hailey	Edge/ATT
500 Browns Ln, 2 Miles West of Webbs Nursery	Bellevue	Edge/ATT
152 Baldy View Loop	Sun Valley	Edge/ATT
500 Serenade Dr	Ketchum	Edge/ATT
12507 State Highway 75	Ketchum	Edge/ATT
100 Sage Creek Reservoir Rd	Sun Valley	Edge/ATT
Queens Crown Hill - T2S R21E S5	Carey	Edge/ATT
500 Picabo Hills Rd	Picabo	Edge/ATT
333 S Main St, Suite 211	Ketchum	Edge/ATT
Bald Mountain	Ketchum	Edge/ATT
Bald Mountain, Top of Flying Squirrel Ski Run	Ketchum	Edge/ATT
Dollar Mountain Ski Resort	Sun Valley	Edge/ATT
Sun Valley Ski Resort	Sun Valley	Sprint
Bald Mountain	Ketchum	Sprint
100 Arrowleaf Rd	Sun Valley	Sprint
100 Della Mountain Rd	Hailey	Sprint
500 Picabo Hills Rd	Picabo	Sprint
191 E Sun Valley Rd	Ketchum	Sprint
100 Della Mountain Rd	Hailey	Sprint
100 Walker Dr	Bellevue	Sprint
Dollar Mountain Ski Resort	Sun Valley	Sprint
311 N Main St	Ketchum	Sprint

Electric Power

Idaho Power - Planning

Idaho Power's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) examines the demand for energy over the next 20 years and the best ways to meet that demand for its customers. The IRP describes the company's projected need for additional electricity and the resources necessary to meet that need while balancing reliability, environmental responsibility, efficiency, risk and cost. The plan is updated every two years.

Idaho Power enlists the assistance of its customers in developing the IRP through an advisory panel consisting of members of the environmental community, major industrial customers, irrigation representatives, state legislators, public utility commission representatives and other interested parties.

The current link to the 2019 Integrated Resource Plan is linked [here](#).

Idaho Power developed the Wood River Valley Electric Plan (WREP) with input from a community advisory committee in 2007 and 2014. Its purpose is to plan for the valley's long-term electrical demand and to "support the economy and public safety by providing a reliable electric supply".

The current link to the Wood River Electrical Plan is linked [here](#).

Idaho Power - Infrastructure

Idaho Power Company (IPCO) operates 17 hydroelectric generating plants on the Snake River and its tributaries, natural gas-fired plants and shares of three jointly-owned coal-fired plants. Idaho Power serves over half a million customers in Idaho and Oregon.

Power infrastructure in the County includes:

- King Transmission Station to Wood River Transmission Station. A 59-mile-long 138kv transmission line, being rebuilt in 2017, extends from Idaho Power's King Substation, southwest of Gooding, to the Wood River Substation north of Hailey. The line crosses 28.5 miles of public land managed by the BLM.
- Midpoint Substation to Wood River Transmission Station. The Midpoint to Wood River transmission line was built in 1989 and has the higher capacity of the two lines; entering Blaine County east of Picabo. Idaho Power refers to these two lines combined as the Wood River loop.
- From the Wood River Transmission Station in Hailey to the Ketchum/Sun Valley area, the two lines become one transmission line, built in 1962. There are five substations within the Wood River Valley that reduce the transmission voltage to a lower distribution voltage and route the power onto smaller lines for delivery to end users.
 - Ketchum Substation
 - Elkhorn Substation
 - Hailey Substation
 - Moonstone Substation
 - Silver Substation

The line from King Substation has had 41 outages (average duration of about seven hours) since 1996. IPCO stated that two-thirds of those were related to maintenance activities. The company received a conditional-use

permit to replace the existing wooden structures with steel ones for the proposed 12-miles of line on private property within the County.

Citing the lack of redundancy (two separate lines that can handle extreme peak loads alone without rotational power outages) north of the Wood River Substation, Idaho Power also plans to add a second transmission line from the Wood River Substation, just north of Hailey, to Ketchum. More information related to this can be found on Idaho Power's website, currently at:

<https://www.idahopower.com/energy-environment/energy/planning-and-electrical-projects/current-projects/hailey-ketchum-transmission-line/>

Distributed Energy Resources

One strategy to mitigate grid power issues and respond to residents' environmental concerns is to pursue the development of distributed energy resources (DER), which generate power at or near to the point of consumption. Historically, diesel generators have provided back-up power during outages. Rooftop solar and other distributed generation and storage technologies are rapidly changing the energy landscape across America and in Idaho. In 2014, nationwide solar investment grew 30% and reached \$18 billion for the year. Blaine County has renewable energy resources in solar, wind, geothermal, hydroelectric as well as potentially biomass from dead trees. These resources have just begun to be tapped to benefit local energy resilience and the local economy. As a result of recent dramatic reductions in solar costs as well as widespread community engagement, there were 5 times as many solar projects installed in 2016 as compared to 2015, with an investment value of \$900,000. In cooperation with the local community, Idaho's National Laboratory is conducting an assessment of the county's geothermal energy resources, which may be able to contribute significantly to both power generation and heating.

More efficient storage technologies allow those with solar or wind to be self-sufficient. These technologies, especially batteries, are evolving quickly and are cost effective investments in expensive areas such as California and the northeast. DER such as solar plus storage can be an alternative to the grid or a complement to the grid.

Utilities are increasingly turning to DER and microgrids to provide improved reliability in both urban and rural areas. Isolated communities facing expensive grid transmission for redundancy or increased capacity are also turning to DER and microgrids, working with their utilities to gain regulatory approval of superior local solutions in generation, storage and distribution. Some isolated communities have found that local DER (generation, storage, islandable microgrids, etc.) are a better alternative to new transmission. Local alternatives also have the potential to address the economic and environmental resilience risks posed by the current energy generation and transmission system.

Borrego Springs, California, like the northern Wood River Valley, relies on a single transmission line. To address resilience needs, the utility, San Diego Gas & Electric, built a renewable energy microgrid using local power generation, energy storage, and automated switching to create a more resilient local grid. The microgrid is connected to the grid, but can disconnect from it and function independently during emergencies, supplying electricity to the local community through its onsite resources. The utility used the microgrid in 2015 to power the community while it conducted needed transmission line repairs. More information is linked [here](#).

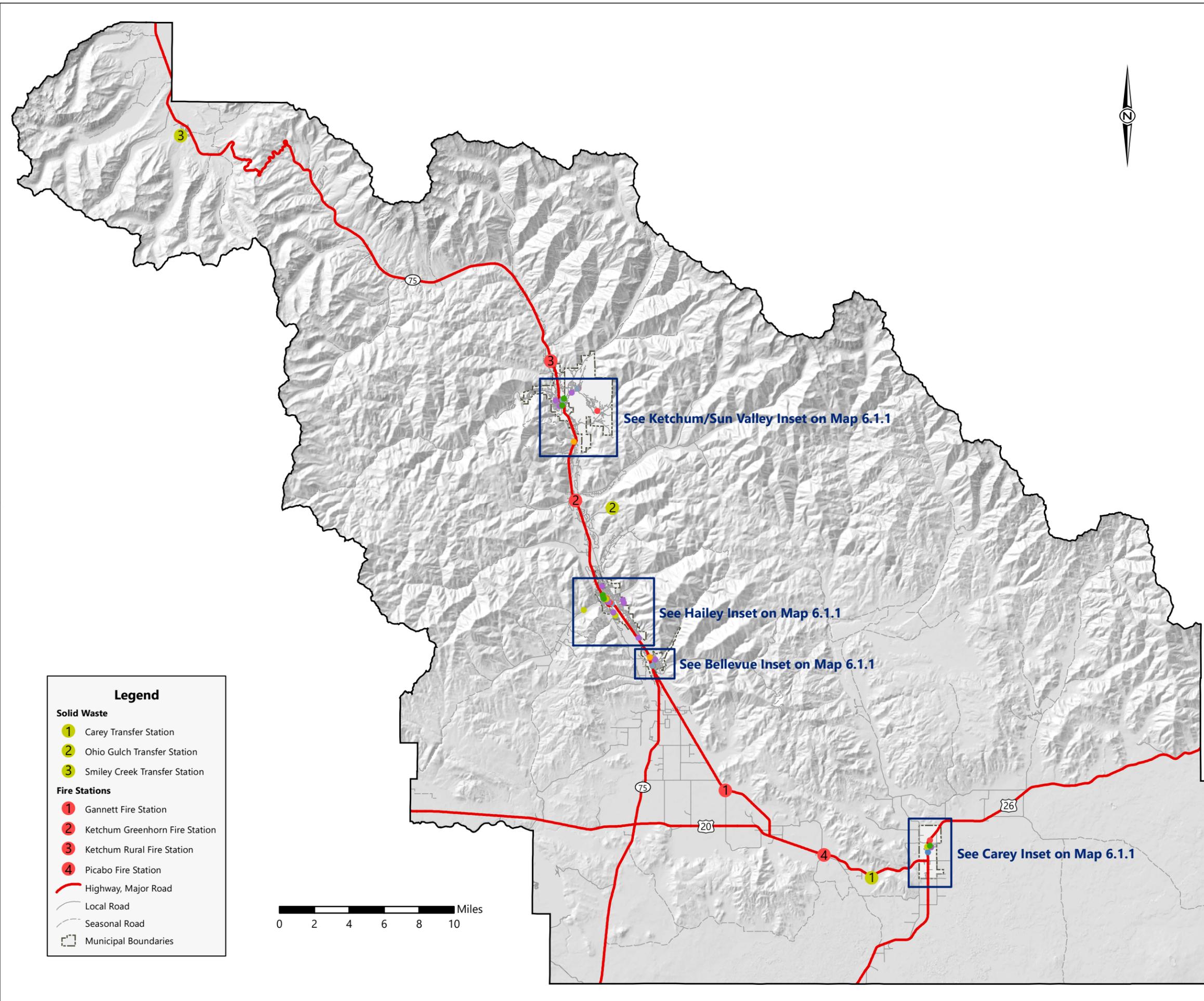
The Blue Lakes Rancheria Tribe in Humboldt County, California is another example of an independently constructed microgrid which served over 10,000 people during a recent power outage. Revenues from a hotel and casino on tribal lands helped offset the cost of microgrid construction.

In general, power companies in the future may be required to manage power to put renewable energy online. This may mean changing business models to focus more on providing service and less on infrastructure.

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has been tasked with identifying transmission congestion and constraint issues nationwide. The Gateway West Transmission Line Project is jointly proposed by Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power to build and operate approximately 1,000 miles of new high-voltage transmission lines between the Windstar substation near Glenrock, Wyoming and the Hemingway substation near Melba, Idaho. The project will include approximately 150 miles of 230 kilovolt (kV) lines in Wyoming and approximately 850 miles of 500 kV lines in Wyoming and Idaho. The line will deliver power from existing and future electric resources including renewable resources. As of 2020, construction of the line is underway; the portion within Blaine County has been completed. The BLM is the lead federal agency conducting the environmental review and analysis as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Map 6.1 Facilities May 2017



Legend

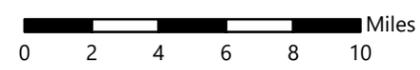
Solid Waste

- 1 Carey Transfer Station
- 2 Ohio Gulch Transfer Station
- 3 Smiley Creek Transfer Station

Fire Stations

- 1 Gannett Fire Station
- 2 Ketchum Greenhorn Fire Station
- 3 Ketchum Rural Fire Station
- 4 Picabo Fire Station

- Highway, Major Road
- Local Road
- Seasonal Road
- Municipal Boundaries



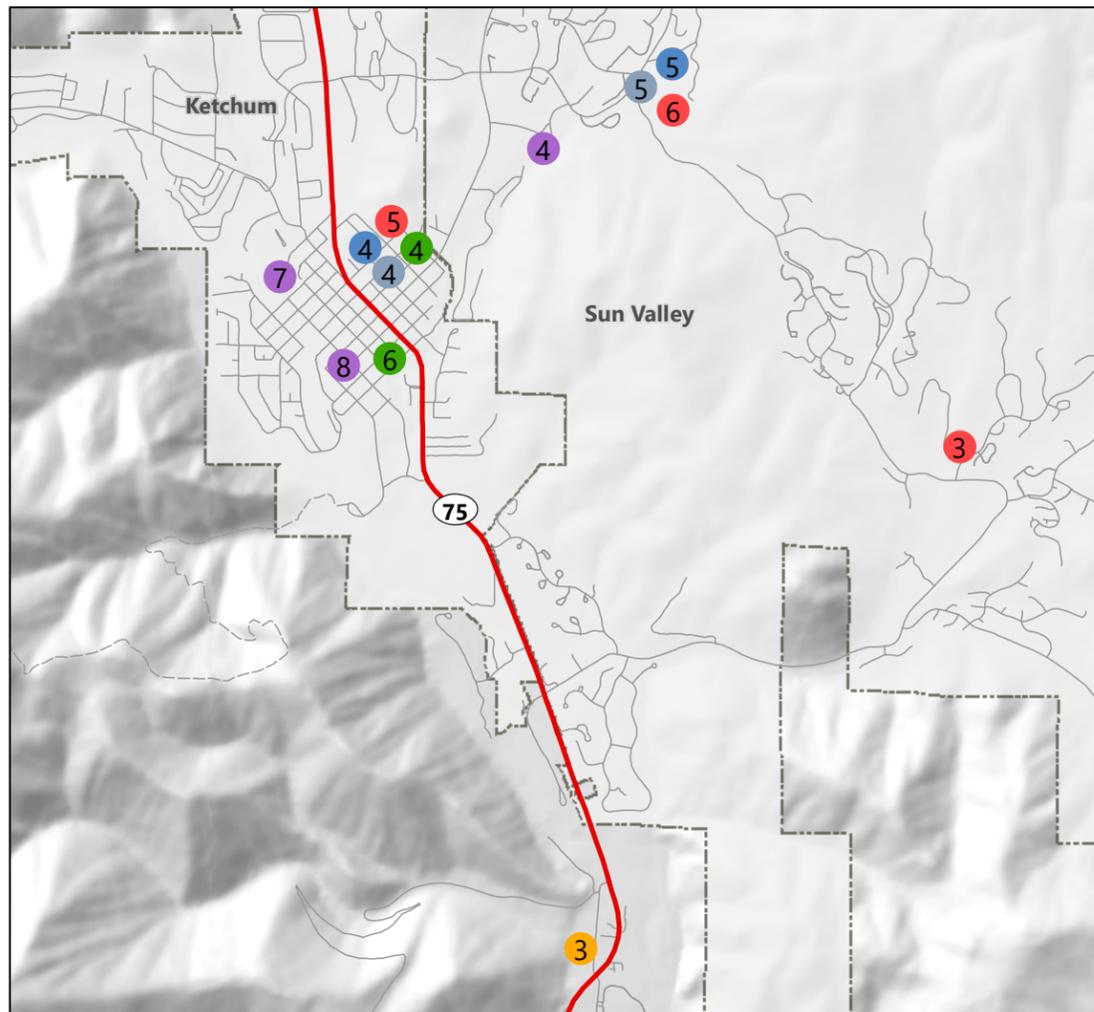
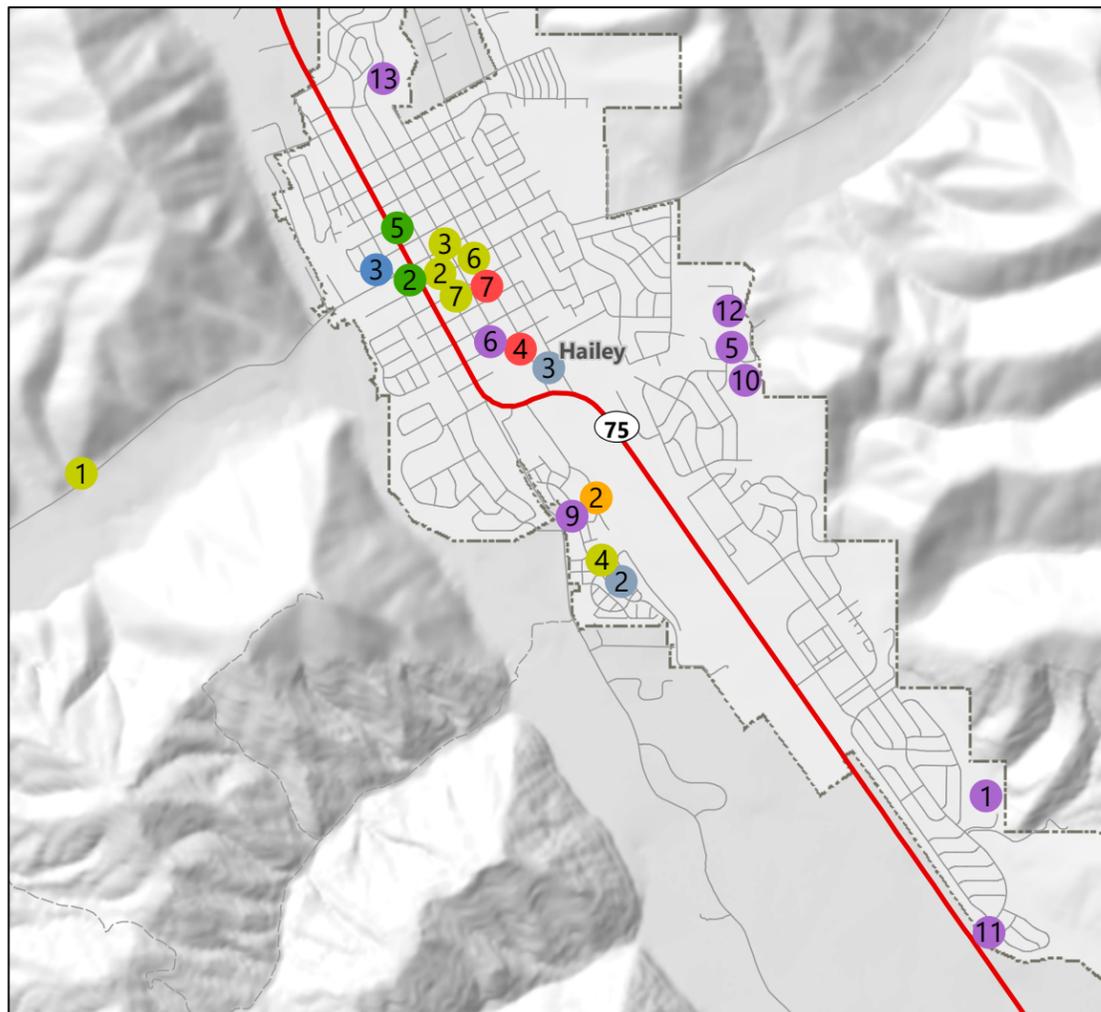
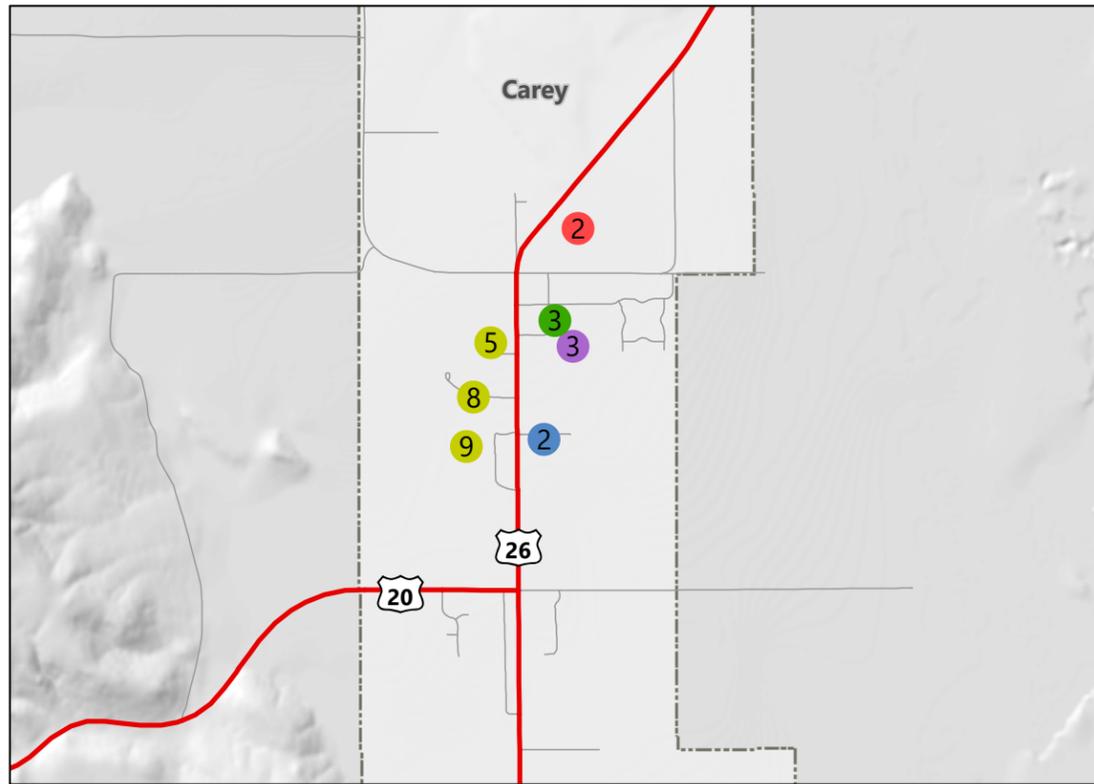
See Ketchum/Sun Valley Inset on Map 6.1.1

See Hailey Inset on Map 6.1.1

See Bellevue Inset on Map 6.1.1

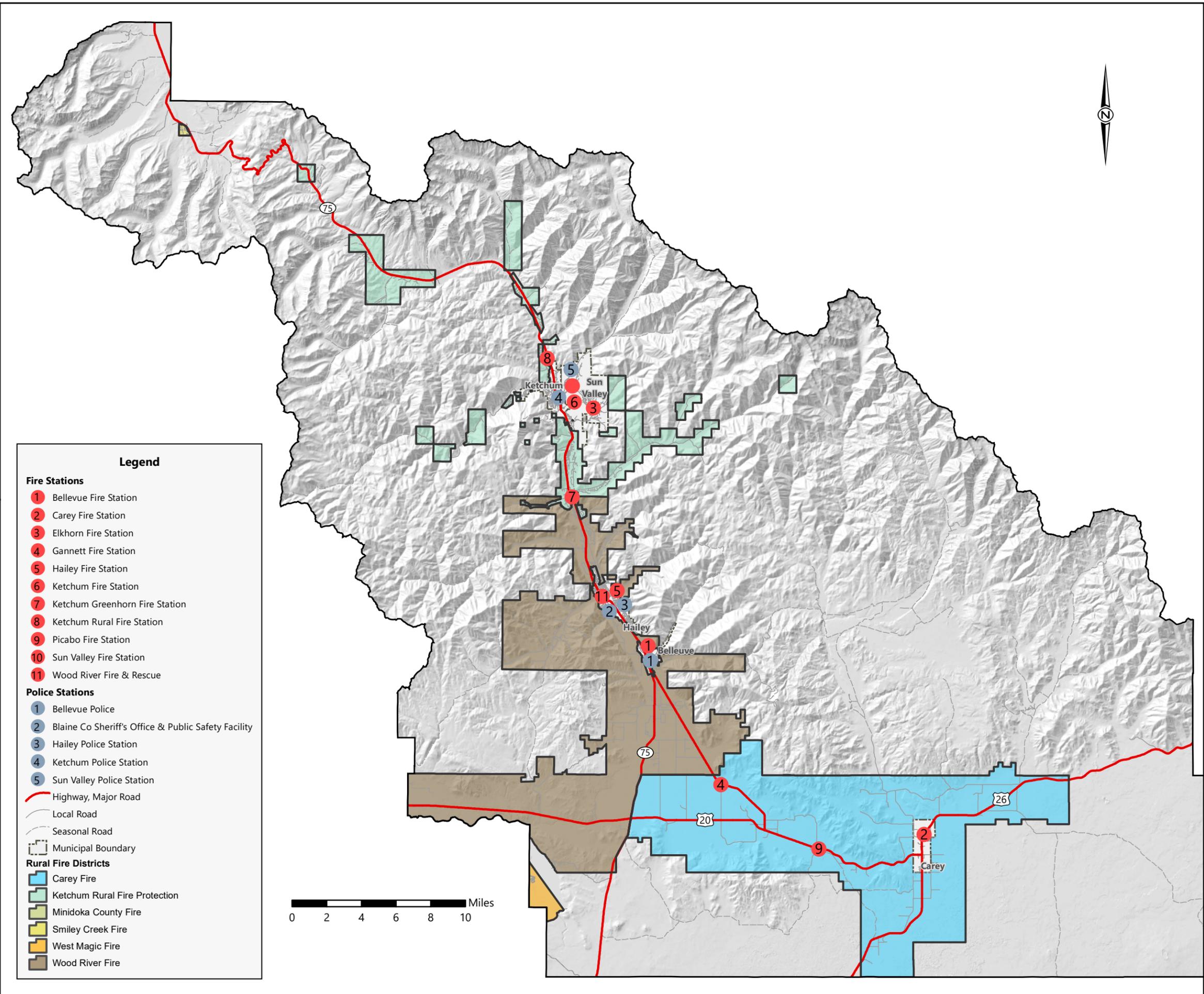
See Carey Inset on Map 6.1.1

Map 6.1.1 Facilities May 2017



Legend	
Hospitals & Clinics	
1	South Central Public Health District
2	St Luke's Clinic & Center for Comm. Health
3	St Luke's Wood River Medical Center
Libraries & Museums	
1	Bellevue Public Library
2	Hailey Public Library
3	Little Wood River Library
4	The Community Library
5	Blaine Co. Historical Museum
6	Sun Valley Museum of History
Police Stations	
1	Bellevue Police
2	Blaine County Sheriff's Office
3	Hailey Police Station
4	Ketchum Police Station
5	Sun Valley Police Station
Schools	
1	Alturas Elementary
2	Bellevue Elementary
3	Carey School
4	Community School
5	College of Southern Idaho
6	Hailey Elementary
7	Hemingway Elementary
8	Pioneer Montessori School
9	Sage School
10	Silver Creek Alternative School
11	Syringa Mountain School
12	Wood River High School
13	Wood River Middle School
Highway, Major Road	
Local Road	
Seasonal Road	
Municipal Boundary	
City Facilities	
1	Bellevue City Hall
2	Carey City Hall
3	Hailey City Hall
4	Ketchum City Hall
5	Sun Valley City Hall
County Facilities	
1	Animal Shelter of the Wood River Valley
2	Blaine County Annex
3	Blaine County Courthouse
4	Blaine County Emergency Comm.
5	Blaine County Fairgrounds
6	Blaine County Judicial Building
7	McBride Building
8	Road & Bridge (Carey Shop)
9	Road & Bridge (Glendale Shop)
Fire Stations	
1	Bellevue Fire Station
2	Carey Fire Station
3	Elkhorn Fire Station
4	Hailey Fire Station
5	Ketchum Fire Station
6	Sun Valley Fire Station
7	Wood River Fire & Rescue

Map 6.2 Public Safety May 2017



Legend

Fire Stations

- 1 Bellevue Fire Station
- 2 Carey Fire Station
- 3 Elkhorn Fire Station
- 4 Gannett Fire Station
- 5 Hailey Fire Station
- 6 Ketchum Fire Station
- 7 Ketchum Greenhorn Fire Station
- 8 Ketchum Rural Fire Station
- 9 Picabo Fire Station
- 10 Sun Valley Fire Station
- 11 Wood River Fire & Rescue

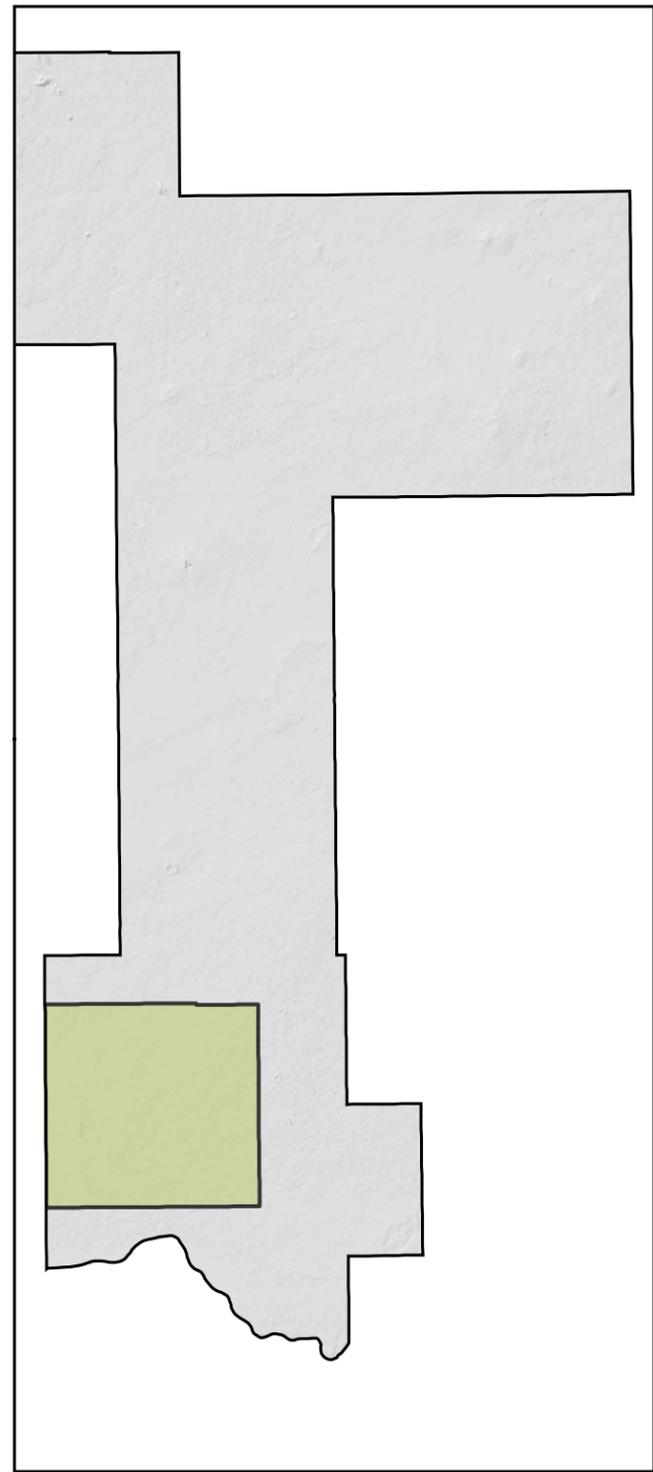
Police Stations

- 1 Bellevue Police
- 2 Blaine Co Sheriff's Office & Public Safety Facility
- 3 Hailey Police Station
- 4 Ketchum Police Station
- 5 Sun Valley Police Station

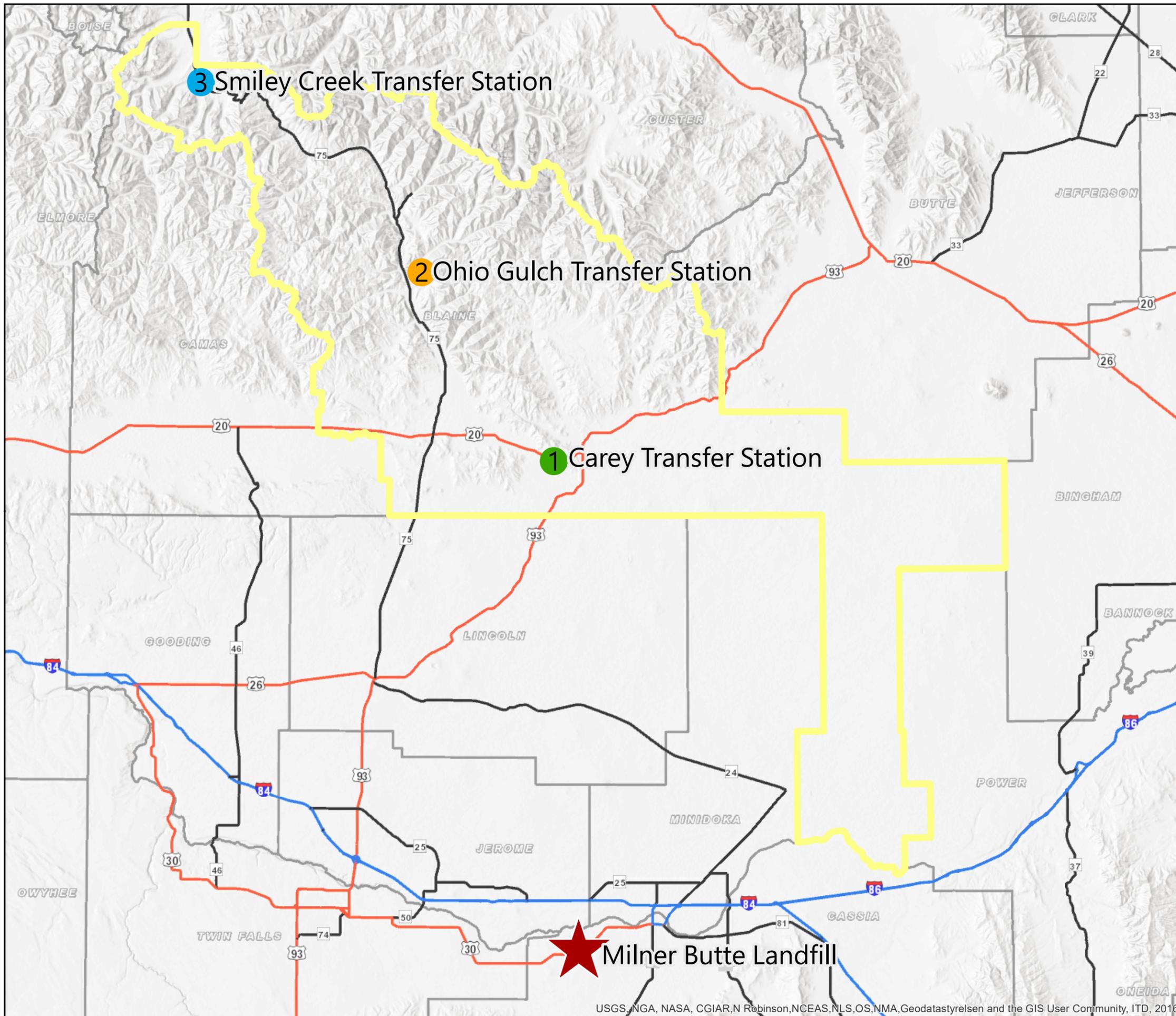
— Highway, Major Road
 — Local Road
 - - Seasonal Road
 - - Municipal Boundary

Rural Fire Districts

- Carey Fire
- Ketchum Rural Fire Protection
- Minidoka County Fire
- Smiley Creek Fire
- West Magic Fire
- Wood River Fire

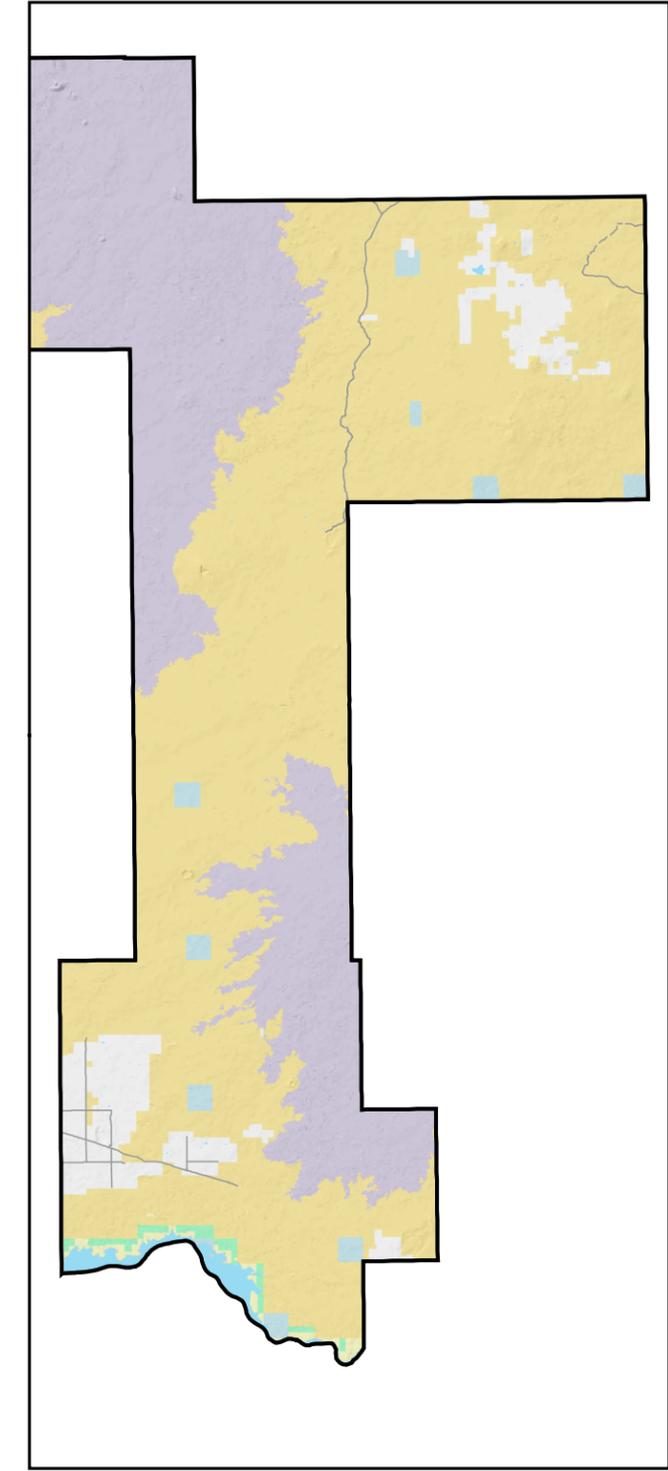
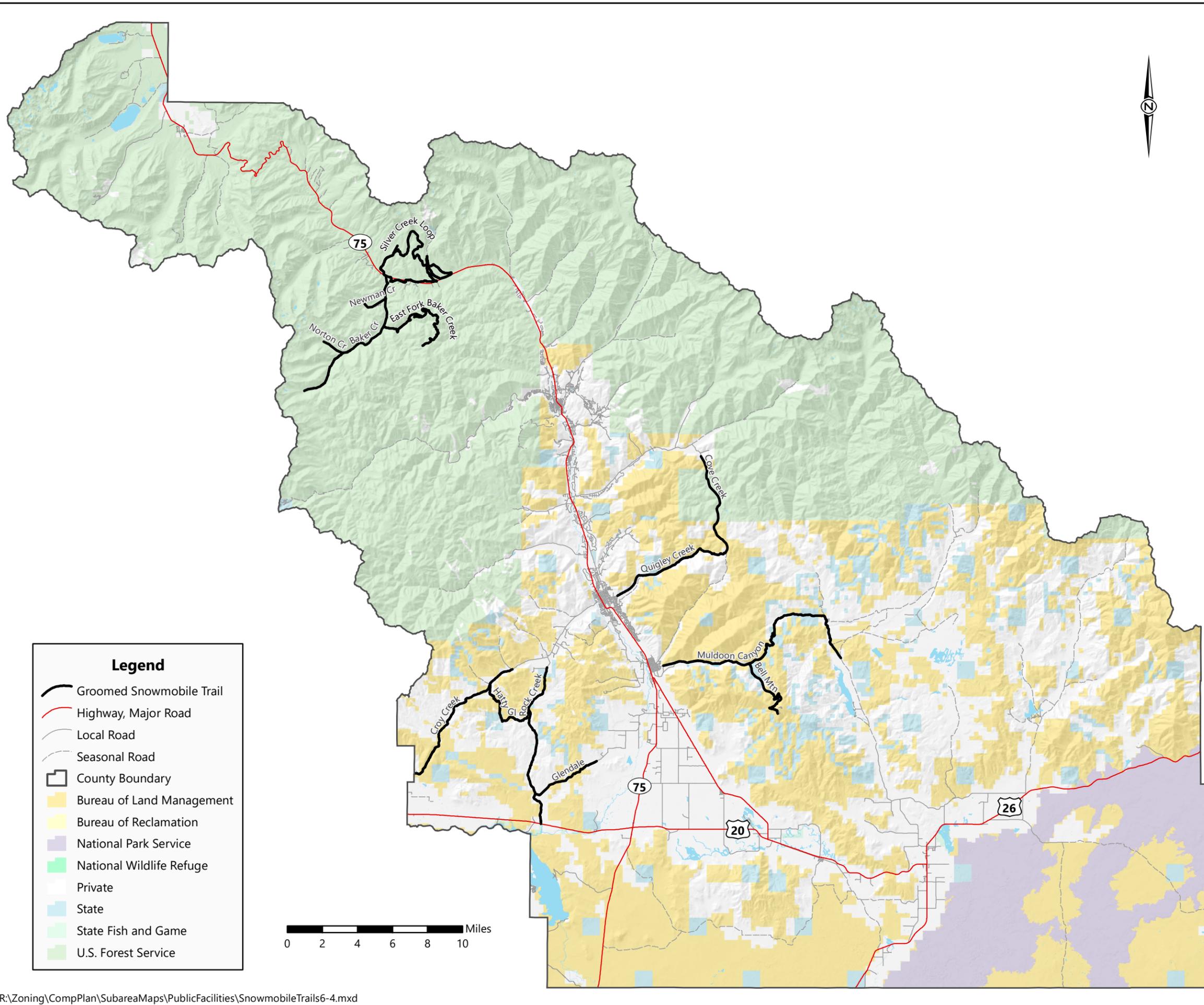


Map 6.3
Solid Waste
September 2016

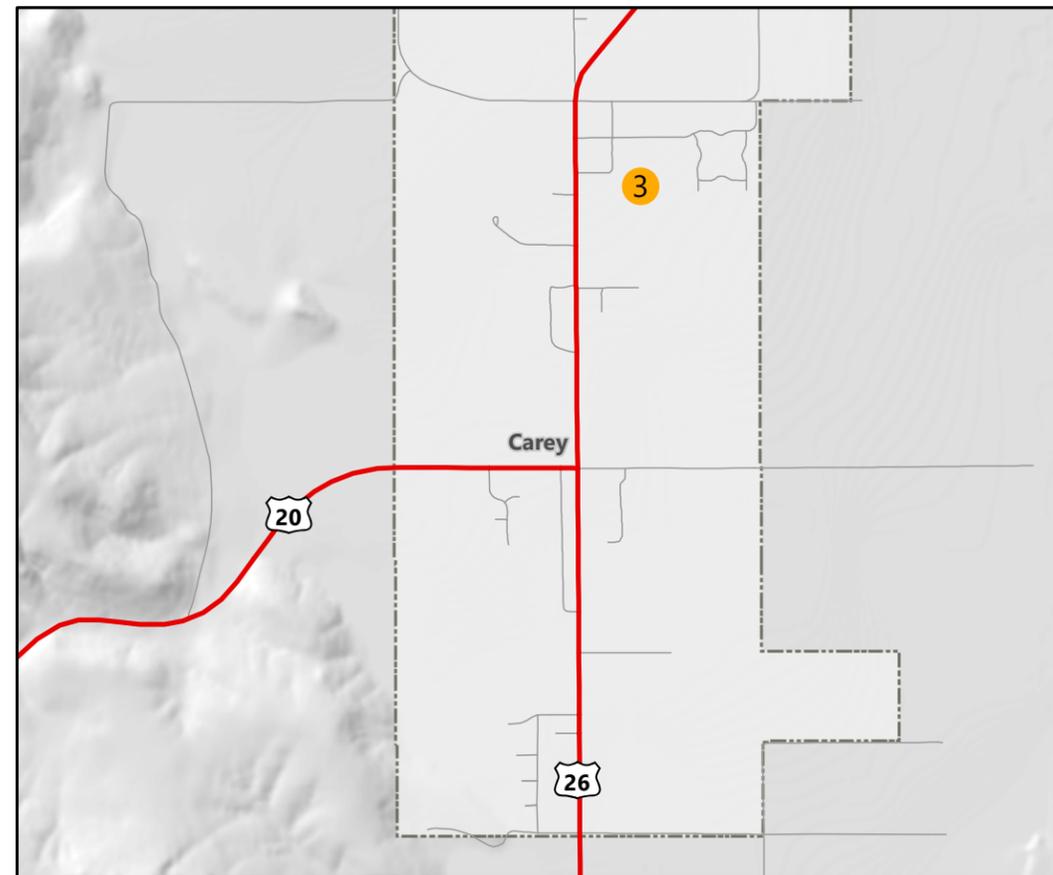
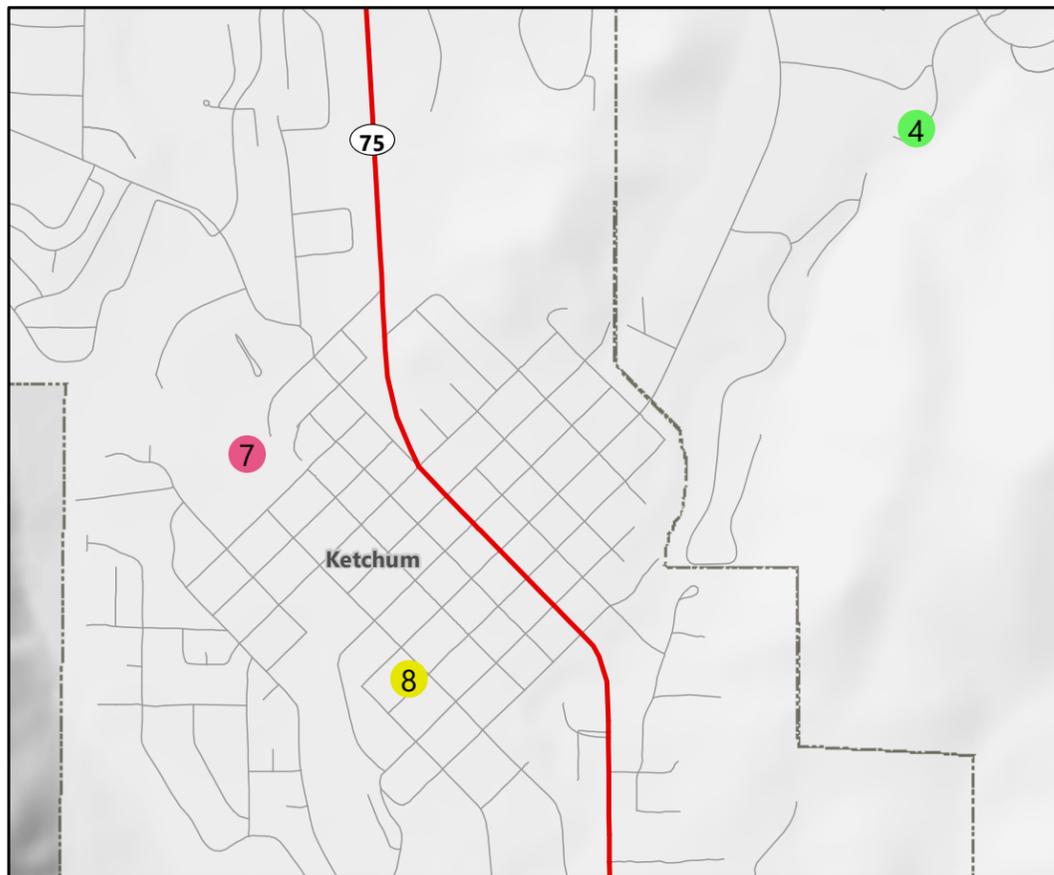
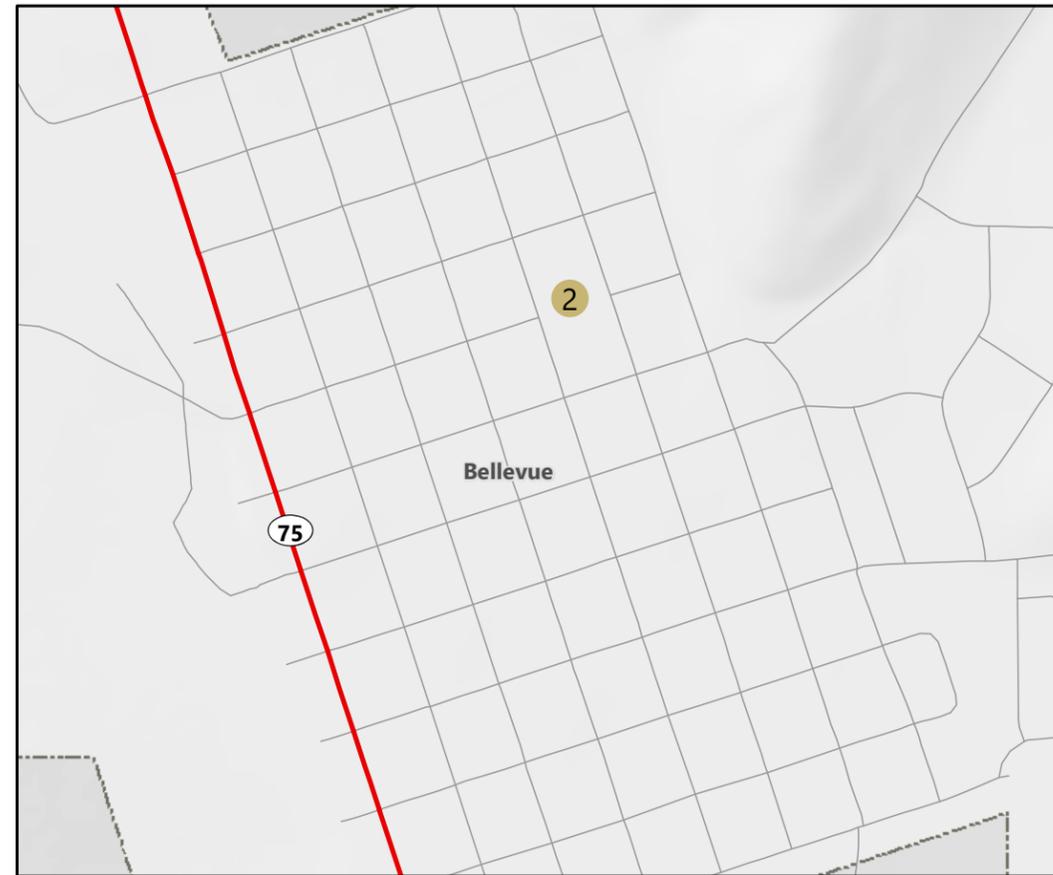
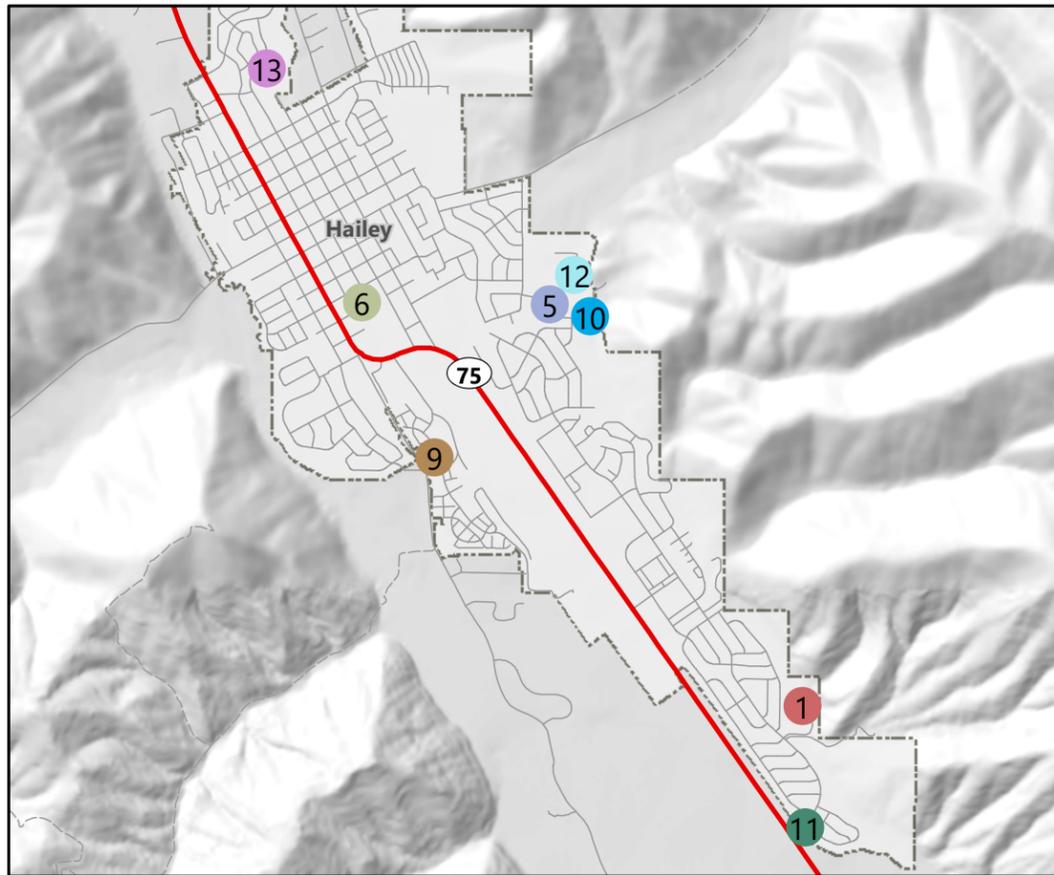


USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen and the GIS User Community, ITD, 2016

Map 6.4 Groomed Snowmobile Trails December 2016



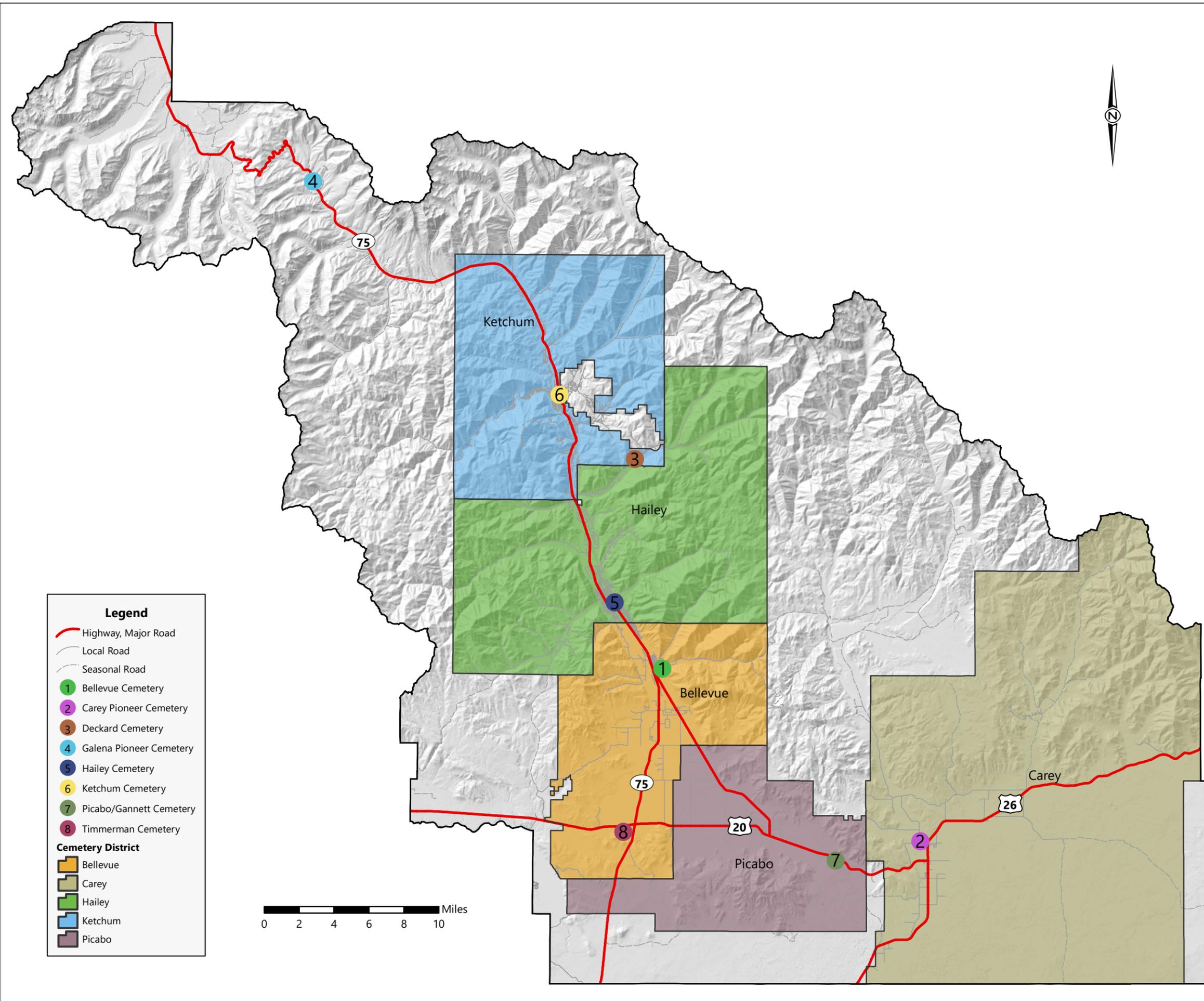
Map 6.5 Schools May 2017



Legend

- 1 Alturas Elementary
- 2 Bellevue Elementary
- 3 Carey School
- 4 Community School
- 5 College of Southern Idaho
- 6 Hailey Elementary
- 7 Hemingway Elementary
- 8 Pioneer Montessori School
- 9 Sage School
- 10 Silver Creek Alternative School
- 11 Syringa Mountain School
- 12 Wood River High School
- 13 Wood River Middle School
- Highway, Major Road
- Local Road
- Seasonal Road
- Municipal Boundary

Map 6.6 Cemetery Districts September 2016

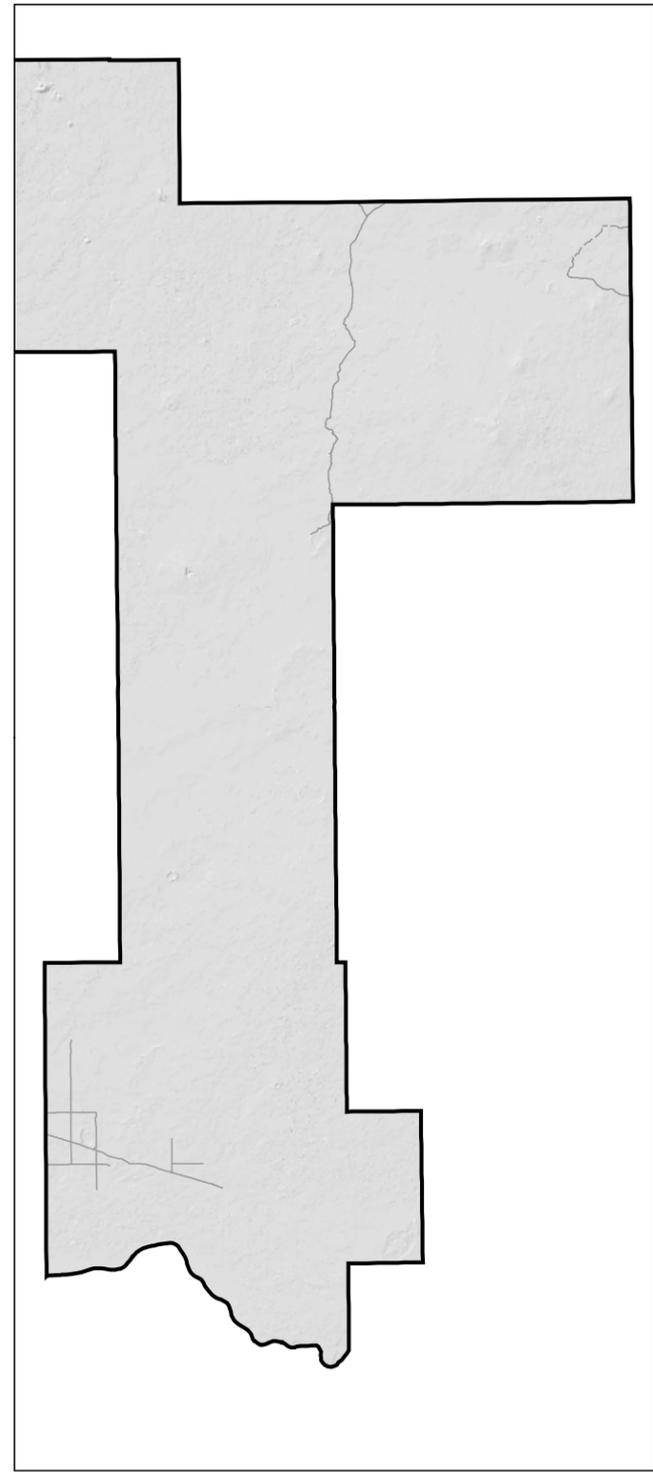


Legend

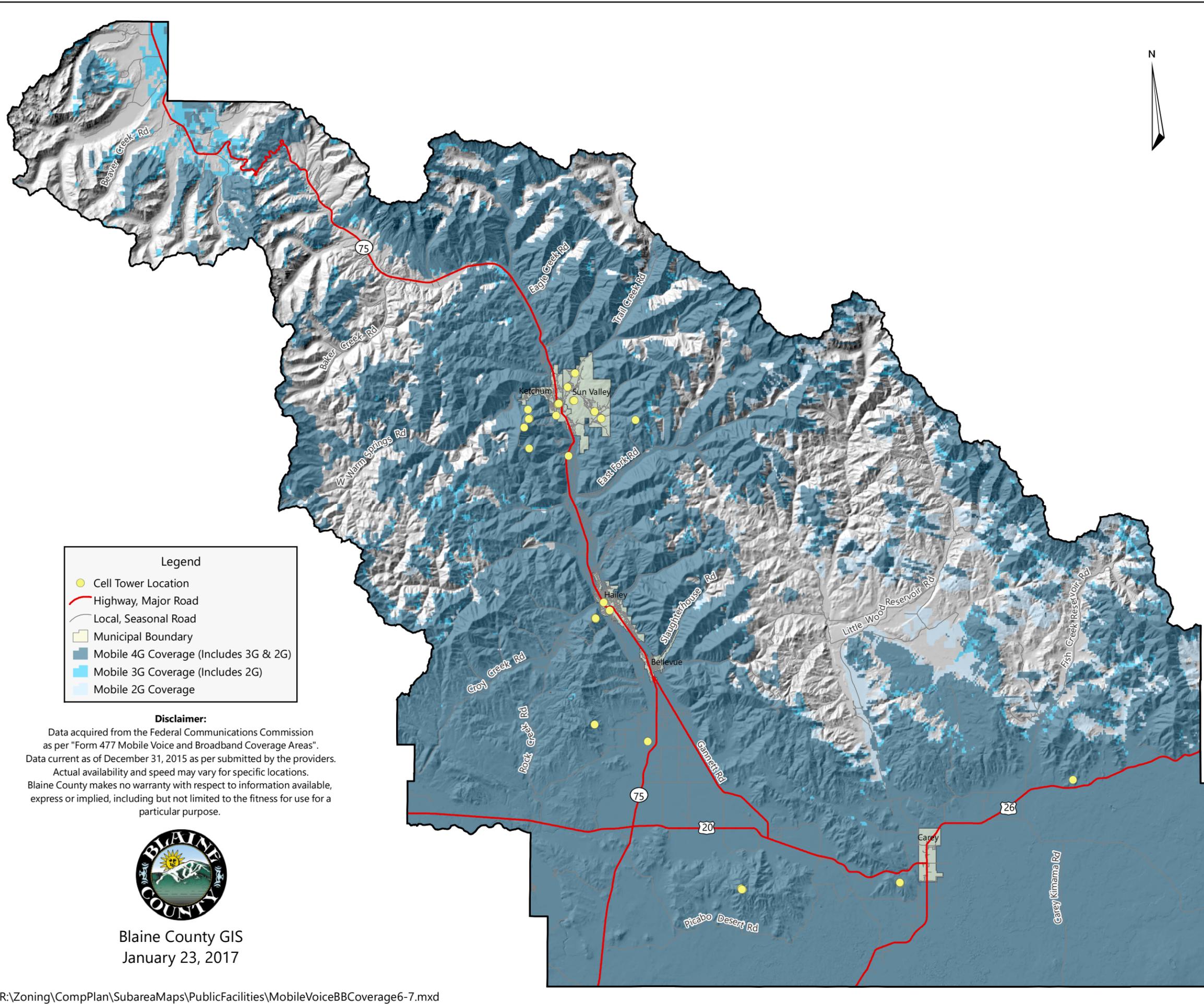
- Highway, Major Road
- Local Road
- Seasonal Road
- Bellevue Cemetery
- Carey Pioneer Cemetery
- Deckard Cemetery
- Galena Pioneer Cemetery
- Hailey Cemetery
- Ketchum Cemetery
- Picabo/Gannett Cemetery
- Timmerman Cemetery

Cemetery District

- Bellevue
- Carey
- Hailey
- Ketchum
- Picabo



Map 6.7 Mobile Voice and Broadband Coverage January 2017



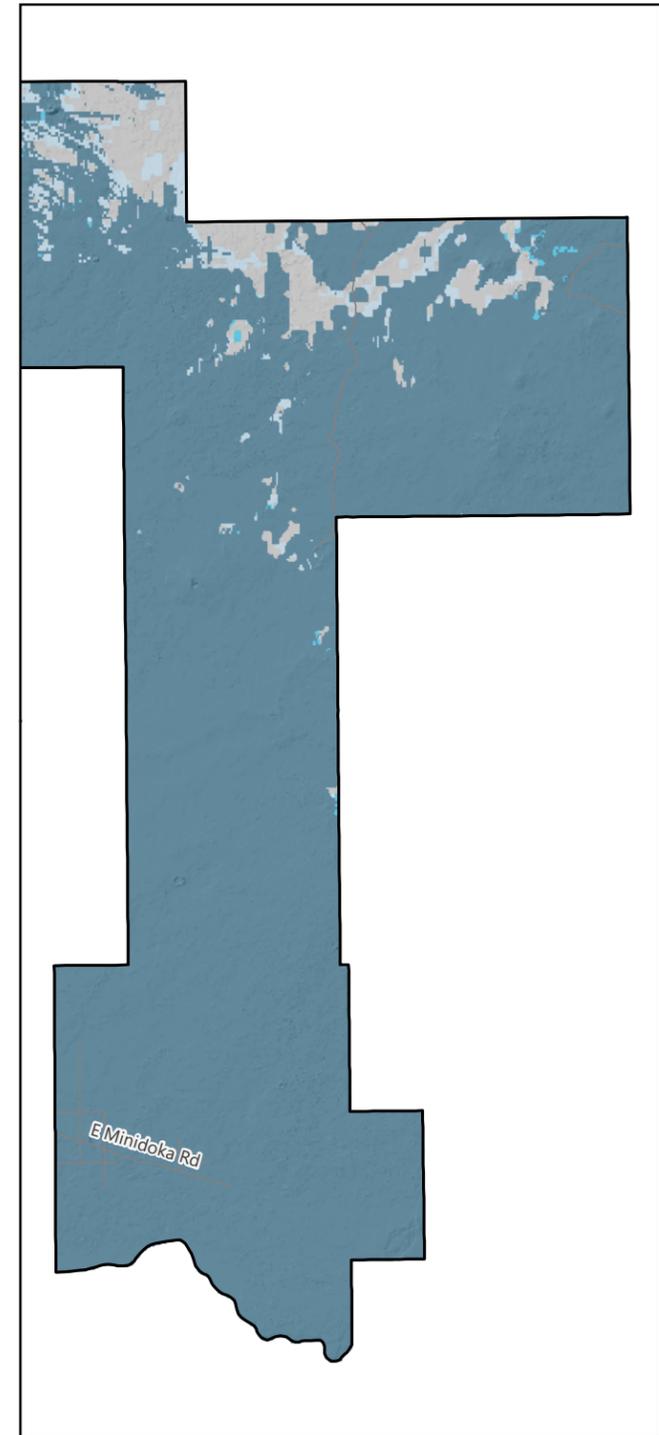
Legend

- Cell Tower Location
- Highway, Major Road
- Local, Seasonal Road
- Municipal Boundary
- Mobile 4G Coverage (Includes 3G & 2G)
- Mobile 3G Coverage (Includes 2G)
- Mobile 2G Coverage

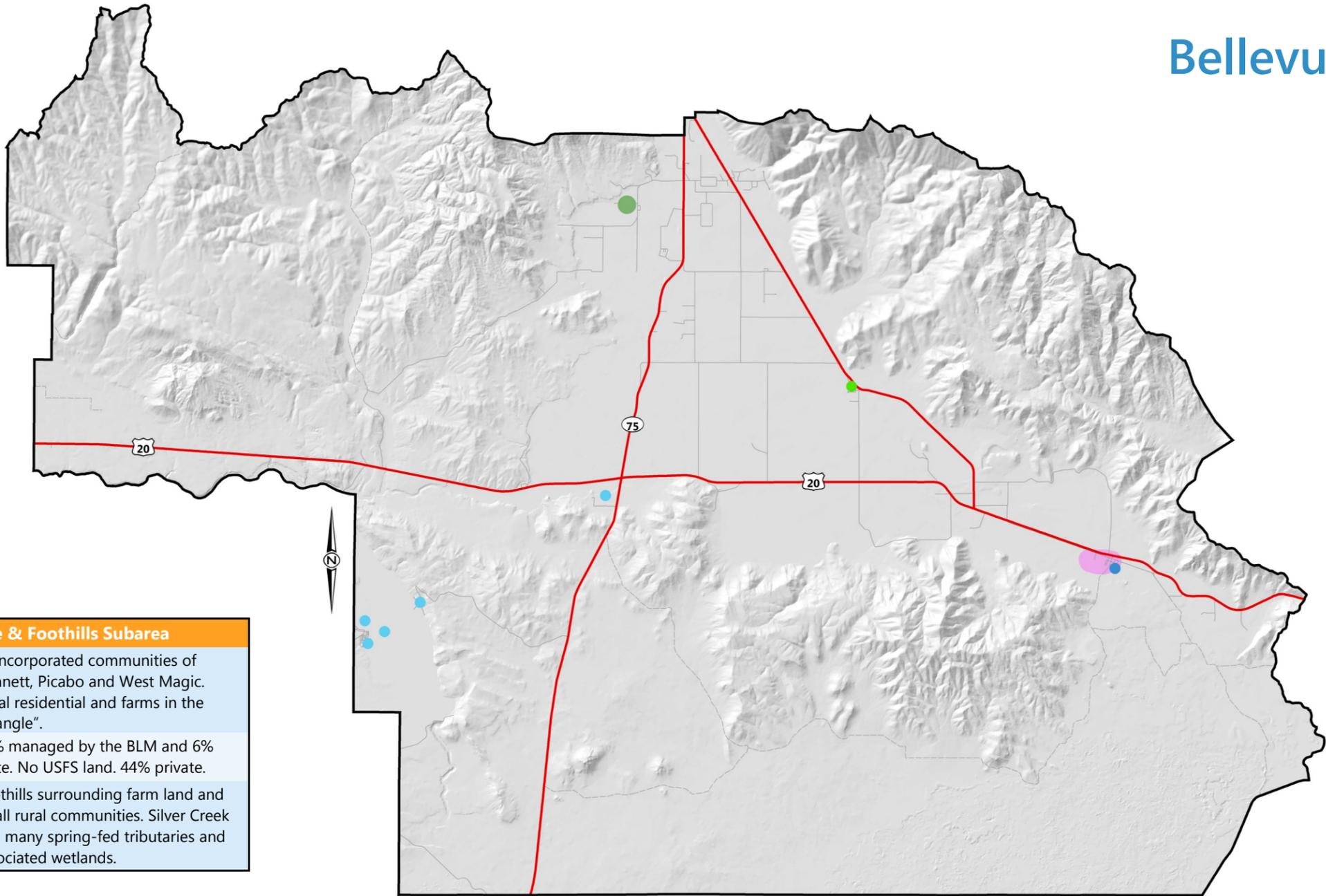
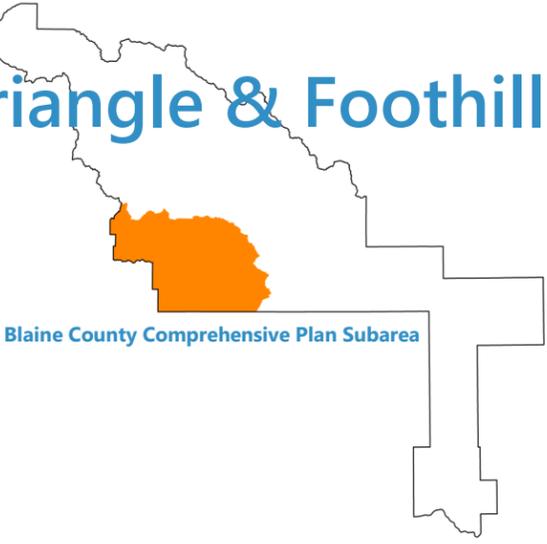
Disclaimer:
Data acquired from the Federal Communications Commission as per "Form 477 Mobile Voice and Broadband Coverage Areas". Data current as of December 31, 2015 as per submitted by the providers. Actual availability and speed may vary for specific locations. Blaine County makes no warranty with respect to information available, express or implied, including but not limited to the fitness for use for a particular purpose.



Blaine County GIS
January 23, 2017



Bellevue Triangle & Foothills

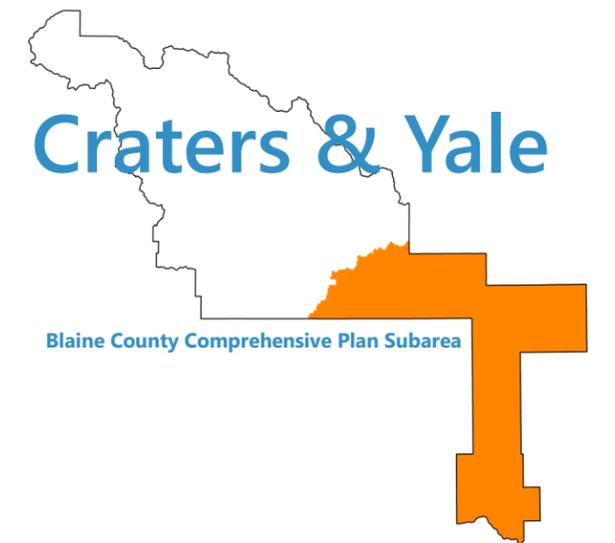
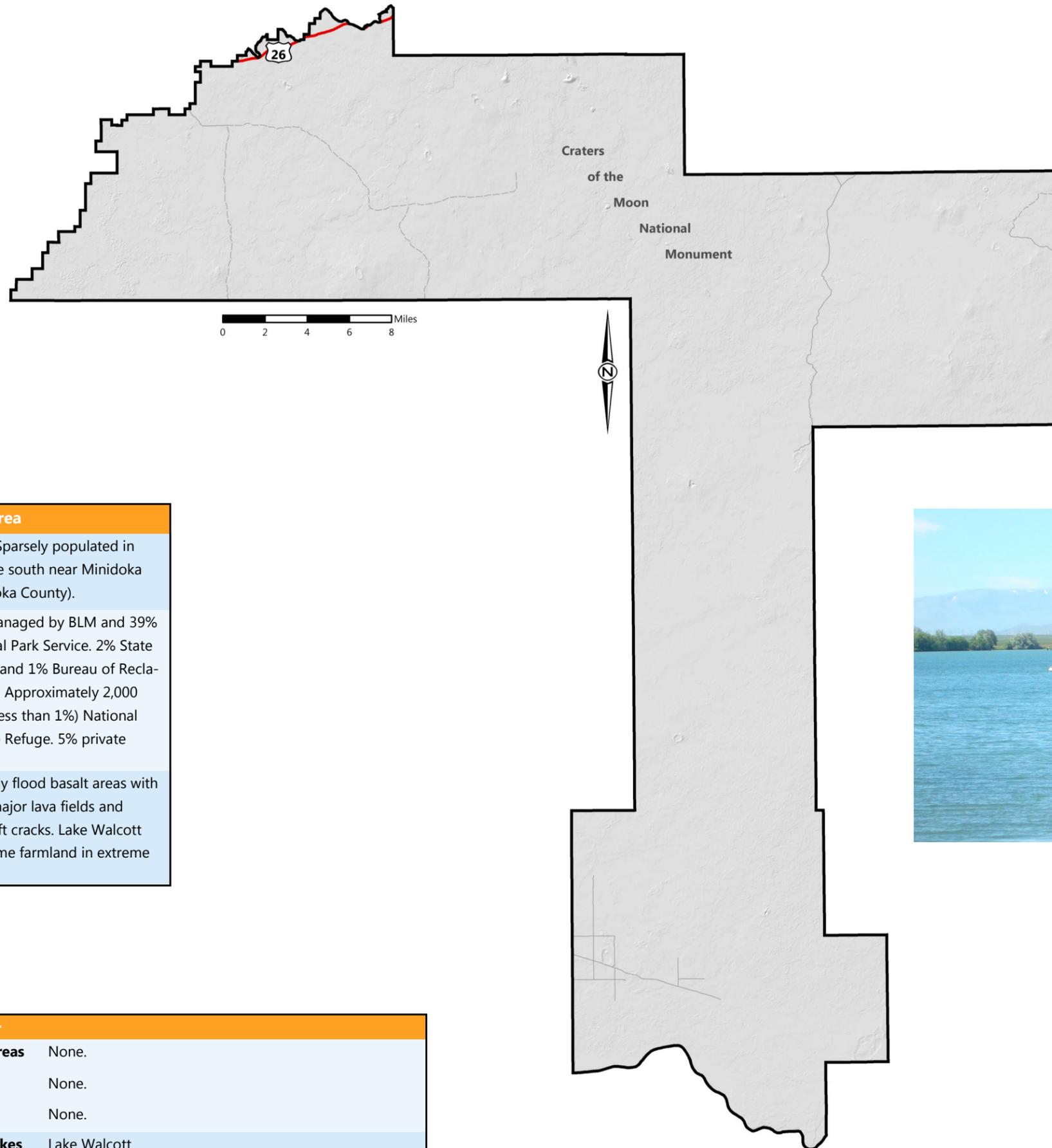


Magic Reservoir circa 1910—Waterarchives.org

Bellevue Triangle & Foothills Subarea	
Cities or Towns	Unincorporated communities of Gannett, Picabo and West Magic. Rural residential and farms in the "triangle".
Public Lands	55% managed by the BLM and 6% State. No USFS land. 44% private.
Geography	Foothills surrounding farm land and small rural communities. Silver Creek and many spring-fed tributaries and associated wetlands.

Water & Wastewater	
Wellhead Protection Areas	Picabo Townsite
Public Water Systems	Picabo Townsite, ITD Rest Area at Timmerman junction (SH 75 and US 20), and several around Magic Reservoir.
Wastewater	Bellevue's treatment plant is located approximately 2.5 miles from the southern end of the city; it discharges into onsite lagoons. Community septic in Gannett townsite.
Rivers, Streams, and Lakes	Silver Creek and multiple spring-fed tributaries, Lower Big Wood, Magic Reservoir, Rock Creek.

Legend	
Public Water System	
●	Community
●	Non-community Transient
●	Community Septic System
Wastewater	
●	Bellevue Wastewater Treatment Plant
Community Wellhead Protection Area	
■	City of Picabo
—	Highway, Major Road
—	Local Road
—	Seasonal Road
□	Municipal Boundary



Craters & Yale Subarea	
Cities or Towns	None. Sparsely populated in extreme south near Minidoka (Minidoka County).
Public Lands	53% managed by BLM and 39% National Park Service. 2% State owned and 1% Bureau of Reclamation. Approximately 2,000 acres (less than 1%) National Wildlife Refuge. 5% private land.
Geography	Primarily flood basalt areas with three major lava fields and open rift cracks. Lake Walcott and some farmland in extreme south.

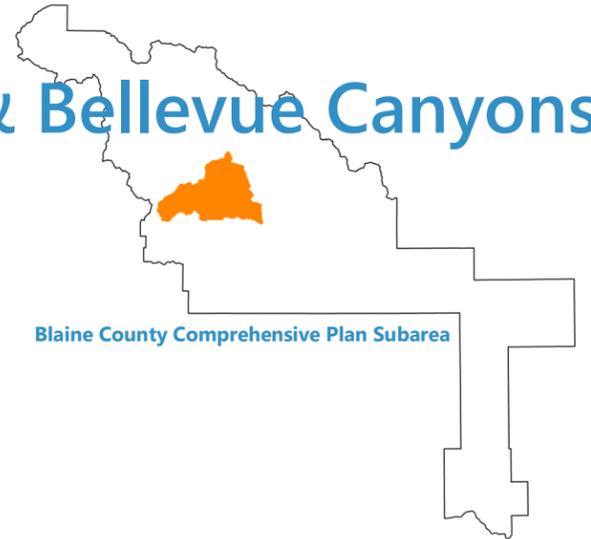


Lake Walcott—Staff photo

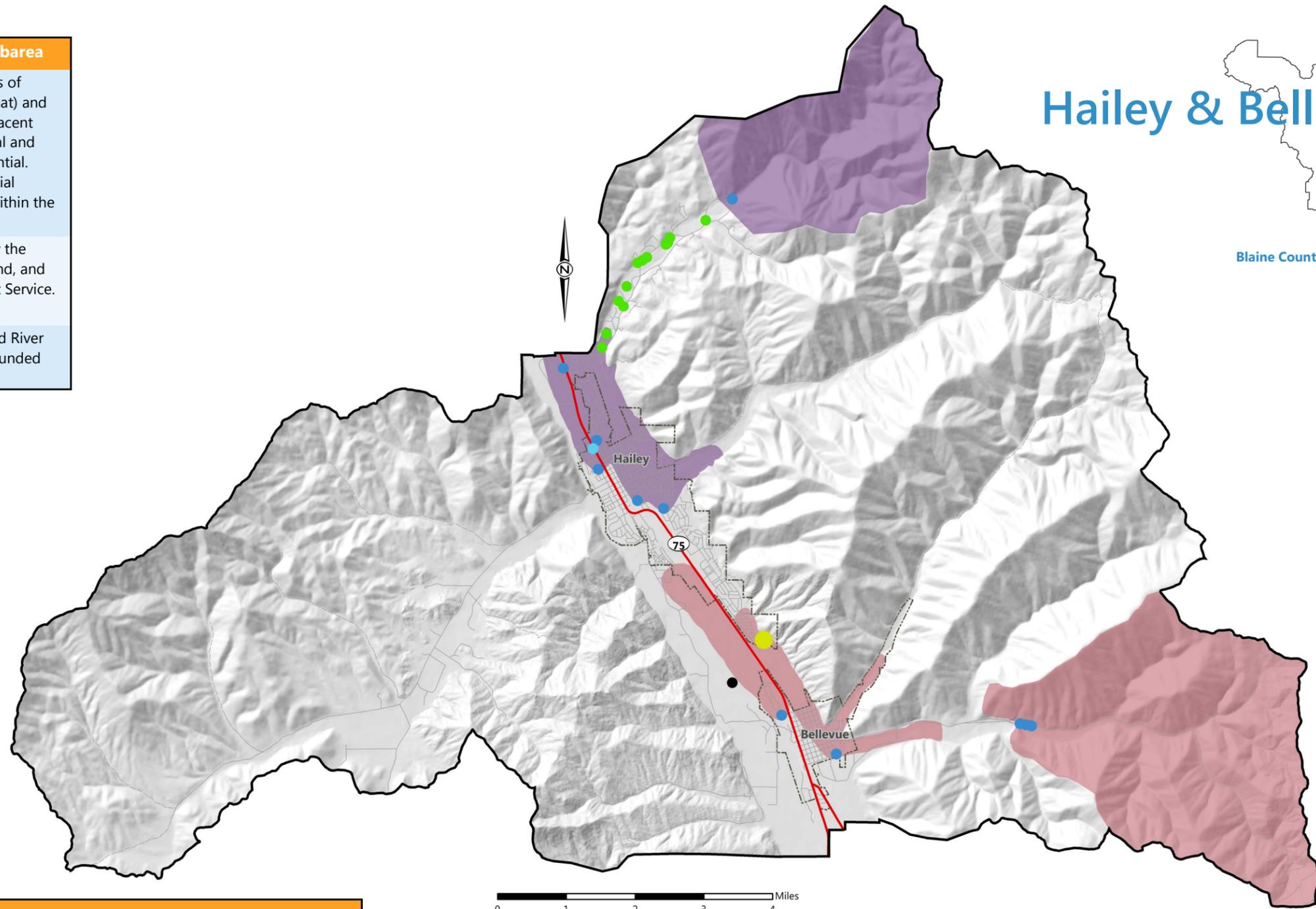
Water & Wastewater	
Wellhead Protection Areas	None.
Public Water Systems	None.
Wastewater	None.
Rivers, Streams, and Lakes	Lake Walcott

Legend	
	Highway, Major Road
	Local Road
	Seasonal Road
	Municipal Boundary

Hailey & Bellevue Canyons



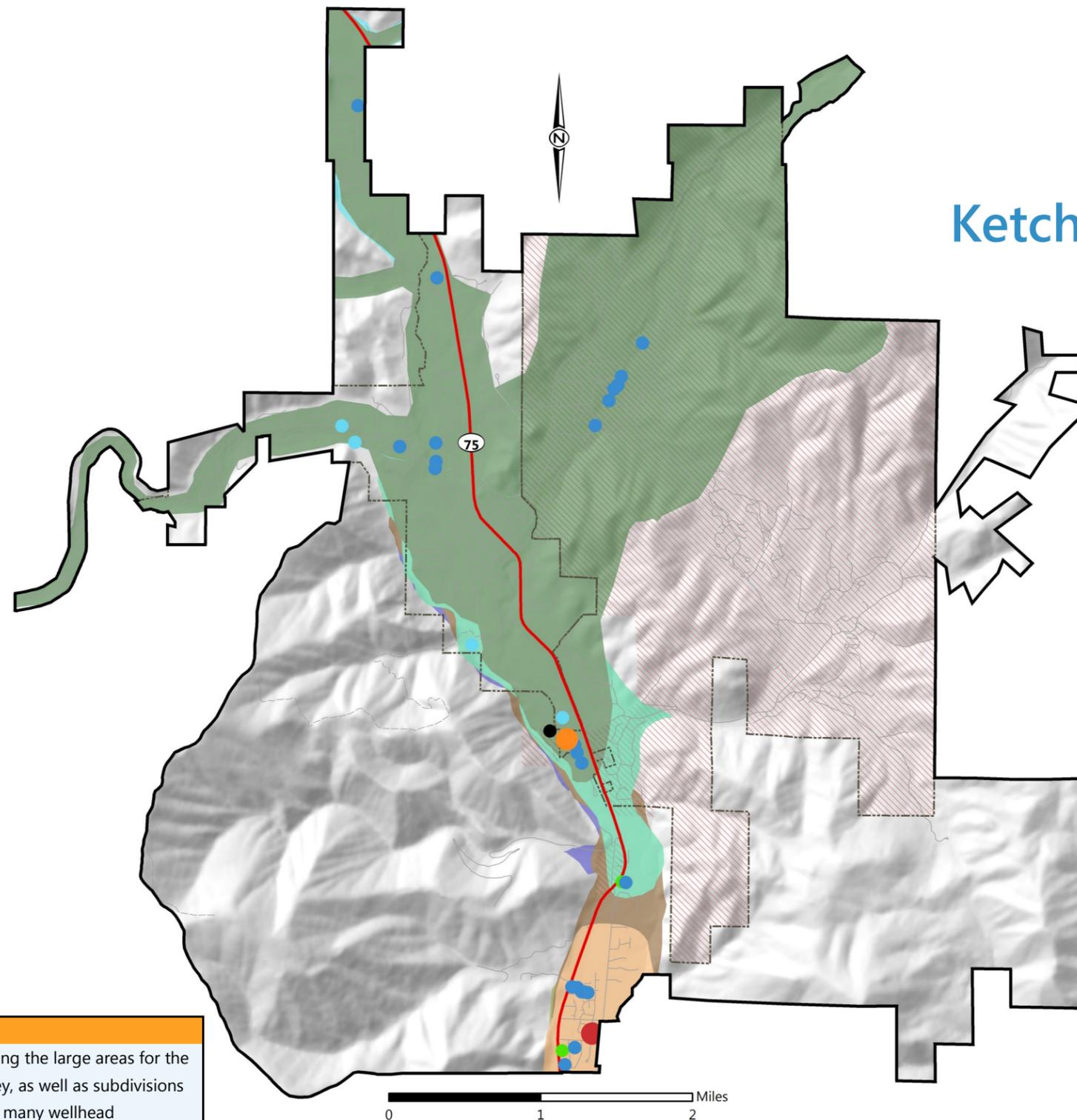
Hailey & Bellevue Canyons Subarea	
Cities or Towns	Includes the cities of Hailey (County seat) and Bellevue, and adjacent canyons with rural and semi-rural residential. Friedman Memorial Airport located within the City of Hailey.
Public Lands	58% managed by the BLM, 6% State land, and just 1% US Forest Service. 34% private land.
Geography	Broadening Wood River Valley floor surrounded by foothills.



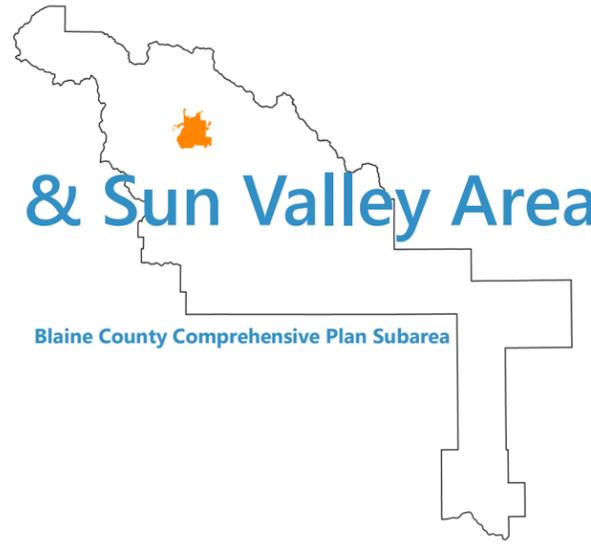
Water & Wastewater	
Wellhead Protection Areas	Protection areas for multiple community wells for Hailey and Bellevue.
Public Water Systems	The cities of Hailey and Bellevue have several community water sources including "Spring-Groundwater" wells out Indian Creek and Muldoon Creek, respectively.
Wastewater	Hailey Treatment Plant and effluent discharge point at Big Wood River between Hailey and Bellevue. (See Bellevue Triangle and Foothills page for Bellevue's treatment plant.) Several community drainfields in Indian Creek.
Rivers, Streams, and Lakes	Big Wood River, Croy Creek, Indian Creek, Quigley Creek, Muldoon Creek

Legend	
Public Water System	
	Non-community Transient
	Community
	Community Septic System
	Effluent Discharge
Wastewater	
	Hailey Wastewater Treatment Plant
Community Wellhead Protection Area	
	City of Bellevue
	Hailey Water & Sewer
	Highway, Major Road
	Local Road
	Seasonal Road
	Municipal Boundary

Ketchum & Sun Valley Subarea	
Cities or Towns	Incorporated cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley and home of Sun Valley Resort. Includes the Areas of City Impact and County land to the south that is more urban in nature.
Public Lands	13% BLM, 11% US Forest Service, and 6% State. 69% is privately owned.
Geography	Mountain towns nestled in an alpine landscape at the foot of Bald Mountain, with access to foothills of the Boulder and Smoky Mountains



Ketchum & Sun Valley Area



Water & Wastewater	
Wellhead Protection Areas	Several protection areas including the large areas for the cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley, as well as subdivisions and mobile home parks. (Note: many wellhead protection areas overlap.)
Public Water Systems	Cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley, various subdivisions and mobile home parks, and two restaurants:
Wastewater	The Ketchum-Sun Valley Treatment Plant and its adjacent discharge point into the Big Wood River., just south of Ketchum. The Meadows Treatment Plant (see Mid-Valley page for nearby effluent discharge point).
Rivers, Streams, and Lakes	Confluence of two major tributaries of the Big Wood River: Warm Springs Creek and Trail Creek.

Legend	
Public Water System	
	Non-community Transient
	Community
	Community Septic System
	Effluent Discharge
Wastewater	
	Ketchum-Sun Valley Treatment Plant
	Meadows Wastewater Treatment Plant
Community Wellhead Protection Area	
	City of Ketchum
	Cold Springs Subdivision
	Greenhorn Subdivision
	J & C Deluxe Mobile Home Park
	Sun Valley Water & Sewer District
	Suntree Hollow Mobile Home Court
	The Meadows
	Highway, Major Road
	Local Road
	Seasonal Road
	Sun Valley Sewer & Water
	Municipal Boundary

Public Water Systems Defined:
Community: supplies water to the same population year-round.
Non-Community Transient: provides water in a place such as a gas station or campground where people do not remain for long periods of time.

Little Wood Subarea

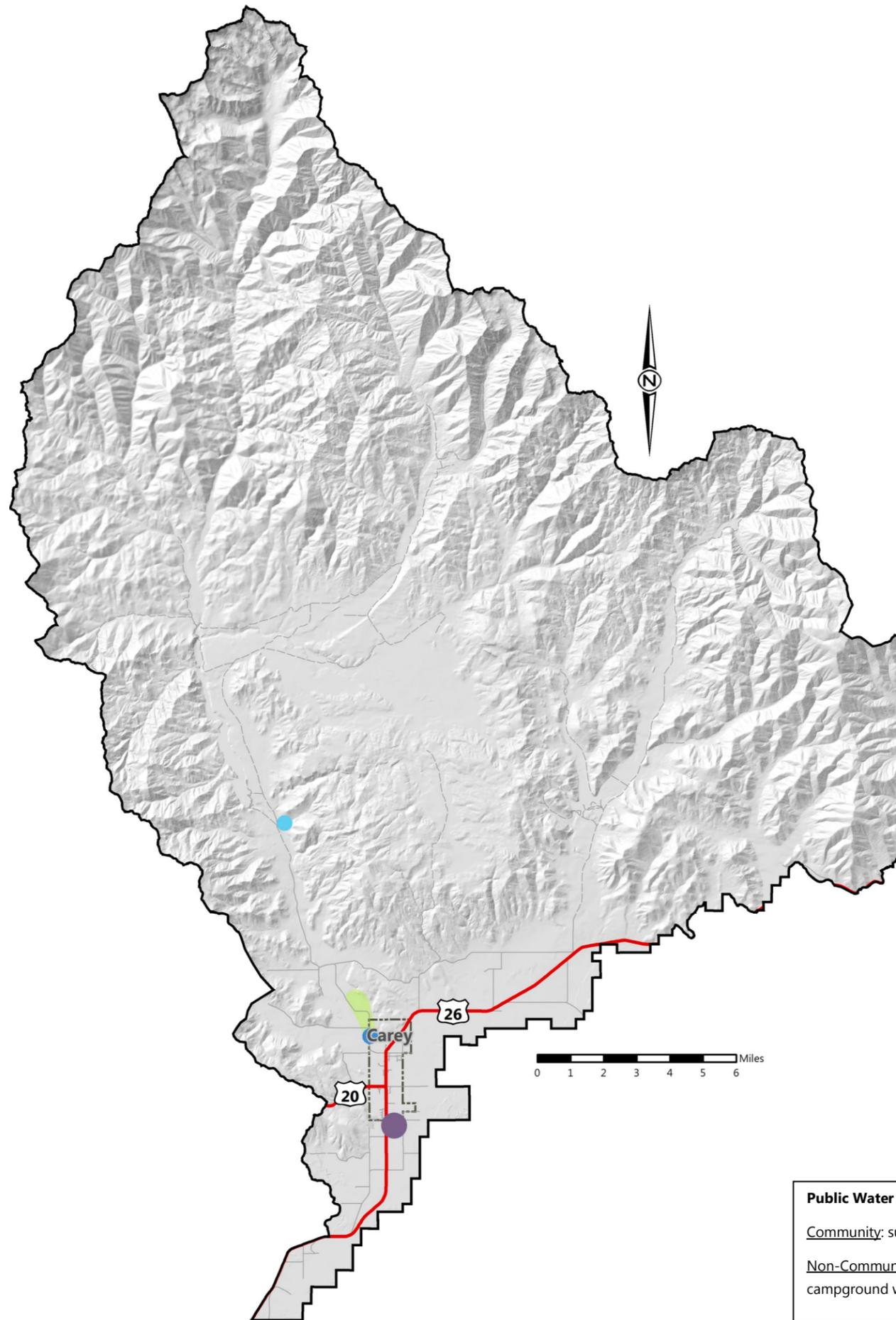
Cities or Towns	City of Carey. Established farms and ranches including isolated ranches higher in the Little Wood drainage.
Public Lands	30% BLM land, 22% US Forest Service, and 8% State. Less than 1% Bureau of Reclamation (40 acres). 40% private.
Geography	Remote Little Wood drainage with forested areas of the eastern Pioneer Mountains; farmland in the southern area around Carey.



Little Wood Dam—Bureau of Reclamation

Water & Wastewater

Wellhead Protection Areas	Protection area for City of Carey well.
Public Water Systems	City of Carey and Little Wood Reservoir Campground.
Wastewater	The City of Carey's Treatment plant discharges into on-site lagoons.
Rivers, Streams, and Lakes	Little Wood River and tributaries, Little Wood Reservoir, Carey Lake, Fish Creek and Reservoir, lower Silver Creek.



Little Wood



Blaine County Comprehensive Plan Subarea

Legend

Public Water System	
●	Community
●	Non-community Transient
Wastewater	
●	Carey Wastewater Treatment Plant
Community Wellhead Protection Area	
■	Carey Water & Sewer District
—	Highway, Major Road
—	Local Road
—	Seasonal Road
□	Municipal Boundary

Public Water Systems Defined:

Community: supplies water to the same population year-round.

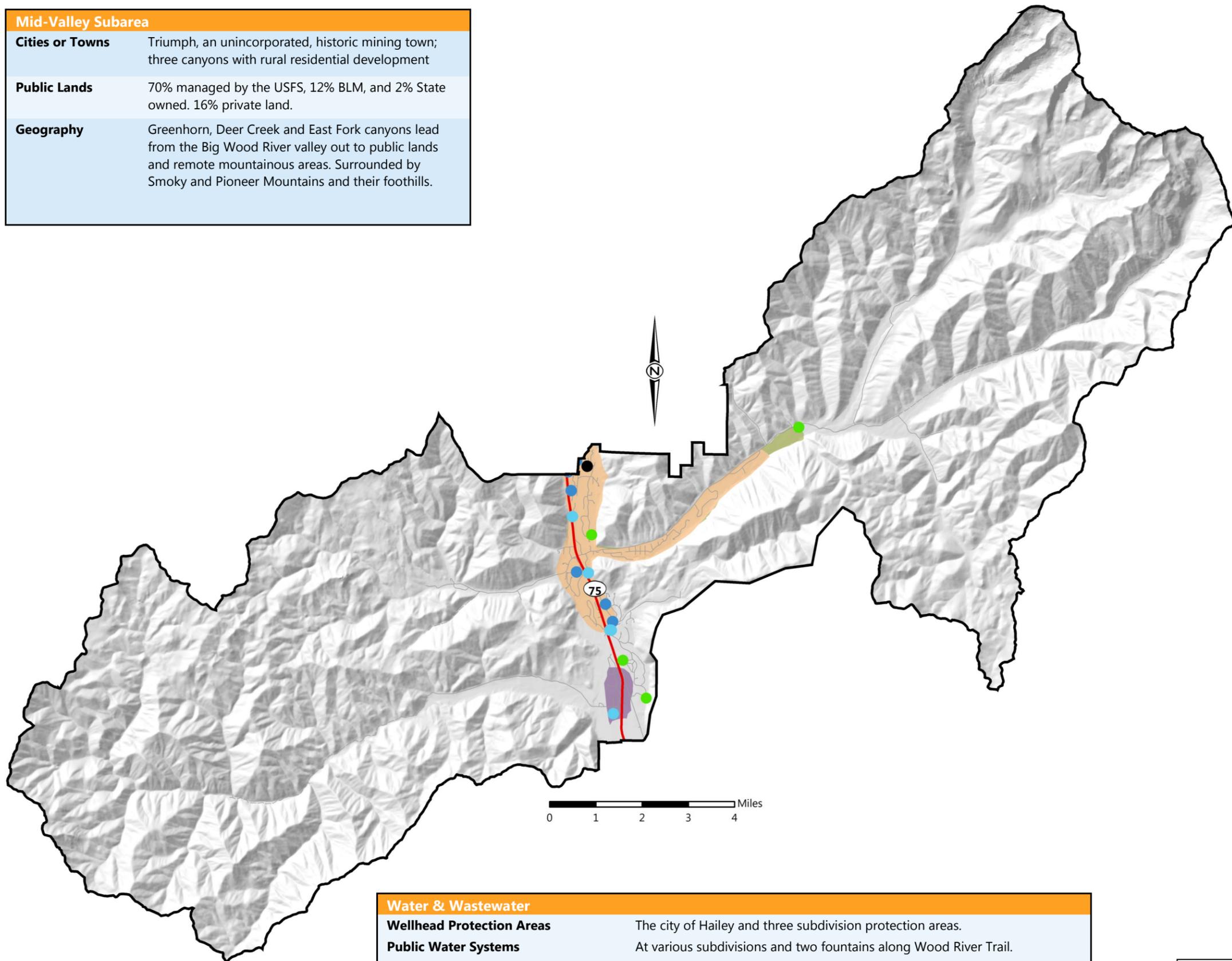
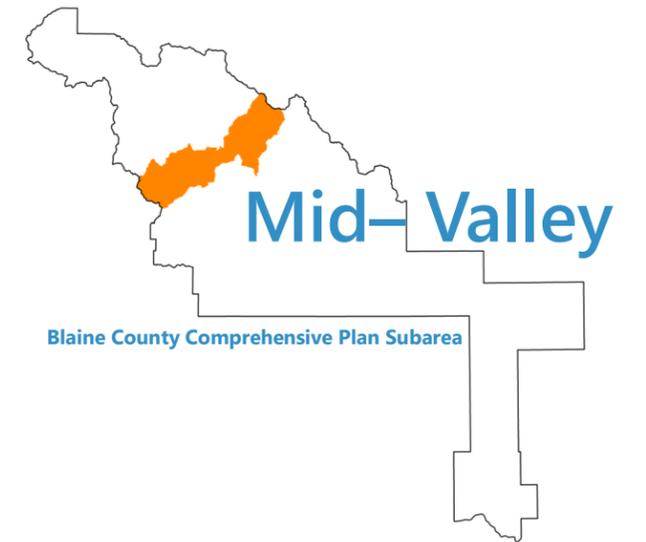
Non-Community Transient: provides water in a place such as a gas station or campground where people do not remain for long periods of time.

Mid-Valley Subarea

Cities or Towns Triumph, an unincorporated, historic mining town; three canyons with rural residential development

Public Lands 70% managed by the USFS, 12% BLM, and 2% State owned. 16% private land.

Geography Greenhorn, Deer Creek and East Fork canyons lead from the Big Wood River valley out to public lands and remote mountainous areas. Surrounded by Smoky and Pioneer Mountains and their foothills.



Legend

Public Water System

- Non-community Transient (light blue circle)
- Community (dark blue circle)

Wastewater

- Community Septic System (green circle)
- Effluent Discharge (black circle)

Community Wellhead Protection Area

- Greenhorn Subdivision (green square)
- Hailey Water & Sewer District (purple square)
- Heatherlands Subdivision (orange square)
- The Valley Club (light green square)

Highway, Major Road (red line)

Local Road (grey line)

Seasonal Road (dashed grey line)

Municipal Boundary (dashed black line)

Water & Wastewater

Wellhead Protection Areas The city of Hailey and three subdivision protection areas.

Public Water Systems At various subdivisions and two fountains along Wood River Trail.

Wastewater Effluent discharge point for the Meadows Treatment Plant at Big Wood River (plant is within Ketchum & Sun Valley subarea). Community septic systems at Triumph, Gimlet and Valley Club.

Rivers, Streams, and Lakes Big Wood River, Deer Creek and East Fork tributaries.

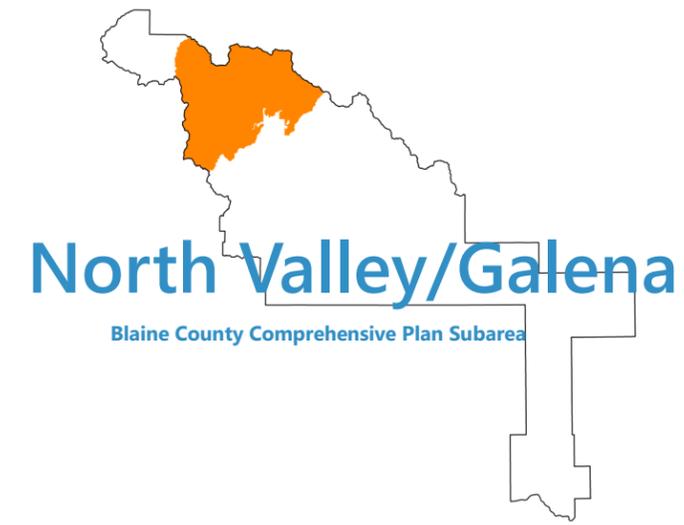
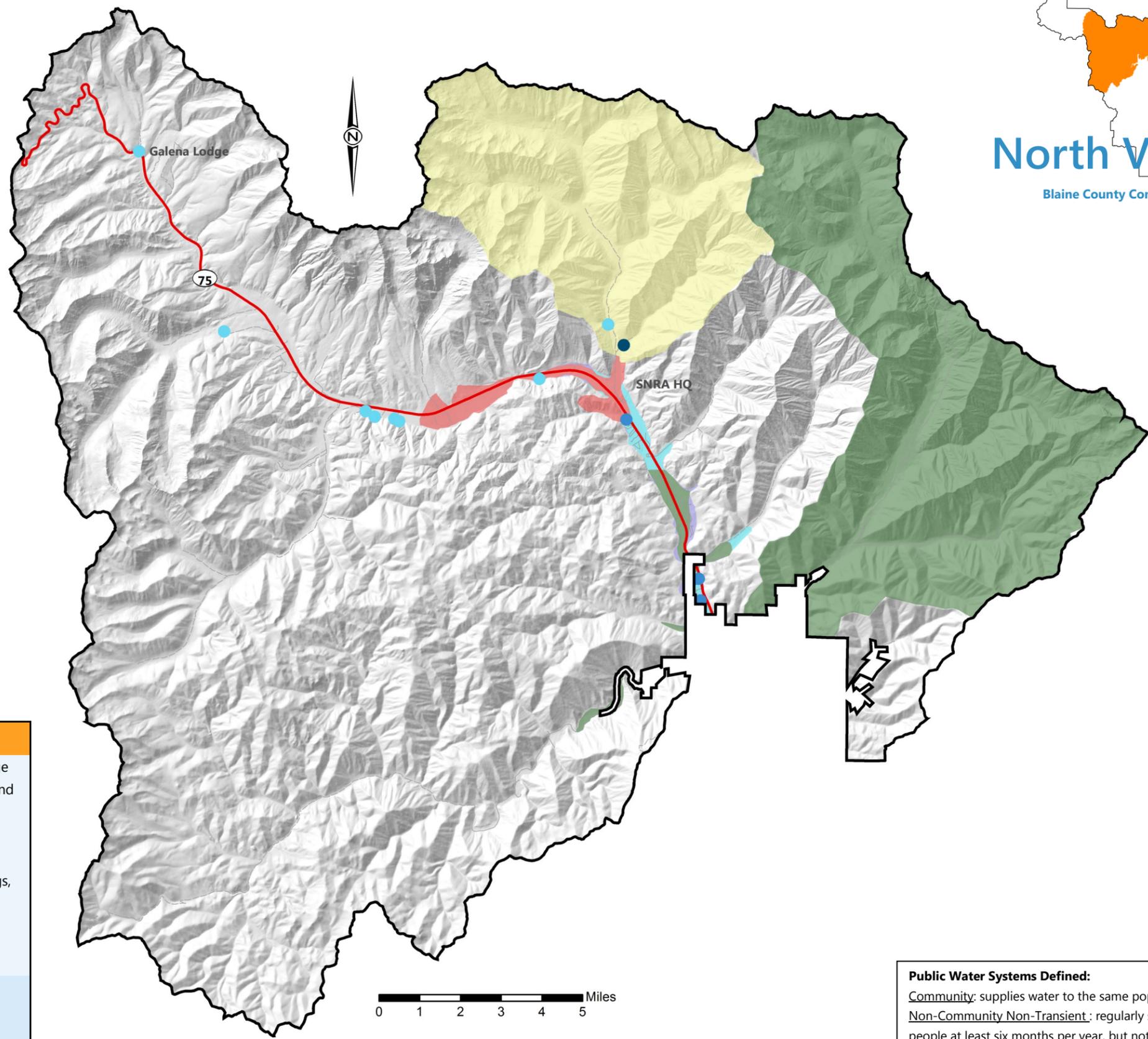
Public Water Systems Defined:

Community: supplies water to the same population year-round.

Non-Community Transient: provides water in a place such as a gas station or campground where people do not remain for long periods of time.

North Valley/Galena Subarea

Cities or Towns	No cities or towns. Private land is primarily rural residential with the exception of the North Fork Store (currently closed) & Trailer Park, and Galena Lodge.
Public Lands	Nearly all (98%) US Forest Service, of which the northern portion is in SNRA and a very small portion within that is the Hemingway Boulder Wilderness Area. Just 1% BLM and 1% private land.
Geography	Alpine and forested landscape with Boulder Mountains east and north of Hwy 75 and Smoky Mountains west and south of Hwy 75. Headwaters of the Big Wood River.



Water & Wastewater

Wellhead Protection Areas	Five protection areas including large areas for the SNRA headquarters and for the cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley. ((Note: many wellhead protection areas overlap.))
Public Water Systems	At Galena Lodge, Easley Hot Springs, SNRA Headquarters, North Fork Store, various campgrounds, and Hulen Meadows.
Wastewater	No community septic systems.
Rivers, Streams, and Lakes	Big Wood River (headwaters) and tributaries including Prairie Creek, Baker Creek, North Fork, Warm Springs Creek and Trail Creek. High altitude lakes including Prairie, Baker, Norton, and Amber Lakes.

Legend

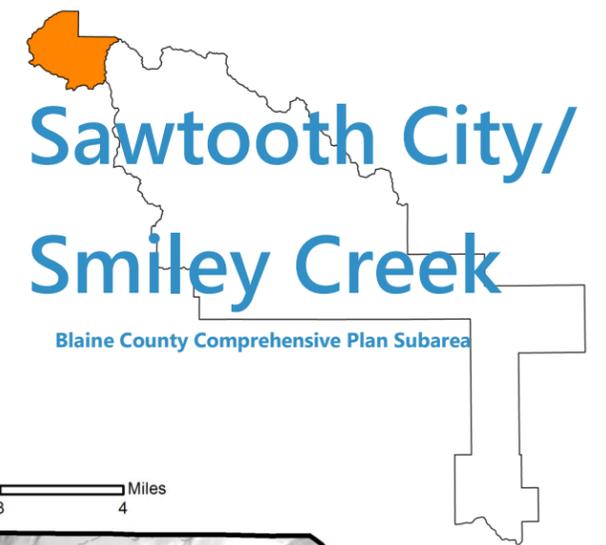
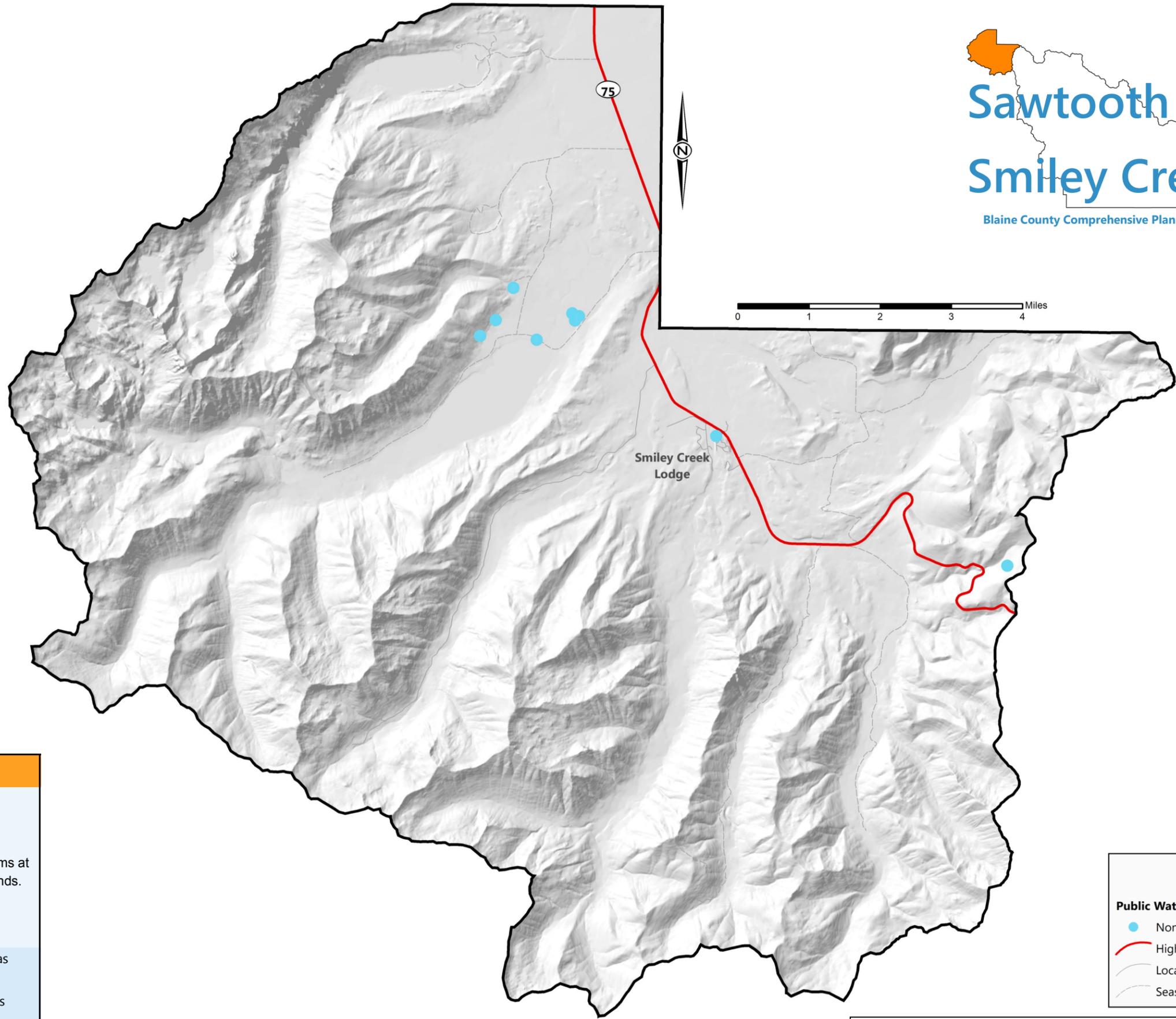
Public Water System	
●	Community
●	Non-community Transient
●	Non-community Non-transient
Community Wellhead Protection Area	
■	City of Ketchum
■	Hulen Meadows Water Company
■	North Fork Store
■	Sun Valley Water & Sewer District
■	USFS SNRA HQ
—	Highway, Major Road
—	Local Road
—	Seasonal Road



Public Water Systems Defined:
Community: supplies water to the same population year-round.
Non-Community Non-Transient: regularly supplies water to at least 25 of the same people at least six months per year, but not year-round. Some examples are schools, office buildings, and hospitals which have their own water systems.
Non-Community Transient: provides water in a place such as a gas station or campground where people do not remain for long periods of time.

Smiley Creek Subarea

Cities or Towns	Small unincorporated commercial hub at Sawtooth City, with Smiley Creek Lodge & Restaurant, fuel sales, undeveloped seasonal public airport. Historic Sawtooth City, once an active mining community.
Public Lands	95% US Forest Service land, mostly within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) and including a small portion of the Sawtooth Wilderness. 5% private land, with much of valley floor protected by scenic easements. Only 300 acres (less than 1%) state owned.
Geography	Dramatic Sawtooth and Boulder Mountain views surrounding the high meadow Sawtooth Valley (highest elevation valley in Idaho).



Water & Wastewater

Wellhead Protection Areas	None mapped
Public Water Systems	Non-community Transient water systems at Smiley Creek Lodge and at campgrounds.
Wastewater	No public or community systems
Rivers, Streams, and Lakes	Headwaters of the Salmon River, Alturas Lake Creek, Beaver Creek, Frenchman's Creek, Pole Creek, Smiley Creek, Alturas Lake, Pettit Lake, high altitude lakes including Alice Lake.

Legend

Public Water System

- Non-community Transient
- Highway, Major Road
- Local Road
- Seasonal Road

Non-Community Transient: provides water in a place such as a gas station or campground where people do not remain for long periods of time.