Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment for Craig Mountain Lumber Company

Lewis County

State of Idaho
Department of Environmental Quality

December 2013

STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hilton • Boise, Idaho 83706 • (208) 373-0502

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

December 17, 2013

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

Subject: Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment Report for the Craig Mountain Lumber Company, Lewis County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Marcy:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) completed the enclosed Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) for the Craig Mountain Lumber Company under a cooperative agreement with Region 10 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Under this cooperative agreement, DEQ provides technical support for completion of preliminary assessments.

The Craig Mountain Lumber Company site is owned by Winchester Lake State Park and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). This assessment was conducted with the permission of Winchester Lake State Park and IDFG. DEQ inspected the site on July 12, 2013. No assessment was conducted on the private property associated with this location. The Winchester Lake State Park and IDFG will receive a copy of this APA report.

At the time of the site inspection, the Craig Mountain Lumber site had no potential sources or associated releases due to historical lumber industry practices. All historic industrial related disturbances are well vegetated. Potential risks to human or ecological receptors associated with this site are minimal.

As a result of DEQ's research and observations, a No Remedial Action Planned (NRAP) designation is recommended for the Craig Mountain Lumber Company site. This APA report can also be found on DEQ's Preliminary Assessment web page: http://www.deq.idaho.gov/preliminary-assessments

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call me at (208) 373-0296 or email (dana.swift@deq.idaho.gov).

Sincerely,

Dana Swift

Dana Swift
Mine Waste Project Coordinator

Attachments

cc: Winchester Lake State Park
Mr. Jim White, IDFG

Acknowledgments

DEQ would like to thank Winchester Lake State Park and Mr. Jim White from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for permitting access to the site.

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Introduction

This abbreviated preliminary assessment (APA) for the Craig Mountain Lumber Company near Winchester, Idaho provides the rationale for the No Remedial Action Planned (NRAP) determination that no additional assessments or site investigations are necessary at this time. Section 1 provides the APA checklist (modified from EPA, 1999) filled out by the assessor to determine that an APA was warranted. The following sections contain additional relevant information and evidence to support the APA, including historical and geologic information (Section 2), current site conditions and photographs (Section 3), maps (Section 4), and references (Section 5).

Preparer: Dennis Behler **Date:** 12/3/2013
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Lewiston, ID 83501
208-799-4370
dennis.behler@deq.idaho.gov

Site Inspector: Dennis Behler, DEQ Lewiston Regional Office

Site Name: Craig Mountain Lumber Company

Previous Names (aka): N/A

Site Owners: Winchester Lake State Park
1786 Forest Road
Winchester, ID 83555

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)
3316 16th Street
Lewiston, ID 83501

Site Location: The Craig Mountain Lumber site is accessible by vehicle. From the City of Winchester head southeast on Hwy 95 for 0.25 mile to Winchester Lake State Park. The site is on the east bank of Lapwai Lake (aka Winchester Lake).

Township 33 North, Range 2 West, Section 5

Latitude: 46.235712°N **Longitude:** -116.617271°W

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

The Craig Mountain Lumber Company site was investigated by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on July 12, 2013 for potential releases to the airborne, surface water, or ground water pathways from historic lumber industry practices. No hazardous or deleterious materials or products were evident at the site.

Section 1. APA Checklist

Task 1—Superfund Eligibility Evaluation

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

Assessor, please explain all "yes" answer(s):

Regarding question 5: A reconnaissance level preliminary assessment was conducted to determine if any potential sources or associated releases could be identified due to historical lumber industry practices. No concerns were identified during desktop research. Observations during the site inspection include:

- Remnants of old building foundations, an anchor block, untreated lumber, and what appears to be a water pump house remain on the site.
- Hazardous or deleterious materials were not present at the site.
- No evidence for releases or potential releases that would impact the airborne, surface water or ground water pathways.
- The site is well vegetated and appears healthy.
- Lapwai Lake (aka Winchester Lake) appears healthy. Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) acquired the lake in 1964 and has maintained a healthy fish population to provide sport fishing opportunities.

Task 2—Initial Site Evaluation

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

If the answer is "no" to *any* of questions 1, 2, or 3, proceed directly to task 3.	**YES**	**NO**
1. Does the site have a release or a potential to release?	☐	☒
2. Does the site have uncontained sources containing CERCLA-eligible substances?	☐	☒
3. Does the site have documented on-site, adjacent, or nearby targets?	☐	☒

If the answers to questions 1, 2, and 3 above were *all* "yes," then answer questions 4–7 before proceeding to task 3.	**YES**	**NO**
4. Does documentation indicate that a target (e.g., drinking water wells, drinking surface water intakes, etc.) has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site?	☐	☐
5. Is there an apparent release at the site with no documentation of exposed targets, but targets are on site or immediately adjacent to the site?	☐	☐
6. Is there an apparent release and no documented on-site targets or targets immediately adjacent to the site, but targets are nearby (e.g., within 1 mile)?	☐	☐
7. Are there uncontained sources containing CERCLA hazardous substances, a potential to release with targets present on site or in proximity to the site, but no indication of a hazardous substance release?	☐	☐

Notes:

No hazardous or deleterious materials or products were evident during the site visit; therefore, there are no identified releases or potentials for release. Potential risks to human or ecological receptors are negligible.

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

Table 1. Site assessment decision guidelines for a site.

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

Task 3—DEQ Site Assessment Decision

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

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

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

DEQ Reviewer:

Dana Swift for Dennis Behler — 12/17/13

Dennis Behler — Date

Please explain the rationale for your decision:

As a result of DEQ's research and site observations, a NRAP designation is recommended for the Craig Mountain Lumber site. Desktop research and site inspection observations confirm that

there are no current releases of hazardous or deleterious materials by airborne, surface water, or ground water pathways. The site is located approximately 0.25 mile from the City of Winchester; the closest occupied dwelling. The closest downstream residence to the site is approximately 12 miles to the north near the City of Culdesac. Additional information supporting this designation is included in the following sections.

Section 2. Historical and Geologic Information

Numerous sources were used during desktop research prior to visiting the site. DEQ cannot improve or expand upon these reports; therefore, the information is included as direct quotations.

History: The following is from a descriptive inventory of the papers of Craig Mountain Lumber Company in the University of Idaho library prepared by Judith Nielsen (1980):

> In 1909 a group of Wisconsin pioneers began construction of the Craig Mountain Lumber Company and sawmill in Lewis County, Idaho. Locating its head office in Spokane, the company was organized under the laws of the state of Washington and on March 17, 1909 the Articles of Incorporation were filed in Olympia. On July 4, 1910 the first log was sawed, and, as the trees were cut, a new town was built. Alex Kaline, a prominent citizen of the nearby community of Winchester, and later a state senator, moved his post office and store to the new site; the two towns consolidated and established themselves on the present site of Winchester, about 40 miles southeast of Lewiston.
>
> The mill was not only the largest in northern Idaho, but since expensive and up to date machinery was installed, it was also the finest of its class. It had one of the largest stocks of shop and factory plank in the Inland Empire and the Craig Mountain Cork Pine it produced was much in demand in the lumber markets of the East. The mill was equipped with two single cutting band saws and had a capacity of 120,000 board feet every ten hours (the normal working day). From the mill the lumber was taken to the dry kilns, then to the planers, after which it was graded and shipped. In 1910 the mill employed 270 men who worked a ten hour day for between 25 and 75 cents an hour.
>
> For many years the town's only source of water and electric light was furnished by the lumber company. Service was provided through the company's subsidiary the Winchester Town site Company which also provided houses for lumber company employees.
>
> In September 1909 the Craig Mountain Lumber Company began construction of a six mile railroad to transport its lumber to Craig Junction where it could be transferred to the Camas Prairie Line. Service on the new railway began in January 1911; the passenger and freight train ran twice daily. In 1921 Craig Mountain Lumber Company Railway was incorporated under the laws of the state of Idaho and became Craig Mountain Railway.
>
> During World War I the I.W.W. attempt to unionize the mill workers failed. In 1919, with 30 million board feet of lumber in the yard and another million feet in the pond, and no market for their product, the mill shut down. It reopened in 1922, but the depression of the 30's hit Winchester hard and in December 1930 the mill was again forced to shut down; it did not reopen until January 31, 1935. In 1950 the Craig Mountain Lumber Company, under the management of W.C. Geddes, sold out to the Hallack and Howard Lumber Company of Denver, who, in turn, sold out to Boise-Cascade in 1960. In March 1965 Boise-Cascade announced that its timber was now located too far from the mill to be economically transported and the mill was shut down for good

Geologic Features: The following is the description of the Craig Mountain Lumber site from *Winchester Lake and Upper Lapwai Creek Total Maximum Daily Load* (DEQ 1999):

> Bedrock geology consists primarily of basalt in the southern and western portions of the Winchester Lake watershed and granitic rocks in the northern and eastern portions (Figure 4). Overburden geology consists of

basalt and granitic colluvium blanketed by loess, particularly in the immediate vicinity of the lake. A northwest-trending dip-slip fault has been mapped in the southeastern portion of the watershed.

Elevation of the Winchester Lake watershed ranges from 4,639 ft at Mason Butte to 3,902 ft. at the lake surface. The slopes vary from 1% to 50% on forest land, and 1% to 20% on cropland. Soils in the watershed are primarily of forest origin (Boles-Joel complex, Johnson-Kruse complex and Johnson-Labuck complex) and can be classified as well-drained sandy to silt loams. The latter 2 soil types are classified as highly erodible. They are prone to erosion if left un-vegetated by conventional tillage practices. Soils commonly associated with riparian areas are generally poorly-drained with a seasonally high water table, but not highly erodible.

Section 3. Site Conditions and Photographs

Craig Mountain Lumber Company site observations and photographs were collected during the DEQ site inspection on July 12, 2013. Historical evidence of the lumber company operations include remnants of concrete building foundations (Photo 1), old untreated lumber found sparsely throughout the area (Photo 2), and a cement anchor block (Photo 3). One of the City of Winchester's drinking supply water towers is located on the site and what appears to be a water pump house (Photo 4). The site is well vegetated, healthy, and the age and size of the trees appear to be consistent with the closing of the lumber company in 1965 (Photos 5, 6, 7). Lapwai Lake (aka Winchester Lake) is a popular fishing and camping destination (Photo 8).

Photo 1. Piece of old concrete foundation along the trail on the site.

Photo 2. View of old untreated lumber.

Photo 3. Cement anchor block.

Photo 4. View of the City of Winchester water tower, old foundation, and water pump house.

Photo 5. View looking west of the healthy vegetation and on-site trail.

Photo 6. View of the trees and well vegetated upper level of the site.

Photo 7. View from the shore of Lapwai Lake (aka Winchester Lake) looking uphill at the old Craig Mountain Lumber site.

Photo 8. View from the old Craig Mountain Lumber site looking at Lapwai Lake (aka Winchester Lake).

Section 4. Maps

The Craig Mountain Lumber site is located southeast of Winchester, Idaho. Figure 1 is a topographic map of the location and Figure 2 shows the aerial view of the location. Specific site location details are included in the above checklist. The generalized geology of this area is shown in Figure 3 with a description included in Section 2 of this report.

Since desktop research and site inspection observations for the Craig Mountain Lumber site indicate that there are no current releases of hazardous or deleterious materials, the maps included in this section provide supporting information to demonstrate that risks to human or ecological receptors from a potential release are minimal.

The Craig Mountain Lumber site is located on the east bank Lapwai Lake (aka Winchester Lake) within the Lower Clearwater subbasin. Lapwai Creek is the largest tributary to Lapwai Lake. The 15-mile target distance limit (TDL) follows Lapwai Creek and ends approximately three miles west of the City of Culdesac, Idaho at the confluence of Lapwai Creek and Mission Creek (Figure 4). In addition to Lapwai Lake (aka Winchester Lake), there are numerous wetlands within the 2-mile radius of the site (Figure 5). Potential ground water pathways include four public drinking water systems and approximately 70 domestic wells located within the 4-mile radius of the site (Figure 4).

The plant species of concern within the 4-mile radius of the Craig Mountain Lumber site listed below and shown on Figure 6 have "no status" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

- Jessica's aster (*Symphyotrichum jessicae*)
- Plumed clover (*Trifolium plumosum* ssp. *amplifolium*)
- Palouse thistle (*Cirsium brevifolium*)
- Douglas clover (*Trifolium douglasii*)
- Broad-fruit mariposa (*Calochortus nitidus*)
- Sticky goldenweed (*Pyrrocoma hirta* var. *sonchifolia*)

The nongame animal species of concern within the 4-mile radius of the site and listed below have "no status" under the ESA (Figure 6).

- Salmon coil (*Helicodiscus salmonaceus*)
- Common porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*)
- Common loon (*Gavia immer*)
- Northern pygmy owl (*Glaucidium gnmoa*)
- Gillette's checkerspot (*Euphydryas gillettii*)
- Columbian ground squirrel (*Spermophilus columbianus*)
- Great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*)
- Mountain cottontail (*Sylvilagus nuttallii*)
- Coeur d'Alene salamander (*Plethodon idahoensis*)

Winchester Lake was acquired in 1964 by IDFG to provide sport fishing opportunities to the public. The lake was subsequently drained and cleaned of logs and debris remaining from its

operation as a mill pond. Since then, Winchester Lake has been host to many species of fish and has been chemically rehabilitated at least once to remove undesirable species (DEQ 1999).

This area is both bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) habitat. The following fish species have been observed by IDFG in the streams within the 4-mile radius of the site (Figure 6):

- Sockeye salmon (Snake River runs) (*Oncorhynchus nerka*)
- Chinook salmon (fall run) (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)
- Chinook salmon (summer run) (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)
- Chinook salmon (spring run) (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)
- Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Figure 1. Location of the Craig Mountain Lumber Company site in Lewis County, Idaho.

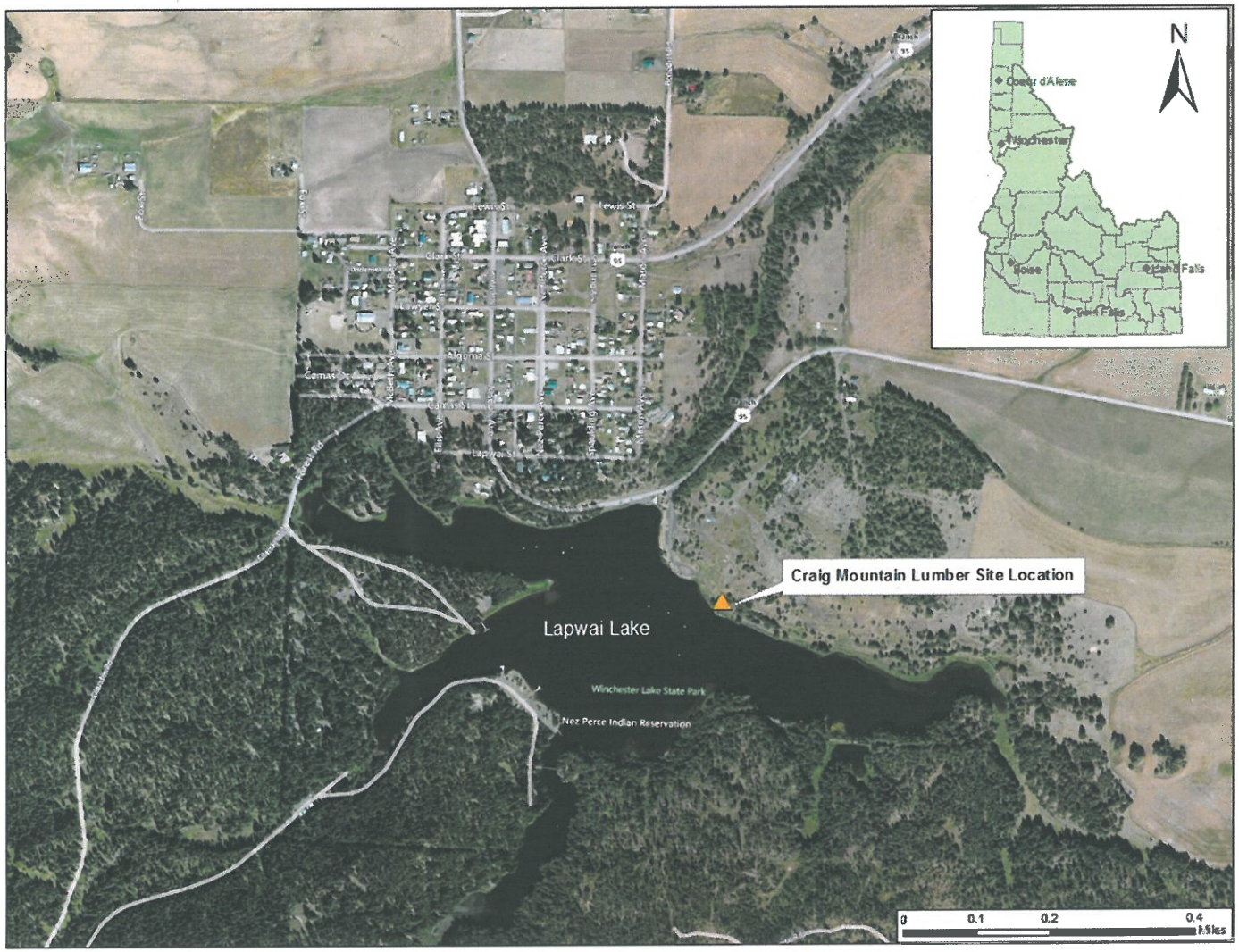

Figure 2. Aerial view of the Craig Mountain Lumber Company site in Lewis County, Idaho.

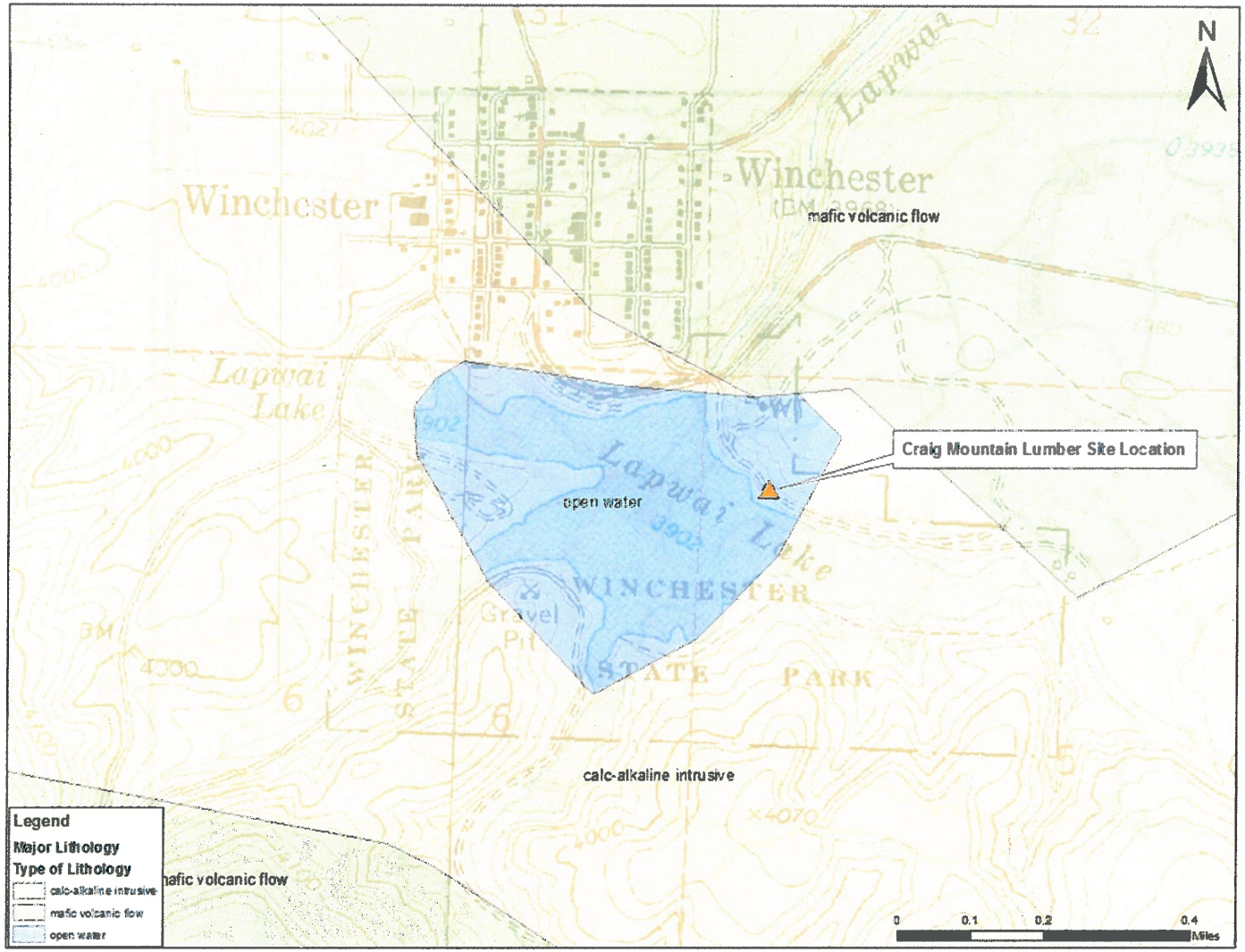

Figure 3. Map of major lithology in the vicinity of the Craig Mountain Lumber Company site.

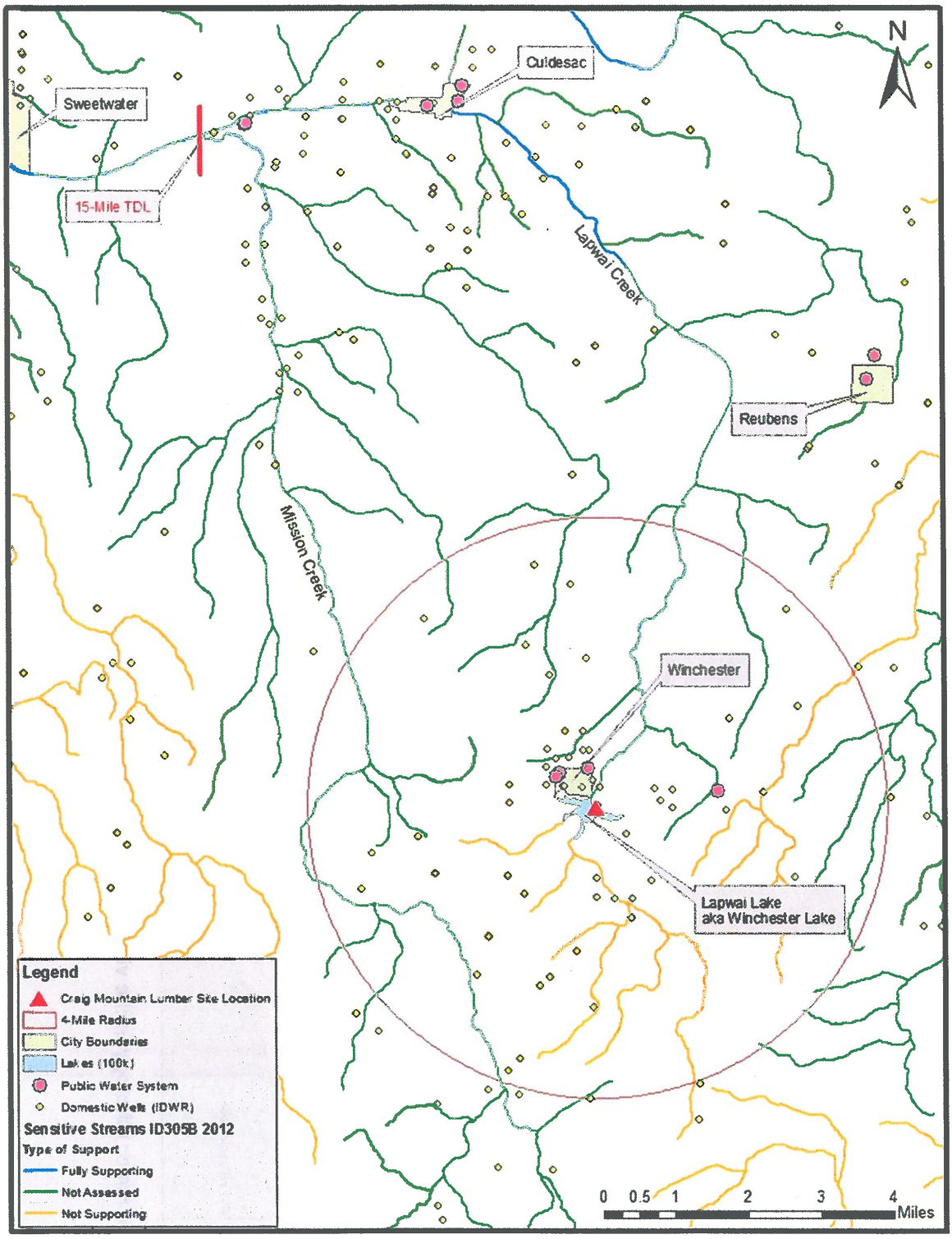

Figure 4. Domestic well and public water system locations.

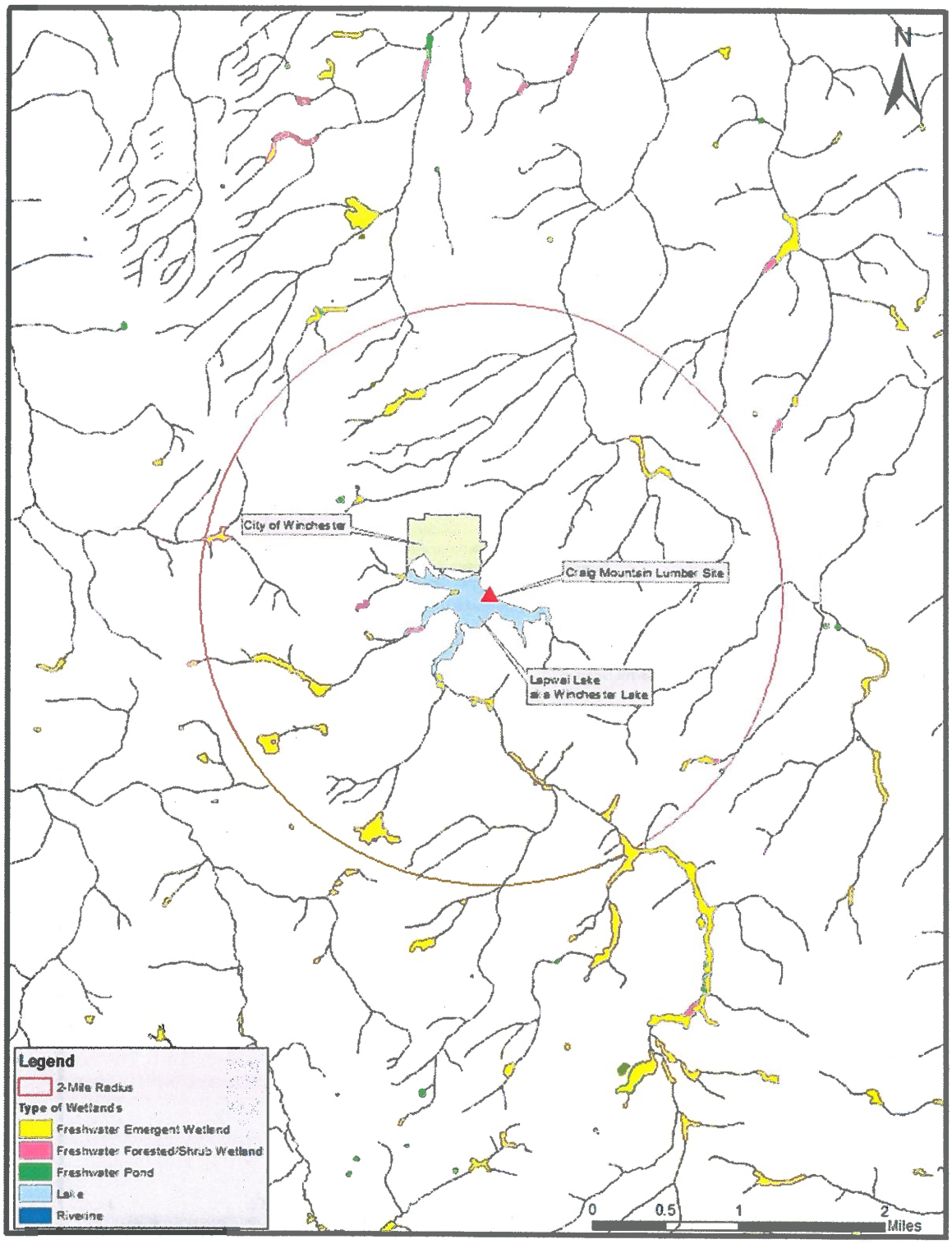

Figure 5. Wetland locations.

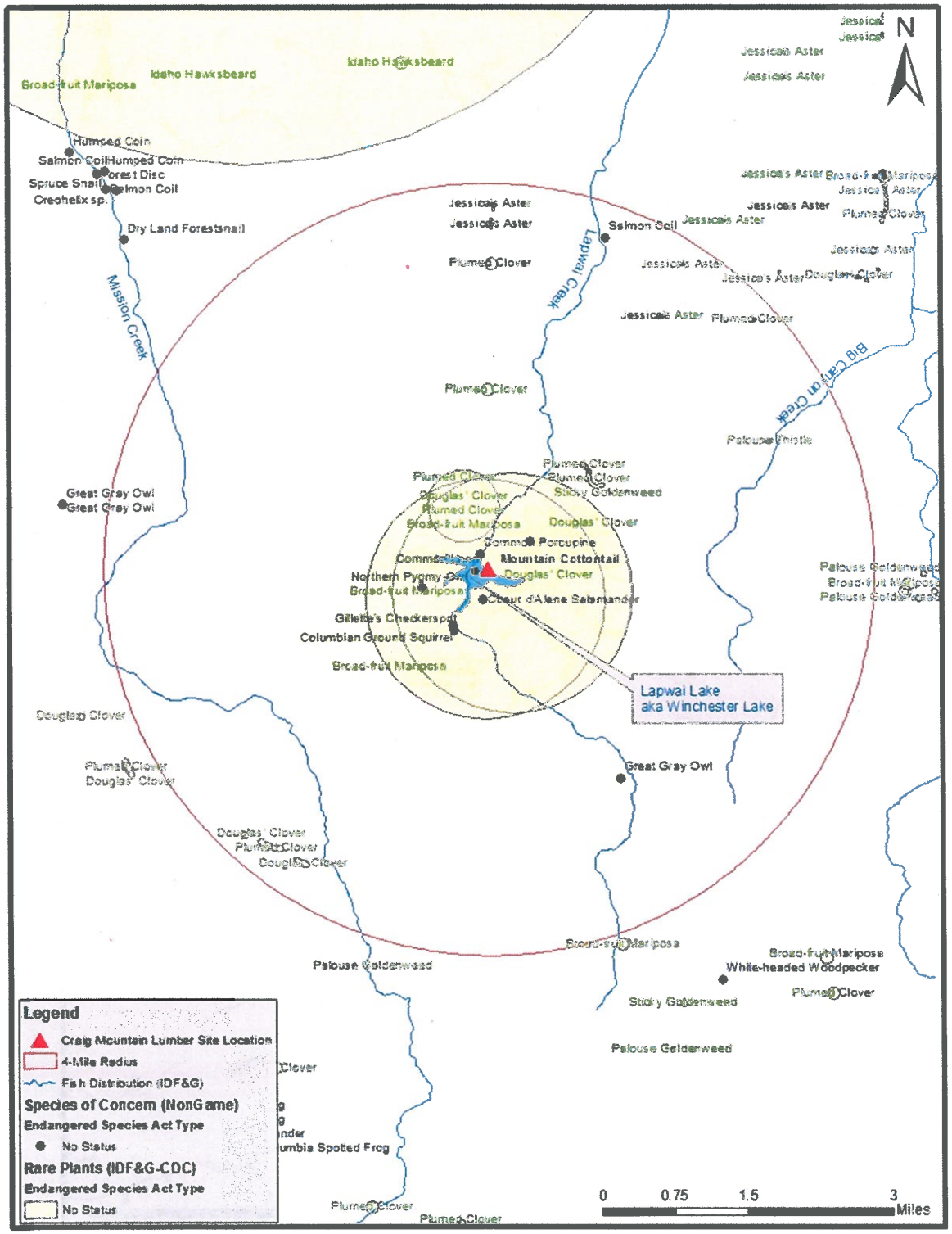

Figure 6. Plant, nongame animal, and fishery sensitive species within 4-mile radius and surrounding area of the Craig Mountain Lumber Company site.

Section 5. References

DEQ (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality). 1999. *Winchester Lake and Upper Lapwai Creek Total Maximum Daily Load.* Available at: *http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/surface-water/tmdls/table-of-sbas-tmdls/winchester-lake-lapwai-creek-upper-subbasin.aspx*

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GIS Coverages

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Public Water Systems (deqgis83.DBO.Public_Water_Systems). Using: ArcMap GIS. Version 10. Redlands, CA: Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., 1992–1999.

Rare Plants, Endangered Species, Fish Presence (deqgis83.DBO.ESA_Fish_Wildlife). Using: ArcMap GIS. Version 10. Redlands, CA: Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., 1992–1999.

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USGS (US Geological Survey). 24K Quad Map. Using: ArcMap GIS. Version 10. Redlands, CA: Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., 1992-1999.