

Valley County Planning and Zoning

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STAFF REPORT:	C.U.P. 25-027 Alzar School Staff Housing
MEETING DATE:	November 13, 2025
TO:	Planning and Zoning Commission
STAFF:	Cynda Herrick, AICP, CFM Planning and Zoning Director
APPLICANT / PROPERTY OWNER:	Alzar School INC, c/o Sean Bierle PO Box 1609, Cascade ID 83611
LOCATION:	To Be Determined Airport Way, Parcel RP13N04E082406 in the NW ¼ Section 8, T.13N, R.4E, Boise Meridian, Valley County, Idaho
SIZE	80-acres
REQUEST:	Additional Staff Residences for Boarding School
EXISTING LAND USE:	Bare Ground Assessed as "Exempt" per State Statute

Alzar School is requesting a conditional use permit for 8 additional staff residences on 80 acres. Maximum proposed size of the homes are approximately 1500-sqft with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms; some may be smaller.

The first modular home would be placed in 2026; the additional homes would be added within 10 years. The homes would be clustered in two cul-de-sacs to minimize the impact on the natural environment.

The applicant intends to connect the homes to the existing Alzar School campus' private well and water system. A separate septic system would be constructed for each cluster of four homes. Underground electrical lines would be extended to the site.

An underground water tank for fire suppression would be added upon the construction of the third home.

The homes would be accessed from Airport Way, a public road. A private driveway would connect the homes with the remainder of the Alzar School campus. The daily traffic along Airport Way and Highway 55 will likely be reduced as staff will not be traveling from off-site locations on workdays.

The remainder of the Alzar School Campus buildings are located within the Cascade city limits.

FINDINGS:

1. The application was submitted on September 29, 2025.

2. Legal notice was posted in the *Star News* on October 23, 2025, and October 30, 2025. The applicant was notified by letter on October 14, 2025. Potentially affected agencies were notified on October 14, 2025. Property owners within 300 feet of the property line were notified by fact sheet sent mail on October 15, 2025. The notice was posted online at www.co.valley.id.us on October 14, 2025. The site was posted on October 15, 2025.

3. Agency comment received:

Brent Copes, Central District Health, stated CDH has no objection. A septic permit is required. (October 27, 2025)

Steven Hull, Cascade Fire Chief, listed requirements for roads, driveways, and a 10,000-gallon underground water tank for fire suppression. (November 5, 2025)

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provided general comments on air quality, wastewater, drinking water, surface water, solid waste, hazardous waste, water quality, ground water contamination, and best management practices. (October 20, 2025)

Kendra Conder, Idaho Transportation Department, had no comments. (October 15, 2025)

4. Public comment received: *none*

5. Physical characteristics of the site: The site is fairly flat and open with wetland areas and irrigation delivery systems. The building sites appear to be outside of the wetland area.

6. The surrounding land use and zoning includes:

North: City of Cascade Boundary; Part of Alzar School Campus; Youth-With-A-Mission Non-Profit Use; Cascade Airport

South: Part of Alzar School Campus; North Fork Payette River

East: Agricultural (Irrigated Grazing)

West: City of Cascade Boundary; Part of Alzar School Campus; North Fork Payette River

7. Valley County Code (Title 9): In Table 9-3-1, this proposal is categorized under:

- 2. Residential Uses (j) Multiple Residences on One Parcel

Review of Title 9-5 Conditional Uses should be done.

9-5-3: STANDARDS:

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to the various buildings and uses designated herein as conditional uses.

A. Lot Areas:

2. Minimum Lot Size And Configuration: The minimum lot size and configuration for any use shall be at least sufficient to accommodate water supply facilities, sewage disposal facilities, replacement sewage disposal facilities, buildings, parking areas, streets or driveways, stormwater containment, snow storage, open areas, accessory structures, and setbacks in accordance with provisions herein. All lots shall have a reasonable building site and access to that site.

3. Direct Frontage Along Public Or Private Road: All lots or parcels for conditional uses shall have direct frontage along a public or private road with minimum frontage distance as specified in the site or development standards for the specific use.

B. Setbacks:

1. Structures Exceeding Three Feet In Height: The setbacks for all structures exceeding three feet (3') in height are specified herein under the site and development standards for the specific use.

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2. Highway 55: All structures shall be set back one hundred feet (100') from the right of way line of Highway 55 unless a more restrictive setback is required within other sections of this title.
3. High Water Line: All residential buildings shall be set back at least thirty feet (30') from high water lines. All other buildings shall be set back at least one hundred feet (100') from high water lines.
4. Front Yards: Front yards shall be determined by the structure establishing the principal use on the property and the location of the access street or road.
5. Encroachment On Yards: No other structure may encroach on the yards determined for the structure establishing principal use
6. Measurement: All building setbacks shall be measured horizontally, on a perpendicular to the property line, to the nearest corner or face of the building including eaves, projections, or overhangs

9-5A-1: GRADING:

- A. Permit Required: Grading to prepare a site for a conditional use or grading, vegetation removal, construction or other activity that has any impact on the subject land or on adjoining properties is a conditional use. A conditional use permit is required prior to the start of such an activity.
- D. Wetlands: Grading or disturbance of wetlands is subject to approval of the U.S. corps of engineers under the federal clean water act. The federal permit, if required, shall be part of the conditional use permit.
- E. Site Grading Plan:
 1. The conditional use permit application shall include a site grading plan, or preliminary site grading plan for subdivisions, clearly showing the existing site topography and the proposed final grades with elevations or contour lines and specifications for materials and their placement as necessary to complete the work. The plan shall demonstrate compliance with best management practices for surface water management for permanent management and the methods that will be used during construction to control or prevent the erosion, mass movement, siltation, sedimentation, and blowing of dirt and debris caused by grading, excavation, open cuts, side slopes, and other site preparation and development. The plan shall be subject to review of the county engineer and the soil conservation district. The information received from the county engineer, the soil conservation district, and other agencies regarding the site grading plan shall be considered by the planning and zoning commission and/or the board of county commissioners in preparing the conditions of approval or reasons for denial of the applications.
- F. Land Surfaces Not Used For Roads, Buildings And Parking: All land surfaces not used for roads, buildings and parking shall be covered either by natural vegetation, other natural and undisturbed open space, or landscaping.
- G. Stormwater Management Plan: Prior to issuance of building permits, the administrator must receive a certification from the developer's engineer verifying that the stormwater management plan has been implemented according to approved plans.

9-5A-2: ROADS AND DRIVEWAYS:

- B. Access Roads Or Driveways: Residential developments, civic or community service uses, and commercial uses shall have at least two (2) access roads or driveways to a public street wherever practicable.

9-5A-4: LANDSCAPING:

- A. Purpose And General Regulations:
 3. General Regulations
 - d. Strip, Excavate, Remove Topsoil Or Berm Up Soil On Site: No person, firm or corporation shall strip, excavate or remove topsoil nor shall they berm up soil on a site, except to accommodate an approved building, building addition or facilitate necessary and approved site improvements. These changes must be part of the approved site grading and stormwater management plan. This subsection does not apply to sites where permitted uses exist or are proposed.
 - f. Use Of Landscaped Areas: Landscaped areas shall not be used for parking of vehicles, display of merchandise or other uses detrimental to the landscaping.

4. Maintenance:

- a. Responsibility For Maintenance: The landscape areas on site, as well as in the right of way, shall be maintained by the owner or owner's association (should the property be subdivided) or the lessee of the site. Any areas designated and intended for the purposes of on site water retention shall be maintained and reserved for that specific purpose. Any alteration or deterioration of those areas shall be considered a violation of this title and any applicable ordinance.
- b. Replacement Of Plant Material: Any plant material that does not survive shall be replaced within thirty (30) days of its demise.
- c. Removal Or Destruction Of Landscape Material: The removal or destruction of landscape material previously approved by the county shall constitute a violation of this title. Replacement of landscape material shall be of like size as that which was removed or destroyed.
- d. Maintained In Accordance With Site and/or Landscape Plan: Landscaping, irrigation systems, walls, screening devices, curbing and lighting shall be reasonably maintained in accordance with the approved site and/or landscape plan. Plant material shall not be severely pruned such that the natural growth pattern or characteristic forms are significantly altered.
- e. Modification and/or Removal Of Existing Landscaping: Modifications and/or removal of existing landscaping shall require prior approval.
- f. Lack Of Maintenance: The lack of maintenance shall constitute a violation of this title.
- g. Sight Obscuring Landscape Features: Sight obscuring landscape features such as hedges shall be maintained in such a manner that vision necessary for safe operation of motor vehicles or bicycles along or entering public roadways is not obstructed.

B. Landscaping; Standards Of Design:

1. Minimum Requirements: Each site to be developed under a conditional use permit shall be required to provide landscape areas equal to or exceeding the following minimum amounts:
 - a. Multi-Family Use: Each site for a proposed multi-family use shall have a minimum of thirty percent (30%) of the net site/lot area in landscaping.
 - d. Additional Landscaping: In addition to the minimum on site landscaping, there shall be landscaping in the entire area of the right of way, between street property line and back of street curb, road, back slope, or fill slope, except for approved driveways, walkways, bike paths, and snow storage areas.
6. Criteria For Trees Along Street Frontage: Trees shall be required along all street frontages according to the following criteria:
 - a. A minimum of one tree shall be planted for every twenty five feet (25') of linear street frontage. The trees may be grouped or planted in groves;
 - b. Fifty percent (50%) shall be twenty four inch (24") box size or larger with the balance being minimum fifteen (15) gallon size;
 - c. The trees selected shall be compatible with the overall site and landscape plan as well as adjacent sites.
7. Standard Tree Planting Detail: All trees shall be planted and staked in accordance with the "Standard Tree Planting Detail" diagram in section 9-5-4 of this chapter. Plant sizes to be in accordance with Nurseryman Association standards.
8. On Site Water Retention Areas: All on site water retention areas, other than paved surfaces, shall be entirely landscaped and shall comply with the following criteria:
 - a. The retention areas shall not occupy more than sixty seven percent (67%) of the on site street frontage landscape area;
 - b. All retention areas shall maintain slopes no steeper than three to one (3:1).
9. Mounding And Berming: All mounding and berming shall have slopes no steeper than three to one (3:1).
10. Ground Cover: A minimum of fifty percent (50%) of the landscaped areas is to be planted with vegetative ground cover. Minimum size and spacing to be one gallon size plants at a maximum three feet (3') on center.
11. Landscape Designs: Landscape designs shall be compatible with adjacent properties. Selected stock shall be especially suited for this climate or shall be from native stock.

9-5A-5: FENCING:

- A. Substituted For Planting Screens: Fencing may be substituted for planting screens subject to the approval of the staff and the commission.

- B. Separation Or Screening: Fencing shall be installed to provide separation or screening as specified in the site or development standards for the specific use. A sight obscuring fence required by the commission for any conditional use shall be stained or painted a single solid color, shall not be used for advertising, and shall be maintained in good repair.
- D. Random Entry: Fencing shall be installed to secure against random entry into hazardous areas or operations.
- E. Construction And Materials: Fence construction and materials shall be in accordance with commonly accepted good practices to produce a neat appearing durable fence. The location, height, and materials used for constructing a fence shall be approved by the commission and specified in the conditional use permit. Fences required for any conditional use shall be maintained in good repair.
- G. Obstruction Of Vision: Sight obscuring fences, hedges, walls, latticework, or screens shall not be constructed in such a manner that vision necessary for safe operation of motor vehicles or bicycles on or entering public roadways is obstructed.

9-5B-2: LIGHTING:

9-5B-4: EMISSIONS:

- C. Wood Burning Devices: Wood burning devices shall be limited to one per site. Wood burning devices shall be certified for low emissions in accordance with EPA standards.

9-5B-7: FIRE PROTECTION:

Provisions must be made to implement prefire activities that may help improve the survivability of people and homes in areas prone to wildfire. Activities may include vegetation management around the home, use of fire resistant building materials, appropriate subdivision design, removal of fuel, providing a water source, and other measures. Recommendations of the applicable fire district will be considered.

9-5C. RESIDENTIAL USES

9-5C-2.C

- C. Frontage On Public Or Private Road: Frontage on a public or private road shall not be less than thirty feet (30') for each lot or parcel. The lot width at the front building setback line shall not be less than ninety feet (90'). A PUD, condominium, or other cluster development may contain lots without frontage on a road and widths less than ninety feet (90') in accordance with the approved development plan or plat.

9-5C-4: MAXIMUM BUILDING HEIGHT AND FLOOR AREA:

- A. Maximum Height: Building heights, except as may be modified by a PUD, shall not exceed thirty five feet (35') above the lower of existing or finished grade.
- B. Building Size Or Floor Area: The building size or floor area, except as may be modified by a PUD, shall not exceed the limitations of subsections 9-5-3A and C of this chapter.
- C. Lot Coverage: No structure or combination of structures, except as may be modified by a PUD, may cover more than forty percent (40%) of the lot or parcel.

9-5C-5: SITE IMPROVEMENT:

- A. Off Street Parking Spaces: Two (2) off street parking spaces shall be provided for each dwelling unit. These spaces may be included in driveways, carports, or garages.
- B. Utility Lines: All utility lines, including service lines, that are to be located within the limits of the improved roadway in new residential developments must be installed prior to placing the leveling coarse material.

9-5C-6: DENSITY:

- A. The density of any residential development or use requiring a conditional use permit shall not exceed two and one-half (2.5) dwelling units per acre, except for planned unit developments or long-term rentals. Long-term rental density can be determined by the Planning and Zoning Commission in regards to compatibility with surrounding land uses and will require a deed restriction.
- B. Density shall be computed by dividing the total number of dwelling units proposed by the total acreage of land within the boundaries of the development. The area of existing road rights of way on the perimeter of the development and public lands may not be included in the density computation.

SUMMARY:

Staff's compatibility rating is +12.

The Planning and Zoning Commission should do their own compatibility rating prior to the meeting (form with directions attached).

STAFF COMMENTS / QUESTIONS:

1. This site is within the Cascade Fire District and Water District 65. It is just outside of the Warner Ditch Company boundary and is not within a herd district.
2. Proposed density of the parcel is 1 home per 10 acres.
3. VCC 9-5-3A-3 and 9-5C-2.C requires direct frontage along a public or private road. This site is an extension of an existing use that does not have adequate frontage.
4. VCC 9-5A-2-B requires two access roads or driveways to a public street wherever practicable. Staff believes this is not practicable, but should be considered by the fire department.
5. Building permit applications will require FAA Form 7460-1 due to the proximity of the Cascade Airport.
6. Landscaping is proposed; see application sheet SP2. However, landscaping is not proposed on the east side of the homes. Additional trees should be added to partially screen the homes from the view of Highway 55 as stated in the answer to Impact Report Question 12.
7. Are wood-burning devices proposed for any of the homes?

Question to P&Z Commission:

1. Does this use meet the minimum standards in Title 9, Chapter 5, of the Valley County Code, etc.? If not, which ones does it not comply with?
2. Would impacts be properly mitigated? If not, which impacts would not be mitigated?
3. What could the applicant do to gain approval?

Standards of Approval:

1. Will the application result in an increase in value of private property? VCC 9-5-2(B)(3).
2. Will the approval of the application result in an undue adverse impact on the environment? VCC 9-5-2(B)(3).
3. Will the approval of the application result in an undue adverse impact on adjoining properties? VCC 9-5-2(B)(3).
4. Will the approval of the application result in an undue adverse impact on governmental services? VCC 9-5-2(B)(3).
5. Is the application consistent with the Valley County Comprehensive Plan? VCC 9-5-2(B)(3).

6. Conditional uses may be approved only after a C.U.P. has been evaluated to determine that the impacts can be mitigated through conformance with conditions of approval. VCC 9-5-2(A).

These six standards should be a significant focus of attention during the public hearing and deliberations because they need to be resolved in order to justify approval. VCC 9-5-1(C) directs the decision-making body to encourage conditional uses where noncompatible aspects of the application can be satisfactorily mitigated through development agreements for the costs to service providers and impacts to surrounding land uses. Because mitigation measures are a requirement of approval the applicant needs to understand that he/she will be required to perform some off-site improvements. They are not mandatory but without them the application cannot satisfy the mitigation of impacts requirement and would be denied under the ordinance.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Proposed Conditions of Approval
- Blank Compatibility Evaluation and Instructions
- Compatibility Evaluation by Staff
- Location Map
- Aerial Map
- Floodplan and Wetlands Map
- Google Maps – Aerial View - 2025
- Google Map Street Image - 2024
- Photos of Alzar School Entrance Taken October 15, 2025
- Assessor Plat – T.13N R.4E Section 8
- Site Plan
- Responses
- Septic System Handout

Proposed Conditions of Approval

1. The application, the staff report, and the provisions of the Land Use and Development Ordinance are all made a part of this permit as if written in full herein. Any violation of any portion of the permit will be subject to enforcement and penalties in accordance with Title 9-2-5; and, may include revocation or suspension of the conditional use permit.
2. Any change in the nature or scope of land use activities shall require an additional Conditional Use Permit.
3. The issuance of this permit and these conditions will not relieve the applicant from complying with applicable County, State, or Federal laws or regulations or be construed as permission to operate in violation of any statute or regulations. Violation of these laws, regulations or rules may be grounds for revocation of the Conditional Use Permit or grounds for suspension of the Conditional Use Permit.
4. The homes shall be constructed by December 31, 2035, or an extension will be required.
5. Building permits will be required for each residence.
6. Central District Health approval is required for each building permit. Property owner shall maintain septic system and drainfields as required.
7. A letter of approval is required from Cascade Fire Department once the underground water

tank for fire suppression is completed and useable. This must occur no later than construction of the third residence.

8. Shall clearly post the addresses at the driveway entrance and residences. Different addresses for each residence shall be assigned. Additional address signs shall be posted where the driveway divides.
9. All lighting must comply with the Valley County Lighting Ordinance. All lights shall be fully shielded so that there is not upward or horizontal projection of lights.
10. All noxious weeds on the property must be eradicated.
11. Landscaping shall be placed as shown in the site plan within a year after each home receives a Certificate of Occupancy.
12. Additional native trees shall be planted east of the homes to screen the site from Highway 55 by December 31, 2030.
13. This is not approval of any other land use associated with Alzar school on this parcel or other parcels owned or used by the school.

END OF STAFF REPORT

Compatibility Questions and Evaluation

Matrix Line # / Use: _____

Prepared by: _____

YES/NO X Response
Value

Use Matrix Values:

(+2/-2) X 4 _____

1. Is the proposed use compatible with the dominant adjacent land use?

(+2/-2) X 2 _____

2. Is the proposed use compatible with the other adjacent land uses (total and average)?

(+2/-2) X 1 _____

3. Is the proposed use generally compatible with the overall land use in the local vicinity?

Site Specific Evaluation (Impacts and Proposed Mitigation)

(+2/-2) X 3 _____

4. Is the property large enough, does the existence of wooded area, or does the lay of the land help to minimize any potential impacts the proposed use may have on adjacent uses?

(+2/-2) X 1 _____

5. Is the size or scale of proposed lots and/or structures similar to adjacent ones?

(+2/-2) X 2 _____

6. Is the traffic volume and character to be generated by the proposed use similar to the uses on properties that will be affected by proximity to parking lots, on-site roads, or access roads?

(+2/-2) X 2 _____

7. Is the potential impact on adjacent properties due to the consuming or emission of any resource or substance compatible with that of existing uses?

(+2/-2) X 2 _____

8. Is the proposed use compatible with the abilities of public agencies to provide service or of public facilities to accommodate the proposed use demands on utilities, fire and police protection, schools, roads, traffic control, parks, and open areas?

(+2/-2) X 2 _____

9. Is the proposed use cost effective when comparing the cost for providing public services and improving public facilities to the increases in public revenue from the improved property?

Sub-Total (+) _____

Sub-Total (--) _____

Total Score _____

The resulting values for each questions shall be totaled so that each land use and development proposal receives a single final score.

9-11-1: APPENDIX A, COMPATIBILITY EVALUATION:

- A. General: One of the primary functions of traditional zoning is to classify land uses so that those which are not fully compatible or congruous can be geographically separated from each other. The county has opted to substitute traditional zoning with a multiple use concept in which there is no separation of land uses. Proposed incompatible uses may adversely affect existing uses, people, or lands in numerous ways: noise, odors, creation of hazards, view, water contamination, loss of needed or desired resources, property values, or infringe on a desired lifestyle. To ensure that the county can continue to grow and develop without causing such land use problems and conflicts, a mechanism designed to identify and discourage land use proposals which will be incompatible at particular locations has been devised. The compatibility evaluation of all conditional uses also provides for evaluations in a manner which is both systematic and consistent.
- B. Purpose; Use:
1. The compatibility rating is to be used as a tool to assist in the determination of compatibility. The compatibility rating is not the sole deciding factor in the approval or denial of any application.
 2. Staff prepares a preliminary compatibility rating for conditional use permits, except for conditional use permits for PUDs. The commission reviews the compatibility rating and may change any value.
- C. General Evaluation: Completing the compatibility questions and evaluation (form):
1. All evaluations shall be made as objectively as possible by assignment of points for each of a series of questions. Points shall be assigned as follows:
 - Plus 2 - assigned for full compatibility (adjacency encouraged).
 - Plus 1 - assigned for partial compatibility (adjacency not necessarily encouraged).
 - 0 - assigned if not applicable or neutral.
 - Minus 1 - assigned for minimal compatibility (adjacency not discouraged).
 - Minus 2 - assigned for no compatibility (adjacency not acceptable).
 2. Each response value shall be multiplied by some number, which indicates how important that particular response is relative to all the others. Multipliers shall be any of the following:
 - x4 - indicates major relative importance.
 - x3 - indicates above average relative importance.
 - x2 - indicates below average relative importance.
 - x1 - indicates minor relative importance.
- D. Matrix - Questions 1 Through 3: The following matrix shall be utilized, wherever practical, to determine response values for questions one through three (3). Uses classified and listed in the left hand column and across the top of the matrix represent possible proposed, adjacent, or vicinity land uses. Each box indicates the extent of compatibility between any two (2) intersecting uses. These numbers should not be changed from proposal to proposal, except where distinctive uses arise which may present unique compatibility considerations. The commission shall determine whether or not there is a unique consideration.
- E. Terms:
- DOMINANT ADJACENT LAND USE: Any use which is within three hundred feet (300') of the use boundary being proposed; and
1. Comprises at least one-half (1/2) of the adjacent uses and one-fourth (1/4) of the total adjacent area; or
 2. Where two (2) or more uses compete equally in number and are more frequent than all the other uses, the one with the greatest amount of acreage is the dominant land use; or
 3. In all other situations, no dominant land use exists. When this occurs, the response value shall be zero.
- LOCAL VICINITY: Land uses within a one to three (3) mile radius. The various uses therein should be identified and averaged to determine the overall use of the land.
- F. Questions 4 Through 9:
1. In determining the response values for questions 4 through 9, the evaluators shall consider the information contained in the application, the goals and objectives of the comprehensive plan, the provisions of this title and related ordinances, information gained from an actual inspection of the site, and information gathered by the staff.
 2. The evaluator or commission shall also consider proposed mitigation of the determined impacts. Adequacy of the mitigation will be a factor.

APPENDIX A

MATRIX FOR RATING QUESTIONS 1, 2, and 3

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1. AGRICULTURAL		+2	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+1	-1	-1	+2	-1	-2	-1	+1	+2	+2
2. RESIDENCE, S.F.	+2		+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-2	-2
3. SUBDIVISION, S.F.	-1	+2		+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	+1	-1	+1	+2	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	-2
4. M.H. or R.V. PARK	-2	+1	+1		+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-2	-2
5. RESIDENCE, M.F.	-2	+1	+1	+1		+2	+2	+1	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-2	-2
6. SUBDIVISION, M.F.	-2	+1	+1	+1	+2		+2	+1	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-2	-2
7. P.U.D., RES.	-2	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2		+1	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-2	-2
8. REL, EDUC & REHAB	+1	+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1		+1	+1	-1	+2	-2	-1	-1	+2	+2	+1	+1	-1	+1	-2	-1
9. FRAT or GOVT	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1		+1	-1	+2	-2	-1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	-2	-2
10. PUBLIC UTIL. (1A-3.1)	+1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	+1	+1		+1	+	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2
11. PUBLIC REC	+1	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	-1	-1	+1		+2	-1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1
12. CEMETERY	+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2	+2	+2		+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+1
13. LANDFILL or SWR. PLANT	+1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	+1		-1	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-1	+2	+2	+2
14. PRIV. REC. (PER)	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1		+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+2	+2	-1	+1
15. PRIV. REC. (CON)	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1		-2	-2	-1	-2	-2	+2	-1	+1
16. NEIGHBORHOOD BUS.	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	-2	+1	-2		+1	+2	+2	+1	+2	-1	-1
17. RESIDENCE BUS.	+2	+2	+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	+1	-2	+1		+1	-1	+1	+1	-2	-2
18. SERV. BUS.	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+1		+2	+2		+1	+1
19. AREA BUS.	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-2	+1	-2	+2	-1	+2		+1	+2	-2	-2
20. REC. BUS.	-2	+2	+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+2	-2	+1	+1	+2	+1		+2	-2	+1
21. LIGHT IND.	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+1	+2	+2	+2		+1	+1
22. HEAVY IND.	+2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	+2	-1	+1	+2	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-2	-2	+1		+2
23. EXTR. IND.	+2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-1	-2	+2	+1	+1	+2	+1	+1	-1	-2	-1	-2	+1	+1	+2	

RATE THE SOLID SQUARES AS +2

Compatibility Questions and Evaluation

Matrix Line # / Use: #5 Multiple Residence on One Parcel Prepared by: CH

YES/NO X Response Value

Use Matrix Values:

(+2/-2) -2 X 4 -8

1. Is the proposed use compatible with the dominant adjacent land use?

(+2/-2) +2 X 2 +2

2. Is the proposed use compatible with the other adjacent land uses (total and average)?

(+2/-2) +1 X 1 +1

3. Is the proposed use generally compatible with the overall land use in the local vicinity?

(+2/-2) +1 X 3 +3

4. Is the property large enough, does the existence of wooded area, or does the lay of the land help to minimize any potential impacts the proposed use may have on adjacent uses?

(+2/-2) +2 X 1 +2

5. Is the size or scale of proposed lots and/or structures similar to adjacent ones?

(+2/-2) +2 X 2 +4

6. Is the traffic volume and character to be generated by the proposed use similar to the uses on properties that will be affected by proximity to parking lots, on-site roads, or access roads?

(+2/-2) +2 X 2 +4

7. Is the potential impact on adjacent properties due to the consuming or emission of any resource or substance compatible with that of existing uses?

(+2/-2) +1 X 2 +2

8. Is the proposed use compatible with the abilities of public agencies to provide service or of public facilities to accommodate the proposed use demands on utilities, fire and police protection, schools, roads, traffic control, parks, and open areas?

(+2/-2) +1 X 2 +2

9. Is the proposed use cost effective when comparing the cost for providing public services and improving public facilities to the increases in public revenue from the improved property?

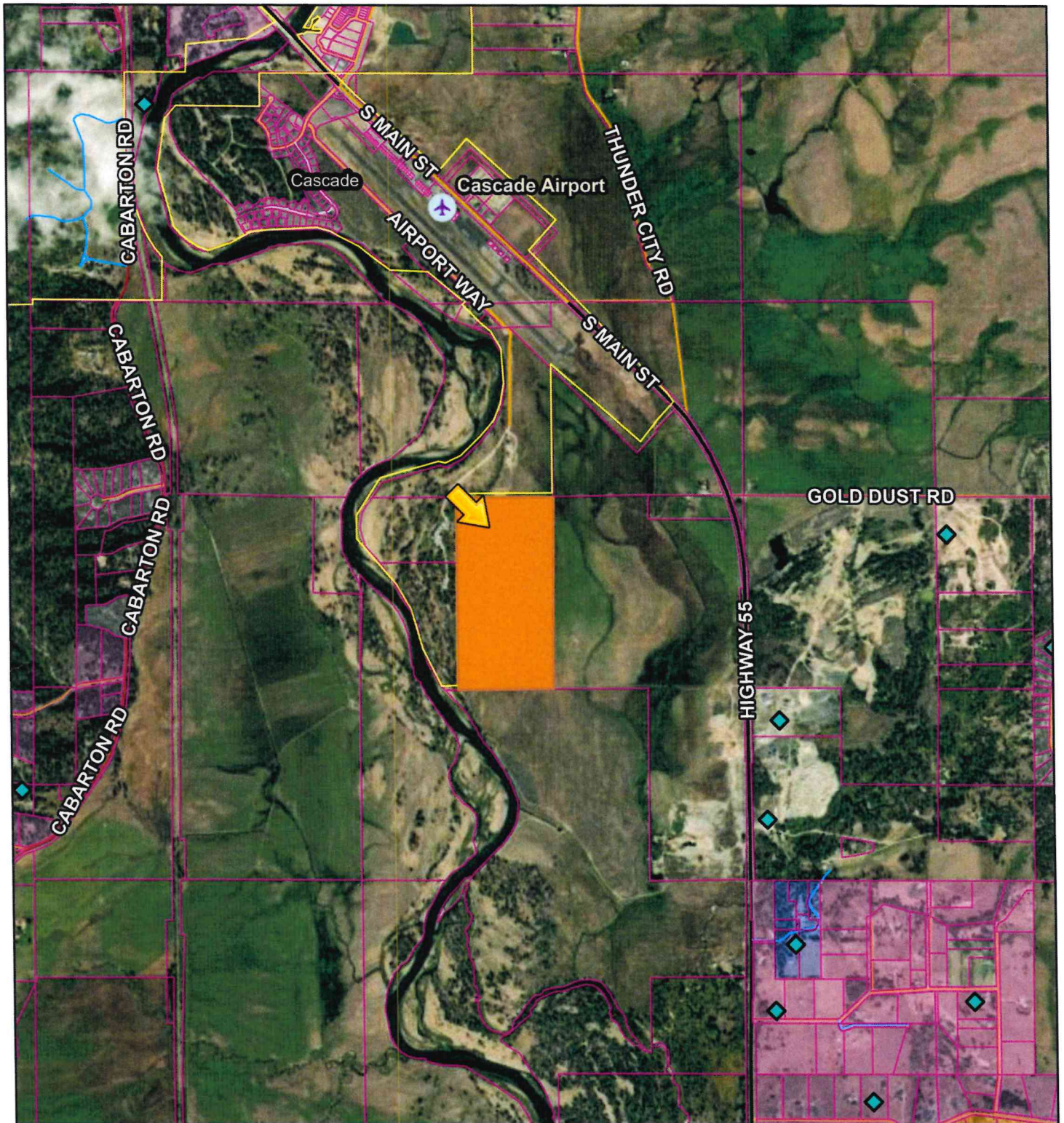
Sub-Total (+) 20

Sub-Total (-) 8

Total Score +12

The resulting values for each questions shall be totaled so that each land use and development proposal receives a single final score.

C.U.P. 25-027 Location Map



10/7/2025, 1:54:13 PM

1:32,248

Permits

◆ CUP

✈ Airstrips

▭ Municipalities

▭ Parcel Boundaries

Roads

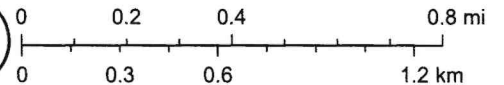
— MAJOR

— COLLECTOR

— URBAN/RURAL

— PRIVATE

OTHER



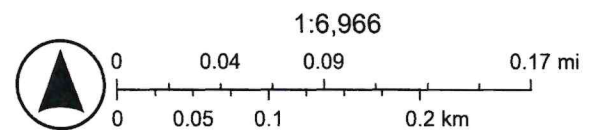
Maxar

C.U.P. 25-027 Aerial Map



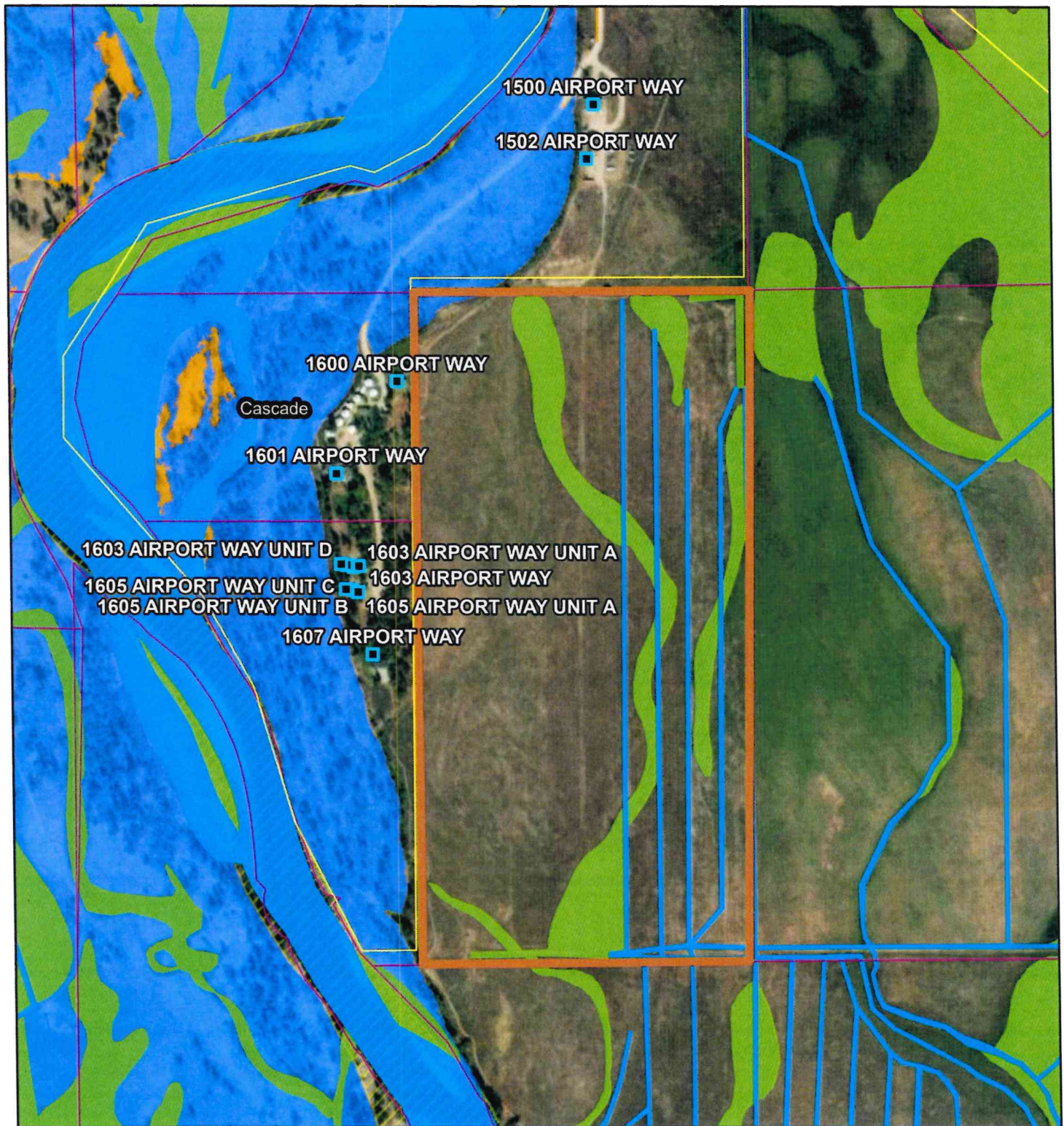
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-  Municipalities
-  Address Points
-  Parcel Boundaries



Maxar

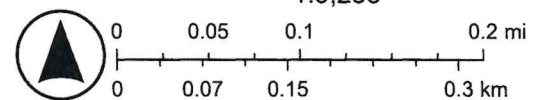
C.U.P. 25-027 Floodplain and Wetlands



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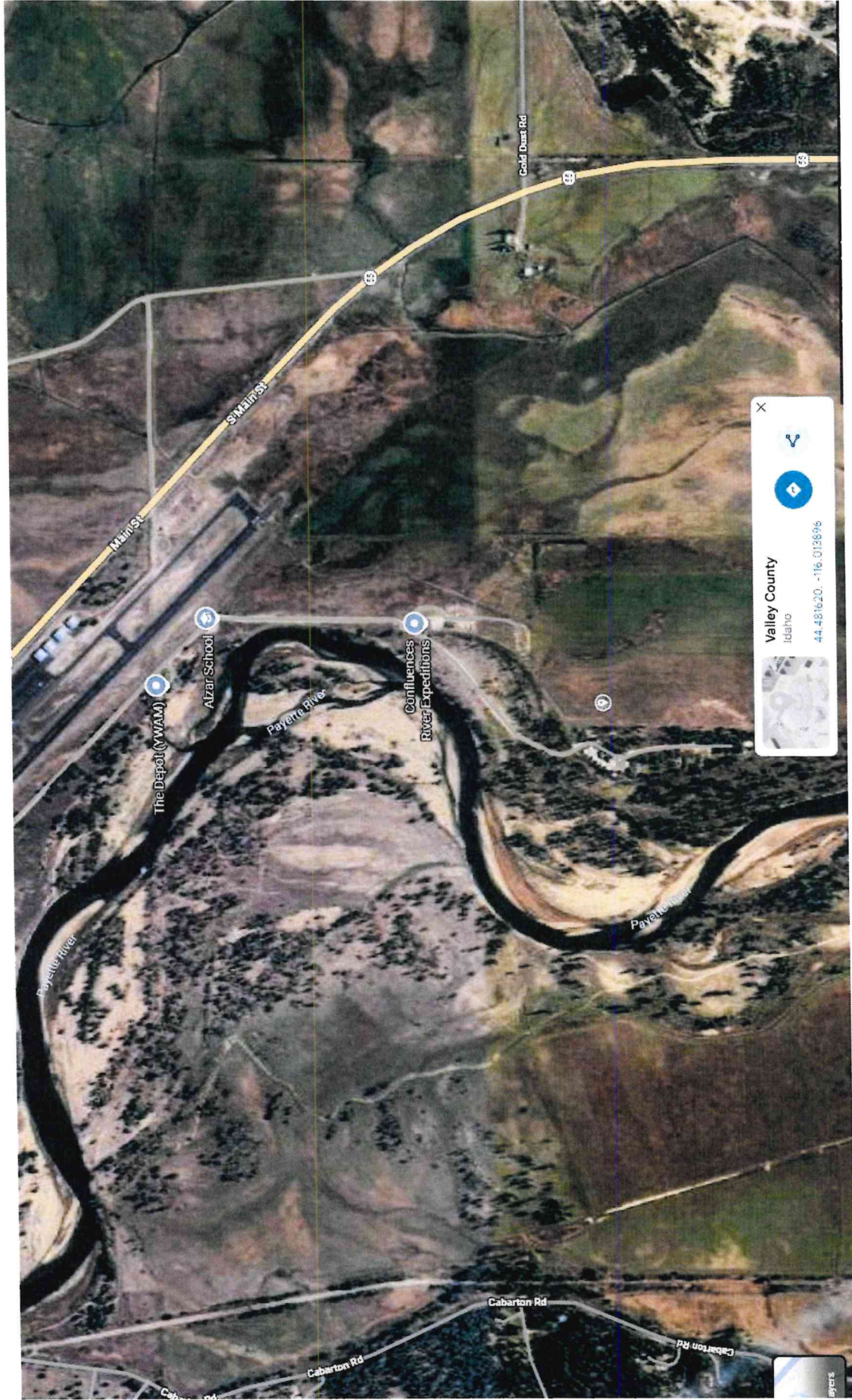
- Municipalities
- Address Points
- Parcel Boundaries
- Wetlands (USFWS)
 - Marsh, Swamp, Bog, Prairie
 - River

- Roads
 - URBAN/RURAL
- Floodplain
 - A (1% Annual Chance, 100-Year)
 - AE (1% Annual Chance, 100-Year)
 - Floodway (1% Annual Chance, 100-Year)
 - 500-Year Floodplain (0.2% Annual Chance)

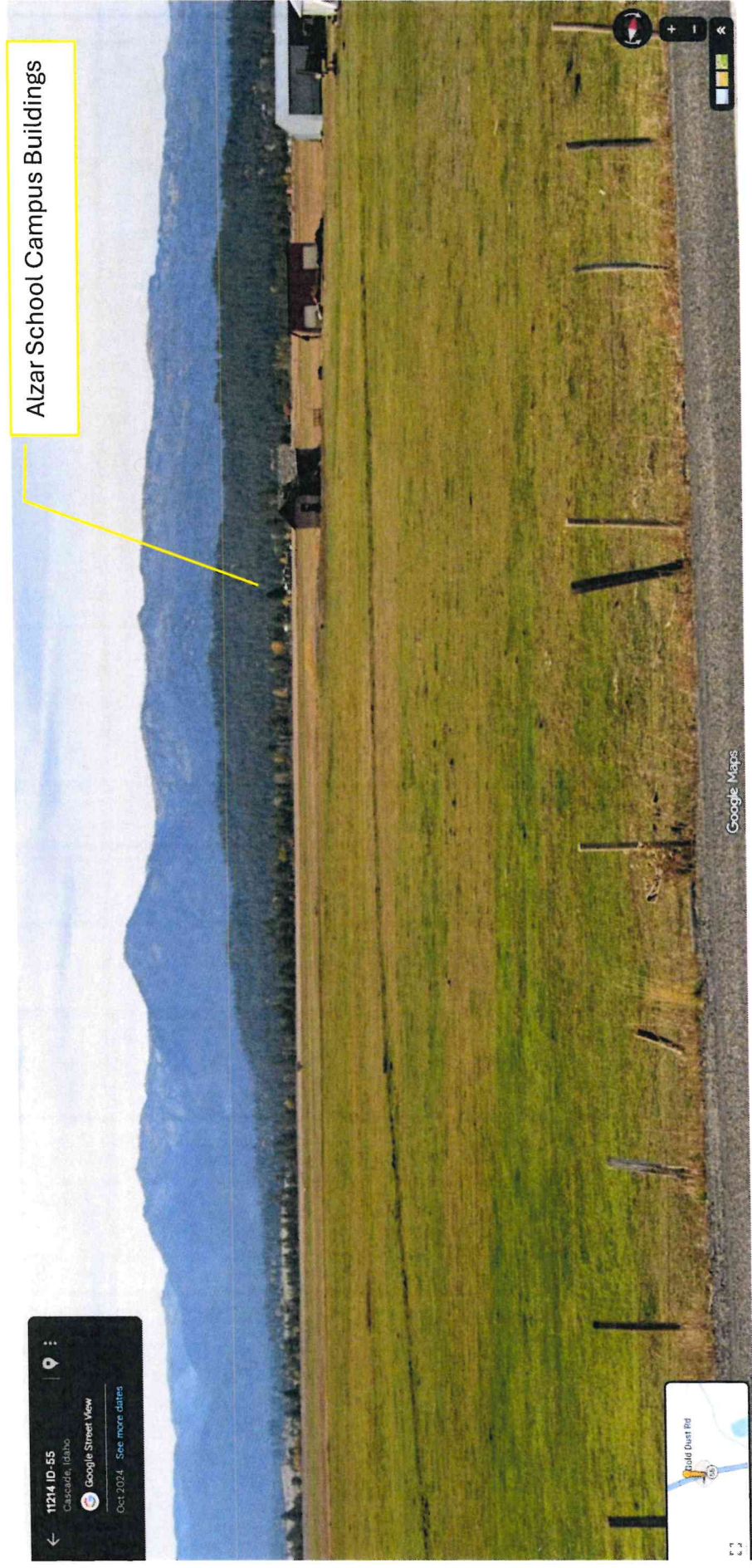


Valley County IT, Maxar

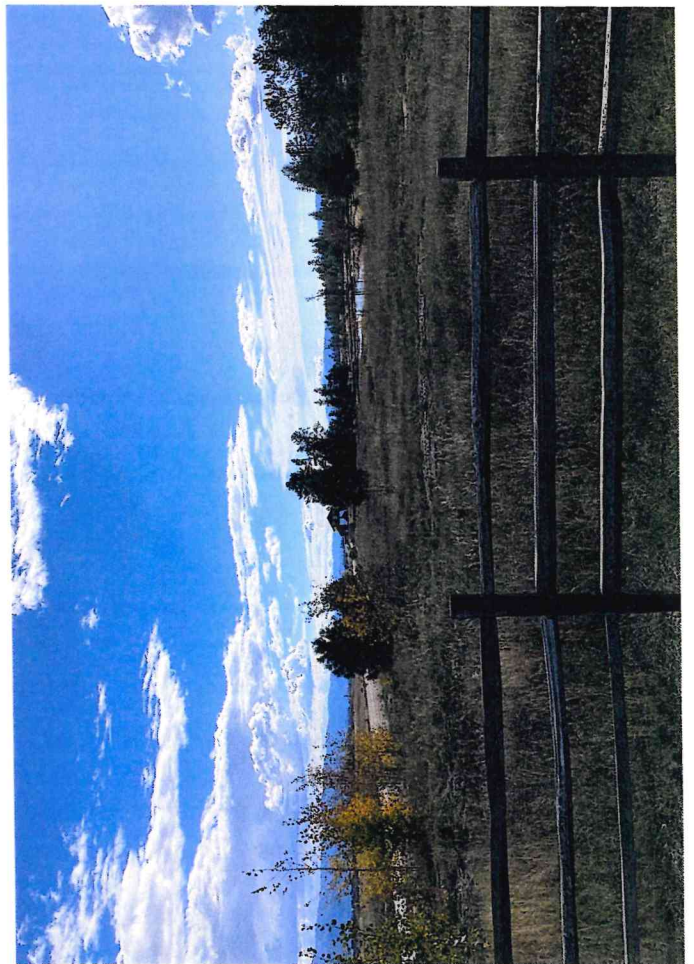
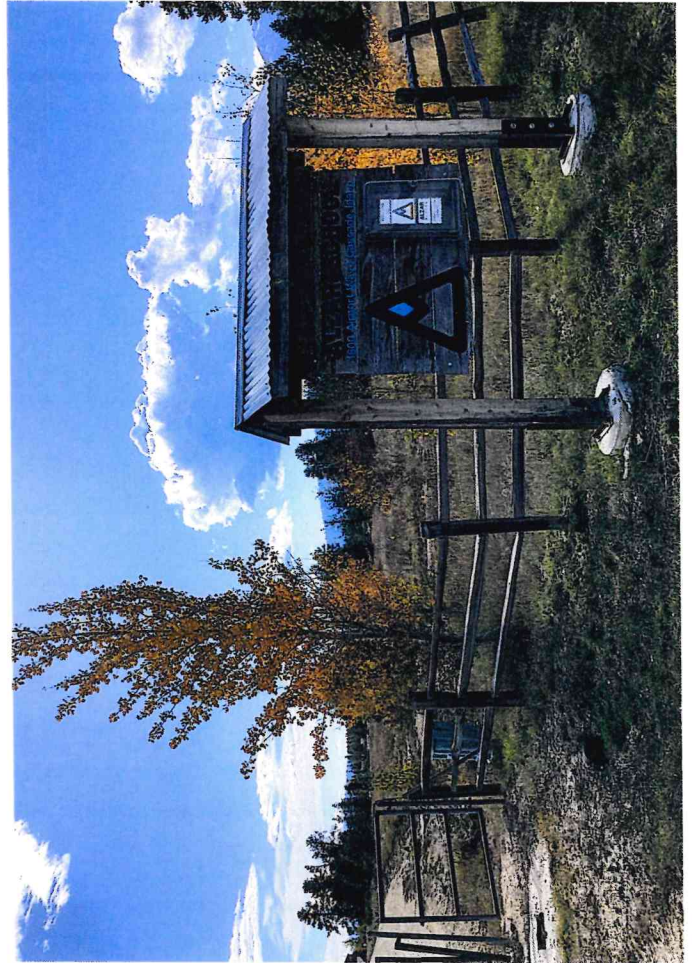
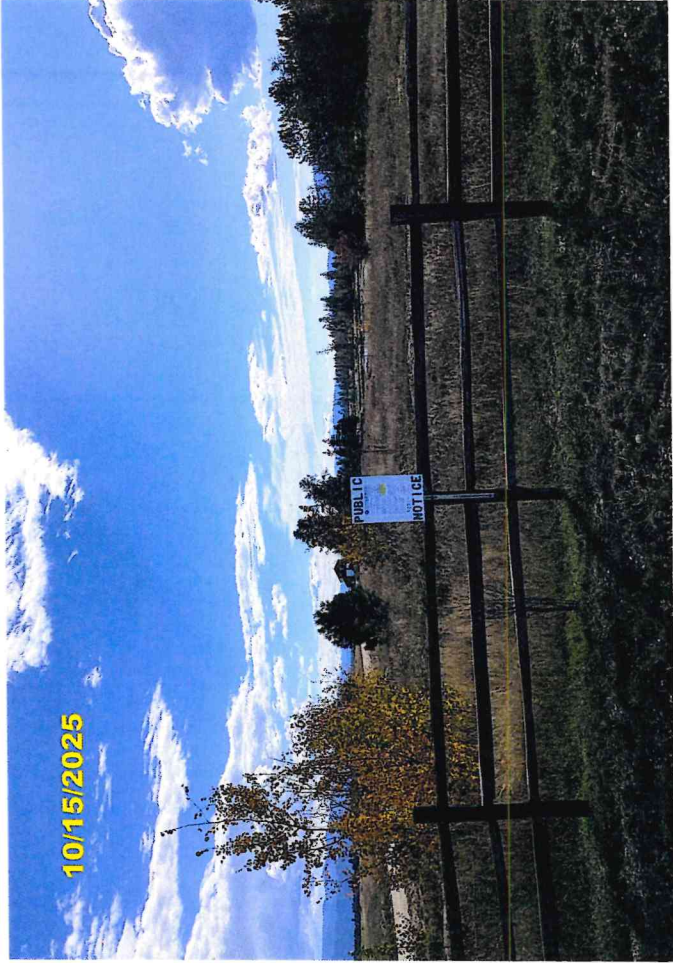
Google Maps – Aerial View – 2025



Looking Westward from Highway 55 (Source Google Maps – Street View, October 2024)



Alzar School Campus Buildings

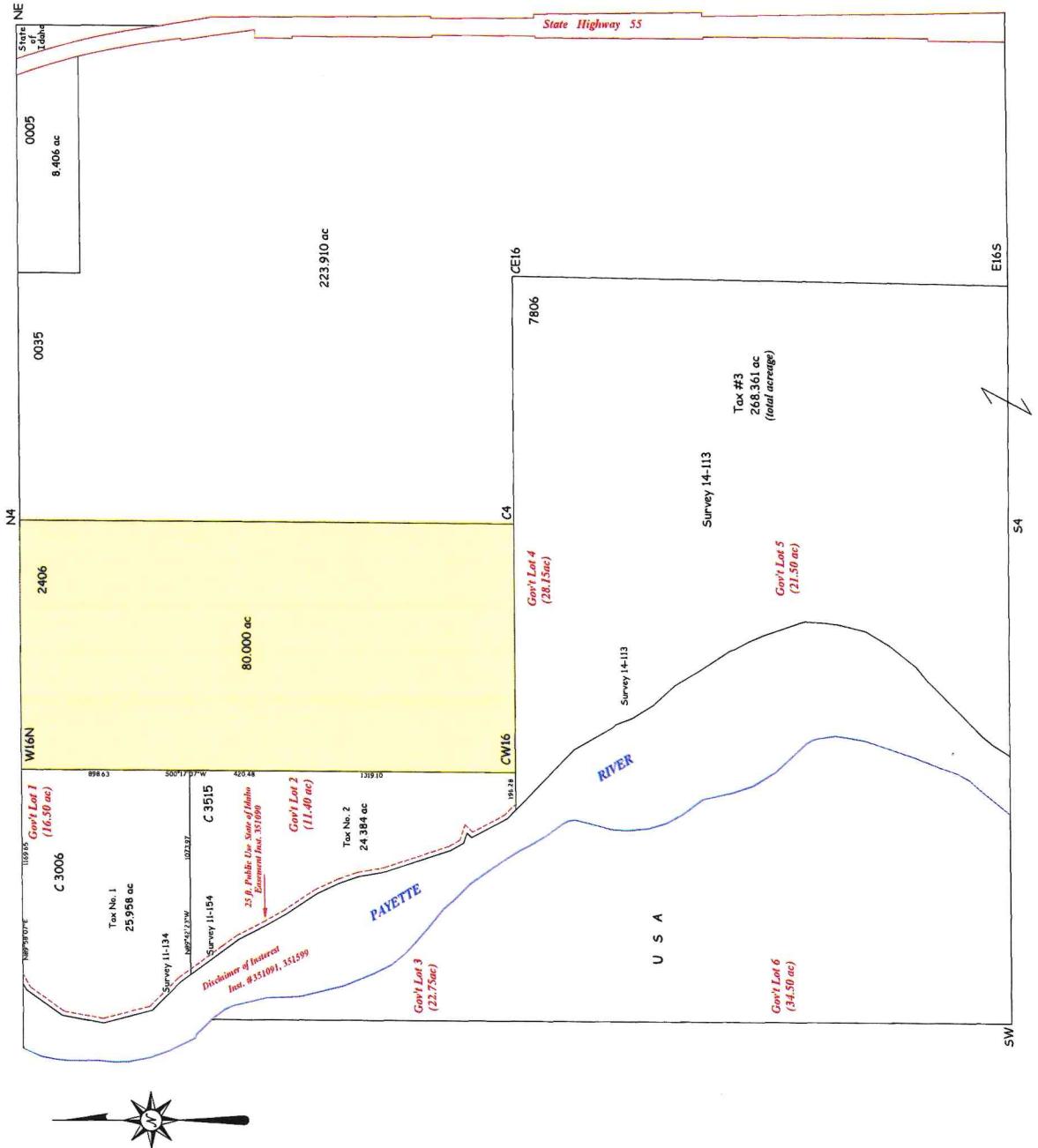


PLAT TITLE

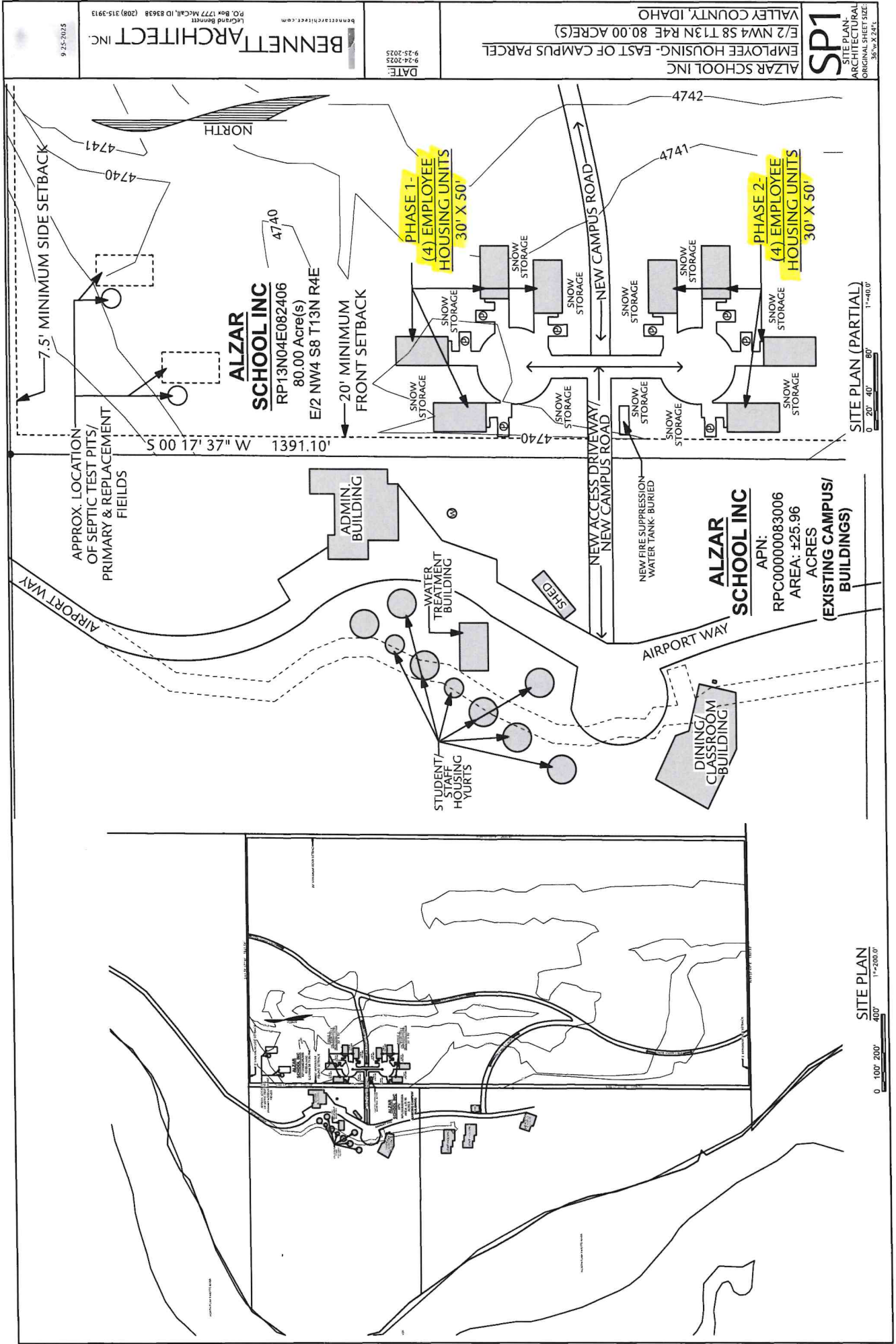
T W P . 1 3 N R O 4 E S E C . 0 8

VALLEY COUNTY
Cartography Dept.
Assessor's Office
Cascade, ID 83611

Filename:
Valley County Base Map
Scale: $\frac{1"}{400'}$
Date: 5/24/2023
Drawn by: L. Frederick



This Drawing is to be Used for Reference Purposes ONLY. The County is NOT Responsible for Any Inaccuracies Contained Herein.



SP1
SITE PLAN -
ARCHITECTURAL
ORIGINAL SHEET SIZE
36" x 24"

ALZAR SCHOOL INC
EMPLOYEE HOUSING - EAST OF CAMPUS PARCEL
E/2 NW4 S8 T13N R4E 80.00 ACRE(S)
VALLEY COUNTY, IDAHO

BENNETT ARCHITECT INC.
Leland Bennett
P.O. Box 1777 McCall, ID 83638 (208) 315-3913
benettarchitect.com
9-24-2025
DATE:

9-25-2025

ALZAR SCHOOL INC
RP13N04E082406
80.00 Acre(s)
E/2 NW4 S8 T13N R4E

**PHASE 1-
(4) EMPLOYEE
HOUSING UNITS
30' X 50'**

**PHASE 2-
(4) EMPLOYEE
HOUSING UNITS
30' X 50'**

ALZAR SCHOOL INC
APN: RPC0000083006
AREA: ±25.96 ACRES
(EXISTING CAMPUS/ BUILDINGS)

ADMIN. BUILDING

WATER TREATMENT BUILDING

STUDENT/ STAFF HOUSING YURTS

DINING/ CLASSROOM BUILDING

SHED

NEW ACCESS DRIVEWAY/ NEW CAMPUS ROAD

NEW FIRE SUPPRESSION WATER TANK- BURIED

NEW CAMPUS ROAD

SNOW STORAGE

7.5' MINIMUM SIDE SETBACK

20' MINIMUM FRONT SETBACK

APPROX. LOCATION OF SEPTIC TEST PITS/ PRIMARY & REPLACEMENT FIELDS

AIRPORT WAY

1361.10' 17' 37" W 101.17' 37" S

4740 4741 4742

NORTH

SITE PLAN (PARTIAL)
0' 20' 40' 80' 1"=40.0'

SITE PLAN
0' 100' 200' 400' 1"=200.0'



Valley County Transmittal
Division of Community and Environmental Health

Return to:

- ☐ Cascade
☐ Donnelly
☐ McCall
☐ McCall Impact
☒ Valley County

Rezone # _____

Conditional Use # 25-027 Alzar School Staff Housing

Preliminary / Final / Short Plat _____

- ☐ 1. We have No Objections to this Proposal.
- ☐ 2. We recommend Denial of this Proposal.
- ☐ 3. Specific knowledge as to the exact type of use must be provided before we can comment on this Proposal.
- ☐ 4. We will require more data concerning soil conditions on this Proposal before we can comment.
- ☐ 5. Before we can comment concerning individual sewage disposal, we will require more data concerning the depth of:
☐ high seasonal ground water ☐ waste flow characteristics
☐ bedrock from original grade ☐ other _____
- ☐ 6. This office may require a study to assess the impact of nutrients and pathogens to receiving ground waters and surface waters.
- ☐ 7. This project shall be reviewed by the Idaho Department of Water Resources concerning well construction and water availability.
- ☐ 8. After written approvals from appropriate entities are submitted, we can approve this proposal for:
☐ central sewage ☐ community sewage system ☐ community water well
☐ interim sewage ☐ central water
☐ individual sewage ☐ individual water
- ☐ 9. The following plan(s) must be submitted to and approved by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality:
☐ central sewage ☐ community sewage system ☐ community water
☐ sewage dry lines ☐ central water
- ☐ 10. Run-off is not to create a mosquito breeding problem
- ☐ 11. This Department would recommend deferral until high seasonal ground water can be determined if other considerations indicate approval.
- ☐ 12. If restroom facilities are to be installed, then a sewage system MUST be installed to meet Idaho State Sewage Regulations.
- ☐ 13. We will require plans be submitted for a plan review for any:
☐ food establishment ☐ swimming pools or spas ☐ child care center
☐ beverage establishment ☐ grocery store
- ☒ 14. CDH has no objection to the CUP, a septic permit is required to be obtained before septic installation. A septic permit can be obtained by submitting an application, paying fees, test holes and possible ground water monitoring. Reviewed By: Bae-Cox Date: 10/22/25



**CASCADE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
P.O. Box 825
CASCADE, ID 83611-0825
109 EAST PINE STREET**

November 5, 2025

To: Cynda Herrick
Valley County Planning and Zoning


RE: CUP 25-027
Alzar School Staff Housing

I have reviewed C.U.P. 25-027 for the addition of staff housing at Alzar School. The Cascade Rural Fire Protection District (CRFPD) recommends the following:

- The roads within Alzar School Staff Housing Project shall be built to Valley County Road Department Standards.
- Driveways within Alzar School Staff Housing shall be built to International Fire Code Standards 2018. Section 503 Fire Apparatus Access Roads explains the standard to which the driveways shall be built to.
 - **503.2.3 Surface.** Fire Apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus and shall be surfaced so as to provide all weather driving capabilities.
 - **503.2.5 Dead Ends.** Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet in length shall be provided with an approved area for turning around fire apparatus. Appendix D, Fire Apparatus Access Roads, is attached that shows approved turnarounds for dead end access roads.
 - **503.7 Driveways.** Driveways will provide a minimum 12 feet wide and a minimum unobstructed height of 13 feet 6 inches. Driveways in excess of 150 feet in length need to be provided with an approved turnaround. Driveways in excess of 200 feet in length and less than 20 feet in width may require turnouts in addition to turnarounds.
- A fire protection water supply is required by CRFPD.

- A 10,000-gallon underground water tank is required for the development of 8 additional homes. The location for water tank placement will need to be coordinated with CRFPD.
- The refilling and maintenance of the underground water tank shall be the responsibility of the property owner.
- The underground water tank shall meet the requirement of CRFPD and be capable of drafting operations by CRFPD Apparatus.
- Tank shall be maintained to provide year-round access

If you have any questions, please contact me directly,



Thanks
Steven Hull
Fire Chief
Cascade Rural Fire District
steve@cascaderuralfire.com



October 20, 2025

Cynda Herrick, Planning & Zoning Director
Valley County Planning & Zoning
219 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 1350
Cascade, Idaho 83611
cherrick@co.valley.id.us

Subject: Public Notices - Valley County PZ - November 13, 2025

Dear Cynda Herrick:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your request for comment. While DEQ does not review every project on a project-specific basis, we attempt to provide the best review of the information provided. DEQ encourages agencies to review and utilize the Idaho Environmental Guide to assist in addressing project-specific conditions that may apply. This guide can be found at: <https://www2.deq.idaho.gov/admin/LEIA/api/document/download/15083>.

The following information does not cover every aspect of this project; however, we have the following general comments to use as appropriate:

1. AIR QUALITY

- Please review IDAPA 58.01.01 for all rules on Air Quality, especially those regarding fugitive dust (58.01.01.651), trade waste burning (58.01.01.600-617), and odor control plans (58.01.01.776).
For questions, contact David Luft, Air Quality Manager, at (208) 373-0550.
- IDAPA 58.01.01.201 requires an owner or operator of a facility to obtain an air quality permit to construct prior to the commencement of construction or modification of any facility that will be a source of air pollution in quantities above established levels. DEQ asks that cities and counties require a proposed facility to contact DEQ for an applicability determination on their proposal to ensure they remain in compliance with the rules.

For questions, contact the DEQ Air Quality Permitting Hotline at 1-877-573-7648.

2. WASTEWATER AND RECYCLED WATER

- DEQ recommends verifying that there is adequate sewer to serve this project prior to approval. Please contact the sewer provider for a capacity statement, declining balance report, and willingness to serve this project.
- IDAPA 58.01.16 and IDAPA 58.01.17 are the sections of Idaho rules regarding wastewater and recycled water. Please review these rules to determine whether this or future projects will require DEQ approval. IDAPA 58.01.03 is the section of Idaho rules regarding subsurface disposal of wastewater. Please review this rule to determine whether this or future projects will require permitting by the local public health district.
- All projects for construction or modification of wastewater systems require preconstruction approval. Recycled water projects and subsurface disposal projects require separate permits as well.
- DEQ recommends that projects be served by existing approved wastewater collection systems or a centralized community wastewater system whenever possible. Please contact DEQ to discuss potential for development of a community treatment system along with best management practices for communities to protect groundwater.
- DEQ recommends that cities and counties develop and use a comprehensive land use management plan, which includes the impacts of present and future wastewater management in this area. Please schedule a meeting with DEQ for further discussion and recommendations for plan development and implementation.

For questions, contact Valerie Greear, Water Quality Engineering Manager at (208) 373-0550.

3. DRINKING WATER

- DEQ recommends verifying that there is adequate water to serve this project prior to approval. Please contact the water provider for a capacity statement, declining balance report, and willingness to serve this project.
- DEQ recommends verifying if the current and/or proposed drinking water system is a regulated public drinking water system. A drinking water system is a Public Water System (PWS) if it has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves an average of 25 or more people per day for at least 60 days per year (refer to the DEQ website at: <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/drinking-water/>). For non-regulated systems, DEQ recommends annual testing for total coliform bacteria, nitrate, and nitrite.
- IDAPA 58.01.08 is the section of Idaho rules regarding public drinking water systems. Please review these rules to determine whether this or future projects will require DEQ approval.
- All projects for construction or modification of public drinking water systems require preconstruction approval.
- If any private wells will be included in this project, we recommend that they be tested for total coliform bacteria, nitrate, and nitrite prior to use and retested annually thereafter.
- DEQ recommends using an existing drinking water system whenever possible or construction of a new community drinking water system. Please contact DEQ to discuss this project and to explore options to both best serve the future residents of this development and provide for protection of groundwater resources.
- DEQ recommends cities and counties develop and use a comprehensive land use management plan which addresses the present and future needs of this area for adequate, safe, and sustainable drinking water. Please schedule a meeting with DEQ for further discussion and recommendations for plan development and implementation.

For questions, contact Valerie Greear, Water Quality Engineering Manager at (208) 373-0550.

4. SURFACE WATER

- Please contact DEQ to determine whether this project will require an Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) Permit. A Multi-Sector General Permit from DEQ may be required for facilities that have an allowable discharge of storm water or authorized non-storm water associated with the primary industrial activity and co-located industrial activity. For questions, contact Emily Montague, IPDES Compliance Supervisor, at (208) 373-0433.
- If this project is near a source of surface water, DEQ requests that projects incorporate construction best management practices (BMPs) to assist in the protection of Idaho's water resources. Additionally, please contact DEQ to identify BMP alternatives and to determine whether this project is in an area with Total Maximum Daily Load stormwater permit conditions.
- The Idaho Stream Channel Protection Act requires a permit for most stream channel alterations. Please contact the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), Western Regional Office, at 2735 Airport Way, Boise, or call (208) 334-2190 for more information. Information is also available on the IDWR website at: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/streams/stream-channel-alteration-permits.html>
- The Federal Clean Water Act requires a permit for filling or dredging in waters of the United States. Please contact the US Army Corps of Engineers, Boise Field Office, at 10095 Emerald Street, Boise, or call 208-345-2155 for more information regarding permits.

For questions, contact Lance Holloway, Surface Water Manager, at (208) 373-0550.

5. SOLID WASTE, HAZARDOUS WASTE AND GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION

- **Solid Waste.** No trash or other solid waste shall be buried, burned, or otherwise disposed of at the project site. These disposal methods are regulated by various state regulations including Idaho's Solid Waste Management Regulations and Standards (IDAPA 58.01.06), Rules and Regulations for Hazardous Waste (IDAPA 58.01.05), and Rules and Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution (IDAPA 58.01.01). Inert and other approved materials are also defined in the Solid Waste Management Regulations and Standards.
- **Hazardous Waste.** The types and number of requirements that must be complied with under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Idaho Rules and Standards for Hazardous Waste (IDAPA 58.01.05) are based on the quantity and type of waste generated. Every business in Idaho is required to track the volume of waste generated, determine whether each type of waste is hazardous, and ensure that all wastes are properly disposed of according to federal, state, and local requirements.
- **Water Quality Standards.** Site activities must comply with the Idaho Water Quality Standards (IDAPA 58.01.02) regarding hazardous and deleterious-materials storage, disposal, or accumulation adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of state waters (IDAPA 58.01.02.800); and the cleanup and reporting of oil-filled electrical equipment (IDAPA 58.01.02.849); hazardous materials (IDAPA 58.01.02.850); and used-oil and petroleum releases (IDAPA 58.01.24.060 and 58.01.24.061). Petroleum releases must be reported to DEQ in accordance with IDAPA 58.01.24.060.01 and 58.01.24.061.04. Hazardous material releases to state waters, or to land such that there is likelihood that it will enter state waters, must be reported to DEQ in accordance with IDAPA 58.01.02.850.

- **Groundwater Contamination.** DEQ requests that this project comply with Idaho's Ground Water Quality Rules (IDAPA 58.01.11), which states that "No person shall cause or allow the release, spilling, leaking, emission, discharge, escape, leaching, or disposal of a contaminant into the environment in a manner that causes a ground water quality standard to be exceeded, injures a beneficial use of ground water, or is not in accordance with a permit, consent order or applicable best management practice, best available method or best practical method."

For questions, contact Matthew Pabich, Waste & Remediation Manager, at (208) 373-0550.

6. **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

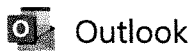
- If an underground storage tank (UST) or an aboveground storage tank (AST) is identified at the site, additional regulations may apply. If an UST is present, the site should be evaluated to determine whether the UST is regulated by DEQ. If an AST is identified, EPA may have additional requirements. Both UST and AST sites should be assessed to determine whether there is potential soil and ground water contamination. Please call DEQ at (208) 373-0550, or visit the DEQ website <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-management-and-remediation/storage-tanks/leaking-underground-storage-tanks-in-idaho/> for assistance. If applicable to this project, DEQ recommends that BMPs be implemented for any of the following land uses: wash water from cleaning vehicles, fertilizers and pesticides, animal facilities, composted waste, ponds and outdoor gun ranges. Please contact DEQ for more information on any of these conditions.

We look forward to working with you in a proactive manner to address potential environmental impacts that may be within our regulatory authority. If you have any questions, please contact me, or any of our technical staff at (208) 373-0550.

Sincerely,



Troy Smith
Regional Administrator



Outlook

Public Notices - Valley County PZ - November 13, 2025

From Kendra Conder <Kendra.Conder@itd.idaho.gov>

Date Wed 10/15/2025 1:14 PM

To Cynda Herrick <cherrick@valleycountyid.gov>

Cc Lori Hunter <lhunter@valleycountyid.gov>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Cynda,

ITD does not have any comments for the November 13 agency notice. However, our request for turn lane warrants for SUB 25-019 has not been met.

Let me know if you have any questions!

Kendra Conder

District 3 | Development Services Coordinator

Idaho Transportation Department

Office: 208-334-8377

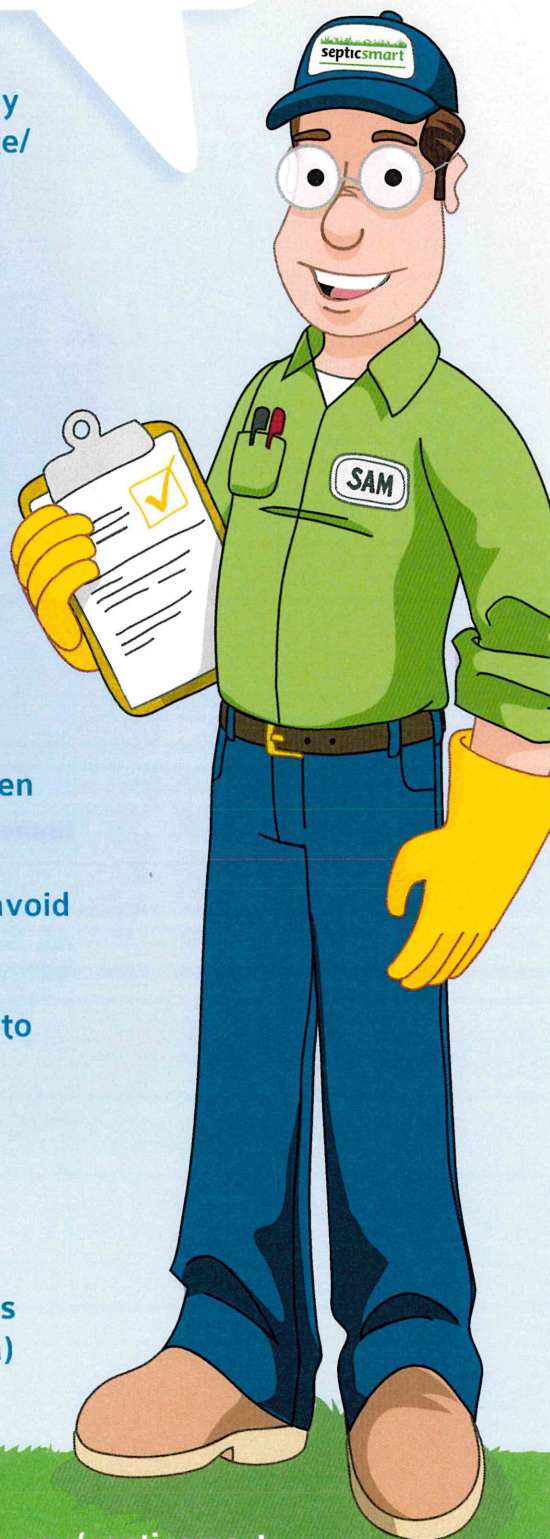
Cell: 208-972-3190



YOUR Safety *** YOUR Mobility *** YOUR Economic Opportunity

Top 10 Ways to Be a Good Septic Owner

- ✓ Have your system inspected every three years by a qualified professional or according to your state/ local health department's recommendations
- ✓ Have your septic tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years
- ✓ Avoid pouring harsh products (e.g., oils, grease, chemicals, paint, medications) down the drain
- ✓ Discard non-degradable products in the trash (e.g., floss, disposable wipes, cat litter) instead of flushing them
- ✓ Keep cars and heavy vehicles parked away from the drainfield and tank
- ✓ Follow the system manufacturer's directions when using septic tank cleaners and additives
- ✓ Repair leaks and use water efficient fixtures to avoid overloading the system
- ✓ Maintain plants and vegetation near the system to ensure roots do not block drains
- ✓ Use soaps and detergents that are low-suds, biodegradable, and low- or phosphate-free
- ✓ Prevent system freezing during cold weather by inspecting and insulating vulnerable system parts (e.g., the inspection pipe and soil treatment area)



A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems



**Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706**

January 2001

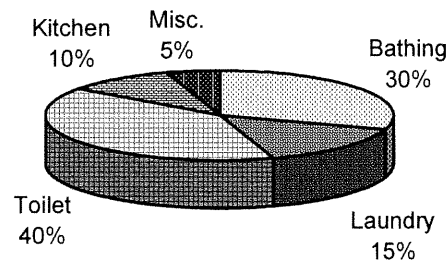


Do you have a home septic system? As an Idaho resident, there is a good chance you do—thirty-six percent of Idaho's homes, or about 210,000 residences, use septic systems to treat their sewage. These systems discharge more than 53 million gallons of wastewater into Idaho's soils annually, and this figure grows each year. In 1999, Idaho's seven health districts issued over 6,100 permits for new septic systems.

Septic systems dispose of household sewage, or wastewater, generated from toilet use, bathing, laundry, and kitchen and cleaning activities. Because septic systems are underground and seldom require daily care, many homeowners rarely think about routine operations and maintenance. However, if a septic system is not properly designed, located, constructed, and maintained, groundwater may become contaminated.

Household Wastewater

Households that are not served by public sewers depend on septic tank systems to treat and dispose of wastewater. Household wastewater carries with it all wastes that go down the drains in our homes, including human waste, dirt, food, toilet paper, soap, detergents, and cleaning products. It contains dissolved nutrients, household chemicals, grease, oil, microorganisms (including some that cause disease), and solid particles. If not properly treated by your septic system, chemicals and microorganisms in wastewater can travel through the soil to groundwater and pose a health hazard.



The average person uses between 50 and 75 gallons of water per day; mostly in the bathroom. Reducing your water use will help your septic system to work more efficiently.

Your Septic System

A conventional septic system has three working parts: a septic tank, a drainfield, and surrounding soil.

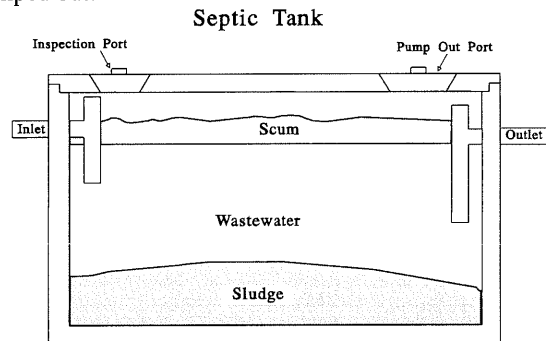
Septic Tank

Septic tanks can be made of concrete, fiberglass, or plastic and must be approved by the state. Minimum sizes of tanks have been established for residences based on the number of bedrooms in the dwelling. In Idaho, a 1,000-gallon septic tank is required for homes with three or four bedrooms. Larger tanks are required for larger homes. Local district health departments issue permits for septic systems and specify the minimum size tank. Some systems installed before the current rules and regulations may have smaller septic tanks.

A septic tank has three main functions:

- to remove as many solids as possible from household wastewater before sending the liquid, called “effluent,” to a drainfield;
- to decompose solids in the tank; and
- to store solids that do not decompose.

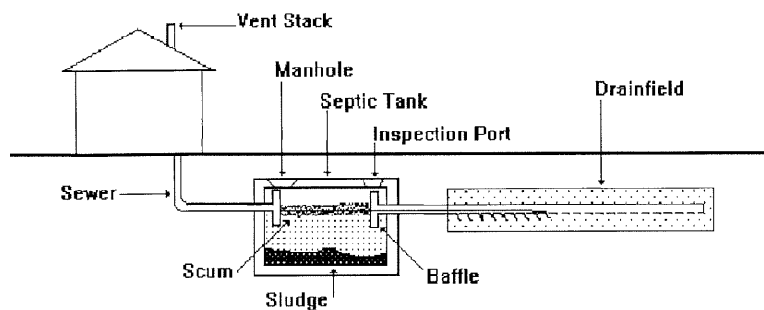
When raw wastewater enters the tank, heavy solids sink to the bottom of the tank as sludge. Light solids, such as grease and paper, float to the surface as scum. During the wastewater storage period, bacteria digest organic material in the wastewater. During this process, the solid material is reduced in volume and composition. Solids that do not decompose accumulate in the tank and eventually must be pumped out.



Tees, or baffles, are provided at the tank's inlet and outlet pipes. The inlet tee slows the incoming wastes and reduces disturbance of the settled sludge. The outlet tee keeps the solids and scum in the tank. As new wastewater enters the tank through the inlet tee, an equal amount of wastewater is pushed out of the tank through the outlet tee. The effluent that leaves the tank has been partially treated but still contains disease-causing bacteria and other pollutants.

Drainfield

Each time raw wastewater enters the tank it forces an equal amount of effluent into a drainfield. A standard drainfield is composed of a series of perforated pipes buried in gravel-filled trenches in the soil. The effluent seeps out of the perforated pipes and percolates through the gravel to the soil.



Soil

The soil below the drainfield provides the final treatment and disposal of the septic tank effluent. After the effluent has passed into the soil, most of it percolates downward and outward, eventually entering the groundwater. Soils are critical to the treatment of septic tank wastewater.

A system that is not functioning properly will release nutrient-rich and bacterial-laden wastewater into the groundwater and/or surface water. These contaminated waters pose a significant public health threat to people that come into contact with them. Wastewater that moves with groundwater can transport bacteria considerable distances. This can result in a threat to public health and adversely affect the quality of ground and surface waters.

Caring for Your Septic System

Installing Your System

In order to have a septic system installed on your property, you must first obtain a permit. Permit applications are available from your local district health department. Next, you must have a site evaluation performed. Make arrangements for this with your district health department and with a licensed septic system installer. Note that not all property is suitable for septic systems, so some permits may be denied. It is recommended that you have a site evaluation performed before you purchase property. Finally, have your system installed by a licensed installer and inspected by your local health district. Provide regular, preventative, maintenance to keep your system running smoothly.

Inspecting Your System

When too much sludge and scum are allowed to accumulate in your tank, the incoming sewage will not have enough time in the septic tank for solids to settle. Solids may flow to the drainfield and clog the pipes, causing the sewage to overflow to the ground surface, where it exposes humans and animals to disease-causing organisms. To prevent this from happening, it is very important to inspect your tank regularly and have it serviced when needed. All tanks have accessible manholes for inspecting and pumping. Some excavation work may be needed to uncover the manhole.

Properly designed tanks should have enough capacity for three to eight years of use before needing service. This is dependent upon the amount of wastewater generated. It is recommended that an average family of four have its septic tank pumped out every three to five years. Don't wait for signs of system failure to have your tank pumped. Your tank should be checked annually to measure sludge and scum levels. A licensed septic tank pumper can provide a septic tank inspection and recommend when the tank should be pumped. A tank inspection should include measuring the depth of scum and sludge and inspecting the tees in the septic tank.

If you do the inspection yourself, it is important to understand that septic tanks always appear full because both the inlet and the outlet are at the top of the tank. What you will need to know is how much of the tank's volume is being taken up by scum and sludge. When sludge and scum take up more than 35 percent of the tank volume, these solids need to be removed by pumping. A pole wrapped in a coarse weave cloth can be used to check the sludge depth. An extension on the pole can be used to measure the scum depth. Record these measurements as part of your pumping records. To check the tees, uncover the inspection ports.

Never allow anyone to enter your septic tank. Dangerous gases and the lack of oxygen can kill in minutes.

While it is impractical to inspect the pipes in your drainfield, it is important to watch for drainfield failure or overuse. See "Warning Signs of System Failure" in this booklet for information.

Maintaining Your System

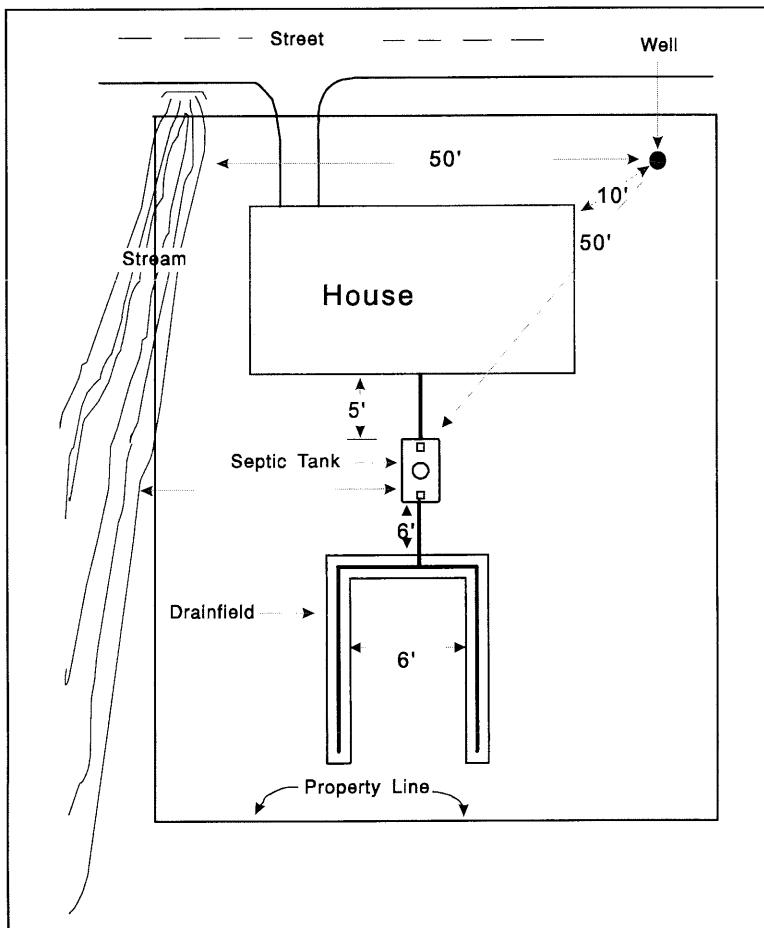
Pumping your septic tank every three years (or as determined by your inspections) will remove accumulations of solids, help keep the drainfield from becoming clogged, and help prevent you from experiencing sewage backups or septic system failure. An accumulation of sludge exceeding 35% of the total water depth in the septic tank could cause solids to enter the drainfield and clog the system. Hire a licensed septic tank pumper to pump your tank for you.

Mapping Your System

In order to take proper care of your septic system, you must know the location of the septic tank and drainfield. The location of your septic tank can be determined from plot plans, septic system inspection records, architectural or landscape drawings, or from observations of the house plumbing. If you do not have access to drawings, find where the sewer pipe leaves your house. Some installers mark the location where the waste pipe comes out of the house with an "S" on the foundation. You may want to do this as well. Probe in the ground 10 to 15 feet directly out from the location where the pipe leaves your house to find your tank.

Once the septic tank has been located, make several plot plan diagrams (with measurements) that include a rough sketch of your house, septic tank cover, drainfield area, well, and any other permanent reference points (such as trees or large rocks) and place them with your important papers. You'll find a sample system diagram on the next page, and a place to draw your own inside the front cover of this booklet. You may also want to hang a diagram in your garage and provide one to your local district health office.

Maintain a permanent record of any septic system maintenance, repair, sludge and scum levels, pumping, drainfield condition, household backups, and operations notes.



Create a septic system diagram, similar to this one, for your system.

Warning Signs of System Failure

While proper use, inspections, and maintenance should prevent most septic tank problems, it is still important to be aware of changes in your septic system and to act immediately if you suspect a system failure. There are many signs of septic system failure:

- surfacing sewage or wet spots in the drainfield area;
- plumbing or septic tank backups;
- slow draining fixtures;
- gurgling sounds in the plumbing system;
- sewage odors in the house or yard (note that the house plumbing vent on the roof will emit sewage odors and this is normal); and
- tests showing the presence of bacteria in well water.

If you notice any of these signs, or if you suspect your septic tank system may be having problems, contact a licensed septic system professional or your local district health agency for assistance.

Septic System Dos and Don'ts

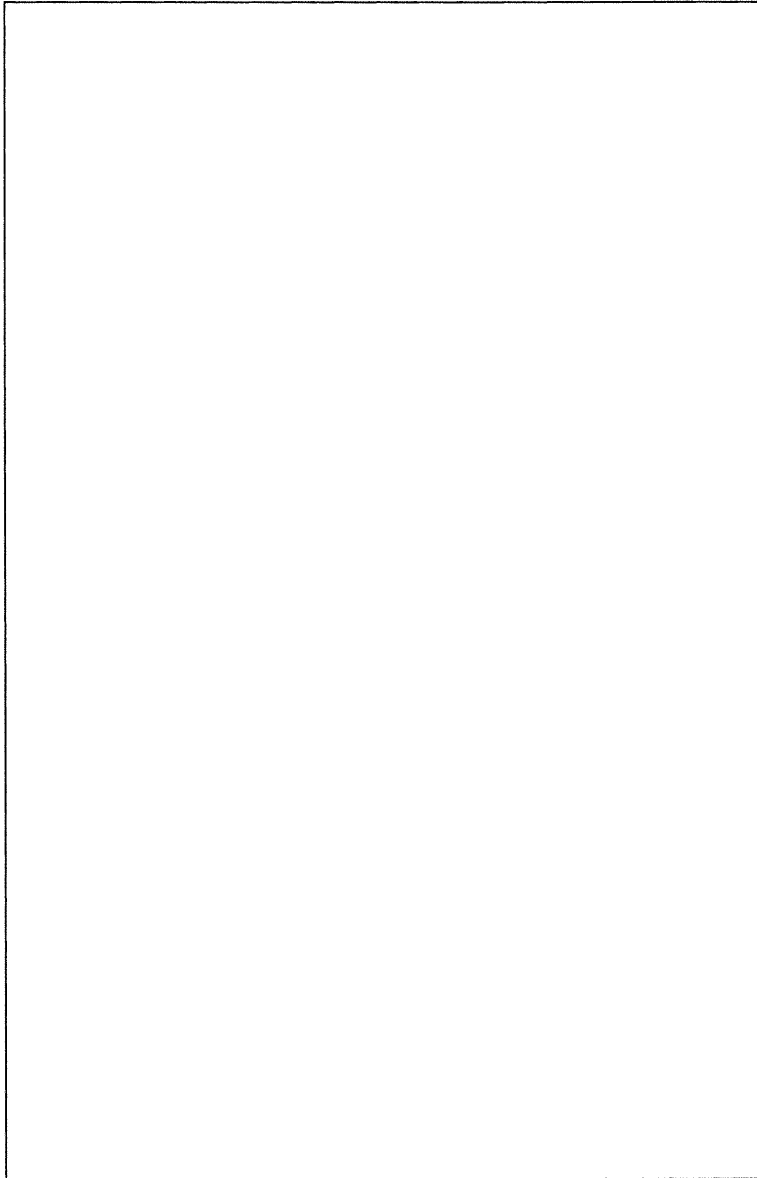
Proper operation of a septic system can prevent costly repairs or replacement. Observing the following guidelines will help to keep your system running efficiently.

Do

- ...practice water conservation. The more wastewater you produce, the more wastewater your system must treat and dispose. By reducing and balancing your use, you can extend the life of your system and avoid costly repairs.
 - Use water saving devices such as low flow showerheads.
 - Repair leaky faucets and plumbing fixtures immediately.
 - Reduce toilet reservoir volume or flow.
 - Take short showers.
 - Take baths with a partially filled tub.
 - Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry.
 - Shut off the water while shaving or brushing your teeth.
 - Balance your water use (e.g., avoid washing several loads of laundry in one day).
- ...keep accurate records. Know where your septic tank is, keep a diagram of its location using the space provided in this booklet, and keep a record of system maintenance.
- ...inspect your system annually. Check the sludge and scum levels inside the tank and periodically check the drainfield for odors, wet spots, or surfacing sewage.
- ...pump your system routinely. Pumping your septic tank is probably the single most important thing you can do to protect your system.
- ...keep all runoff away from your system. Water from roofs and driveways should be diverted away from the septic tank and drainfield area. Soil over your system should be mounded slightly to encourage runoff.
- ...protect your system from damage. Keep vehicles and livestock off your drainfield. The pressure can compact the soil or damage the pipes. Before you dig for any reason, check the location of your system and drainfield area.
- ...landscape your system properly. Plant grass over the drainfield area. Don't plant trees or shrubs or place impermeable materials, such as concrete or plastic, over the drainfield.
- ...use cleaning chemicals in moderation and only according to manufacturer's directions.

Don't

- ...flood irrigate over your system or drainfield area. The best way to irrigate these areas is with sprinklers.
- ...use caustic drain openers for clogged drains. Use boiling water or a drain snake to clean out clogs.
- ...enter a septic tank. Poisonous gases or a lack of oxygen can be fatal.
- ...use septic tank additives. They are not necessary for the proper functioning of your tank and they do not reduce the need for pumping. In fact, some additives can even harm your system.
- ...flush harmful materials into your tank. Grease, cooking oil, coffee grounds, sanitary napkins, and cigarettes do not easily decompose in septic tanks. Chemicals, such as solvents, oils, paints, and pesticides, are harmful to your systems operation and may pollute groundwater.
- ...use a garbage disposal. Using a garbage disposal will increase the amount of solids entering the septic tank and will result in the need for more frequent pumping.



Map your septic system here

For More Information

If you need to obtain a permit for a new or replacement septic system, or if you have questions about septic systems and their operation and maintenance, please contact your local health district.

Panhandle District Health Department
8500 N. Atlas Road
Hayden, ID 83835
208-415-5100

North Central District Health Department
215 10th Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
208-799-0353

Southwest District Health Department
920 Main Street
Caldwell, ID 83605
208-455-5400

Central District Health Department
707 N. Armstrong Place
Boise, ID 83704
208-327-7499

South Central District Health Department
1020 Washington Street North
Twin Falls, ID 83303
208-734-5900

Southeastern District Health Department
1901 Alvin Ricken Drive
Pocatello, ID 83201
208-239-5270

District 7 Health Department
254 "E" Street
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
208-523-5382