

Preliminary Application for Site Certificate for the Speedway Energy Facility

Exhibit H. Threatened and Endangered Species

**Submitted to
Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council**

Prepared for



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
Applicant	BGTF Speedway Project LLC
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
Facility	Speedway Energy Facility
LLC	limited liability company
OAR	Oregon Administrative Rules
ODA	Oregon Department of Agriculture
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
ORBIC	Oregon Biodiversity Information Center
ORS	Oregon Revised Statutes
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 Introduction

BGTF Speedway Project LLC (Applicant) proposes construction and operation of the Speedway Energy Facility (Facility), a renewable energy facility incorporating wind, solar, and battery energy storage, located on privately owned land in unincorporated Sherman County, Oregon. The Facility's proposed point of interconnection to the regional electrical grid will be via a new Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) switchyard to be located adjacent to the existing BPA 500-kilovolt Ashe-Marion Transmission Line, which runs northeast/southwest through the site boundary.

Exhibit H provides information about state-listed threatened and endangered plant and wildlife species that may be affected by the proposed Facility as required by OAR 345-022-0070. OAR 345-022-0070 requires that:

To issue a site certificate, the Council, after consultation with appropriate state agencies, must find that:

(1) For plant species that the Oregon Department of Agriculture has listed as threatened or endangered under ORS 564.105(2), the design, construction and operation of the proposed facility, taking into account mitigation:

(a) Are consistent with the protection and conservation program, if any, that the Oregon Department of Agriculture has adopted under ORS 564.105(3); or

(b) If the Oregon Department of Agriculture has not adopted a protection and conservation program, are not likely to cause a significant reduction in the likelihood of survival or recovery of the species.

(2) For wildlife species that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission has listed as threatened or endangered under ORS 496.172(2), the design, construction and operation of the proposed facility, taking into account mitigation, are not likely to cause a significant reduction in the likelihood of survival or recovery of the species.

Exhibit H presents information supporting demonstration of compliance with the Threatened and Endangered Species approval standard and submittal requirements in Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 345-022-0070.

2.0 Analysis Area

The analysis area for state threatened and endangered species includes the site boundary plus the area within 5 miles of the site boundary, in accordance with OAR 345-001-0010(35)(a). The site boundary is defined in detail in the Background Information Exhibit. The analysis area is shown in Figure H-1.

3.0 Agency Consultation

The Applicant consulted with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) regarding the appropriate protocols for documenting the presence of state sensitive species (inclusive of state threatened and endangered species) and the classification of fish and wildlife habitat. A virtual meeting occurred on May 10, 2024, and February 26, 2026. ODFW representatives approved of the wildlife survey protocols and provided additional input on wildlife species to include in surveys.

The Applicant contacted the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to request concurrence with the field survey methods specific to botanical surveys (Section 4.2.2). An email was sent on January 20, 2026, and ODA provided concurrence with the methods on June 4, 2026.

4.0 Identification of Species – OAR 345-022-0070(3)(a)

(3) To assist the Council in determining whether the standard outlined in (1) through (2) has been met, the Applicant must submit information about threatened and endangered plant and animal species that may be affected by the proposed facility, providing evidence to support a finding by the Council as required by OAR 345-022-0070. The applicant must include:

(a) Based on appropriate literature and field study, identification of all threatened or endangered species listed under ORS 496.172(2) and ORS 564.105(2) that may be affected by the proposed facility;

The Applicant identified threatened and endangered plant and animal species that could be affected by the Facility through a literature review, data queries, and professional familiarity with the region, along with input and resources identified by the ODFW during consultation (see Section 3.0 and Exhibit G). Information and data gathered during the desktop review were then used to inform field surveys.

4.1 Desktop Review

Prior to conducting field surveys, Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech) conducted a desktop background review on behalf of the Applicant to identify special status wildlife species with the potential to occur in the analysis area (see the 2024-2026 Habitat Categorization and Special Status Wildlife Survey Report and the 2023, 2025, and 2026 Raptor Nest Survey reports in Attachment G-1 to Exhibit G). The background review was also conducted for rare plants (state and federally endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate species) to inform subsequent field studies and identify species with potential to occur in the analysis area (see the 2024-2025 Botanical Survey Report in Attachment G-1 to Exhibit G).

4.1.1 Fish and Wildlife

Prior to conducting the wildlife surveys, Tetra Tech generated a list of special status wildlife species with potential to occur in the analysis area including federal and state endangered, threatened,

proposed, and candidate species; species of concern; birds of conservation concern; and sensitive and sensitive-critical species (ODFW 2021a, 2021b; ORBIC 2025a; USFWS 2021, 2023a). Tetra Tech reviewed habitat and range information for special status wildlife species known to occur in Sherman County, Oregon, and the Columbia Plateau/Columbia Basin ecoregion to develop the list of species potentially present within the analysis area (see Attachment G-1 to Exhibit G). Species were excluded if their habitat was absent or their range did not overlap the analysis area. Tetra Tech identified 22 special-status wildlife species with the potential to occur, including six mammals, two reptiles, 13 birds, and one invertebrate (see Attachment G-1 to Exhibit G). None of these species were listed by ODFW as threatened, endangered, or candidate species and therefore will not be discussed further in this exhibit. In addition, the Applicant requested site-specific records of special status species occurrences within the analysis area from the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center (ORBIC; ORBIC 2025b, 2026). ORBIC identified occurrences of four special status fish species within the analysis area; however, none of these species are state-listed; therefore, they are also outside the scope of this exhibit.

4.1.2 Plants

The Applicant used a variety of sources to identify state threatened, endangered, and candidate plant species that may occur within the analysis area (ODA 2024a, 2024b; ORBIC 2023, 2025b, 2026; USFWS 2022, 2025). Three state-listed or candidate plants were identified as having potential to occur within the analysis area (Table H-1): Lawrence's milkvetch (*Astragalus collinus* var. *laurentii*, state threatened), Henderson's ricegrass (*Eriocoma [Achnatherum] hendersonii*, state candidate), and hepatic monkeyflower (*Erythranthe jungermannioides*, state candidate).

Lawrence's milkvetch is a tap-rooted perennial endemic to Oregon and has been documented in Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, and Sherman counties (ODA 2025b). Suitable habitat for Lawrence's milkvetch includes sandy or rocky soils overlying basalt on dry slopes, in Palouse grasslands, bunchgrass prairies, and roadsides (ODA 2025b; OregonFlora 2025). It occurs predominantly between 2,000–3,400 feet but has been reported in elevations as low as 400 feet. Commonly associated plant species include bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Canby's bluegrass (*Poa secunda* ssp. *secunda*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), and Carey's balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza careyana*). These habitats and associated species occur within the site boundary and analysis area; however, based on the ORBIC query, there are no occurrence records of Lawrence's milkvetch within the analysis area.

Henderson's ricegrass is a caespitose perennial grass typically found in shallow, rocky soils in scablands or sagebrush-steppe and is often associated with scabland sagebrush (*Artemisia rigida*), as well as occasionally within ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) forest openings (Burke Museum 2025; OregonFlora 2025). Limited suitable habitat for this species occurs within the analysis area. Based on the ORBIC query, there are no occurrence records of Henderson's ricegrass within the analysis area.

Hepatic monkeyflower grows on basalt cliff faces in moist crevices or overhanging cliffs (Burke Museum 2025; Pacific Northwest Herbaria 2025). Based on ORBIC queries, there are no occurrence

records of hepatic monkeyflower within the analysis area (ORBIC 2025b, 2026). However, one OregonFlora occurrence from 1996 is present within the southwestern portion of the analysis area (OregonFlora 2026). Desktop and aerial imagery review suggest that this species' habitat may occur in limited areas planned for 2026 surveys.

One other state listed or candidate species known to occur in Sherman County was removed from consideration as it is not expected to occur in the analysis area: northern wormwood (*Artemisia campestris* var. *wormskioldii*, state endangered). Northern wormwood's range is restricted to low-elevation areas of basalt, compacted cobble, and sand on the banks of the Columbia River (ODA 2025a; OregonFlora 2025). Additionally, this species is believed to be extirpated in Oregon.

Table H-1. State Threatened & Endangered, and Candidate Species with the Potential to Occur within the Analysis Area

Scientific Name ¹	Common Name	Federal Status ²	State Status ³	Occurrence within Analysis Area ⁴	Potential Habitat within the Analysis Area
Vascular Plants					
<i>Astragalus collinus</i> var. <i>laurentii</i>	Lawrence's milkvetch	–	T	None	Limited. Found in bunchgrass prairies, on roadsides, or in sandy or rocky soils overlying basalt on dry slopes of the Columbia Plateau.
<i>Eriocoma</i> [<i>Achnatherum</i>] <i>hendersonii</i>	Henderson's ricegrass	–	C	None	Limited. Found in shallow, rocky soil in scablands, sagebrush-steppe, or ponderosa pine forest.
<i>Erythranthe jungermannioides</i>	Hepatic monkeyflower	–	C	None	Limited. Found on basalt cliff faces in moist crevices or overhanging cliffs.
Sources: Burke Museum 2025, OregonFlora 2025, ODA 2025b, Pacific Northwest Herbaria 2025 1. Species list includes only those that are listed as threatened, endangered, or candidate species by the ODA. Oregon state sensitive species are addressed in Exhibit G. 2. T = Threatened; C = Candidate. 3. Occurrences are based on desktop review, ORBIC element occurrence data (ORBIC 2025b, ORBIC 2026), and field surveys (see Attachment G-1).					

4.2 Field Surveys

The Applicant conducted special status wildlife surveys in 2024, 2025, and 2026 to evaluate the potential presence of state-listed or candidate wildlife species within the site boundary. The 2024-2026 Habitat Categorization and Special Status Wildlife Survey Report is included in Attachment G-1 of Exhibit G.

In addition, the Applicant conducted surveys for special status plant species within the majority of the site boundary in 2024 and 2025. The 2024-2025 Botanical Survey Report is included in Attachment G-1 of Exhibit G. Areas that were not surveyed for botanical resources and are intended

for development were surveyed in mid-June 2026 (2,815 acres; see “To be Surveyed for Botanical Resources in 2026” in Figure H-1). Surveys were not conducted for special status wildlife or plant species in approximately 1,694 acres of the site boundary as these areas will not be used for development of the Facility (see “Area Will not be Developed” in Figure H-1).

4.2.1 Wildlife

Wildlife surveys were conducted in April and July 2024, June 2025, and April 2026, and covered the site boundary except, as noted above, areas that will not be developed. During field surveys, biologists walked meandering transects within non-cultivated land searching for wildlife species and recognizable signs of wildlife (e.g., scat, tracks, burrows, and nests). Surveyors also kept a running list of wildlife species observed and documented special habitats and unique features such as raptor nests, cliffs, rimrock, rock outcrops, and talus slopes if they were encountered. No surveys were conducted specifically for state-listed or candidate wildlife species, as none are expected to occur within the proposed microsite area. A total of seven special-status wildlife species were observed during surveys and are discussed in detail in Exhibit G. No federal or state threatened or endangered species were observed.

4.2.2 Plants

Botanical field surveys were conducted in July 2024 and June and July 2025, covering the majority of the site boundary. Additional botanical surveys were conducted in mid-June 2026 to cover the approximately 2,815 acres of the site boundary that had not previously been surveyed (“To be Surveyed for Botanical Resources in 2026” in Figure H-1). The results of these field surveys will be provided as supplemental information to this ASC.

Surveys were conducted using the Intuitive Controlled survey method, a standard and commonly accepted survey protocol (USFS and BLM 1998). This method incorporates meandering transects that cover the area of interest and target the full array of major vegetation types, aspects, topographical features, habitats, and substrate types. Surveyors searched for target species while traversing the landscape. When high potential habitat (that was defined in the pre-field review or encountered during the field visit) was encountered, surveyors conducted a thorough survey for the target species, covering the entirety of the relevant region. No threatened, endangered, or candidate plants were observed during the botanical surveys.

5.0 Occurrence and Potential Adverse Impacts – OAR 345-022-0070(3)(b)

(b) For each species identified under (a), a description of the nature, extent, locations and timing of its occurrence in the analysis area and how the facility might adversely affect it;

5.1 Wildlife

No state-listed or candidate fish or wildlife species are known or expected to occur within the analysis area; therefore, no adverse effects to state-listed or candidate wildlife species are expected due to the construction and operation of the Facility.

5.2 Plants

Based on desktop analysis, Lawrence's milkvetch, Henderson's ricegrass, and hepatic monkeyflower are the only state-listed and candidate vascular plant species that have the potential to occur within the analysis area (see Section 4.1.2). However, only one historical record of hepatic monkeyflower has been observed at the outermost edge of the analysis area (see Section 4.1.2). There are no other known records of these species within the analysis area, no records of these species occur within the site boundary, and none of the species were observed during field surveys. In addition, in their response to the Facility Notice of Intent, the ODA noted that they did not anticipate any state-listed plant species to occur within the site boundary or to be impacted by the proposed Facility (D. Marshall, personal communication, December 24, 2025). Therefore, construction and operation of the Facility are not expected to result in adverse effects to these species. As noted above, surveys have not been conducted within the entire site boundary; additional surveys will be conducted in mid-June 2026 (see Figure H-1). If any populations of state-listed or candidates are found during these surveys, they will be flagged and avoided by the final Facility design or mitigated for as needed.

6.0 Avoidance and Mitigation – OAR 345-022-0070(3)(c)

(c) For each species identified under (a), a description of measures proposed by the applicant, if any, to avoid or reduce adverse impact;

No state-listed or candidate species are known or expected to occur within the site boundary, and none were observed during field surveys. No state-listed or candidate species are expected to be affected by construction and operation of the Facility; therefore, no avoidance and mitigation measures for threatened and endangered species are proposed.

7.0 Plant Species

7.1 Compliance with Protection and Conservation Programs – OAR 345-022-0070(3)(d)

(d) For each plant species identified under (a), a description of how the proposed facility, including any mitigation measures, complies with the protection and conservation program, if any, that the Oregon Department of Agriculture has adopted under ORS 564.105(3);

There are no state-listed or candidate plant species with the potential to occur within the analysis area for which ODA has adopted a protection and conservation program. As a result, the Facility is

not likely to impact ODA's recovery efforts, nor is the Facility likely to cause a significant reduction in the likelihood of survival or recovery of plants with a protection or conservation program under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 564.105(3).

7.2 Potential Impacts to Plants – OAR 345-022-0070(3)(e)

(e) For each plant species identified under paragraph (a), if the Oregon Department of Agriculture has not adopted a protection and conservation program under ORS 564.105(3), a description of significant potential impacts of the proposed facility on the continued existence of the species and on the critical habitat of such species and evidence that the proposed facility, including any mitigation measures, is not likely to cause a significant reduction in the likelihood of survival or recovery of the species;

No state-listed or candidate plant species were observed within the site boundary during targeted surveys for these species. As noted above, surveys have not been conducted within the entire site boundary; additional surveys will be conducted in 2026 (see Figure H-1). If any populations of state-listed or candidates are found during these surveys, they will be flagged and avoided by the final Facility design or mitigated for as needed. Because these species are not present within surveyed portions of the site boundary and would be avoided or mitigated for if present within unsurveyed portions of the site boundary, the construction, operations, and maintenance of the Facility are not expected to result in a significant reduction in the likelihood of survival or recovery of the state threatened Lawrence's milkvetch, or the state candidate species Henderson's ricegrass, and hepatic monkeyflower.

8.0 Impacts to Animal Species and Critical Habitat – OAR 345-022-0070(3)(f)

(f) For each animal species identified under (a), a description of significant potential impacts of the proposed facility on the continued existence of such species and on the critical habitat of such species and evidence that the proposed facility, including any mitigation measures, is not likely to cause a significant reduction in the likelihood of survival or recovery of the species; and

No state-listed or candidate animal species are expected to occur within the site boundary. Construction, operations, and maintenance of the Facility are not expected to result in adverse impacts to state-listed animal species. No mitigation measures for threatened and endangered species are proposed.

9.0 Monitoring – OAR 345-022-0070(3)(g)

(g) The applicant's proposed monitoring program, if any, for impacts to threatened and endangered species.

No state listed or candidate species were found to occur within the site boundary. Construction, operations, and maintenance of the Facility are not expected to adversely impact state-listed species. No monitoring program for threatened and endangered species is proposed at this time.

10.0 References

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- USFWS. 2022. Oregon's Endangered Species – Plants. Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office. Available online at: www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/OregonSpeciesStateList_1.pdf.
- USFWS. 2023a. Federally Listed, Proposed, Candidate, Delisted Species and Species of Concern under the Jurisdiction of the Fish and Wildlife Service which May Occur in Oregon. <https://www.fws.gov/media/oregon-species-state-list>. Accessed March 2025.
- USFWS. 2025. Information for Planning and Consultation Resource List for the Project Area. Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office. Available online at: <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>. Accessed May 2024.

11.0 Approval Standards and Submittal Requirements

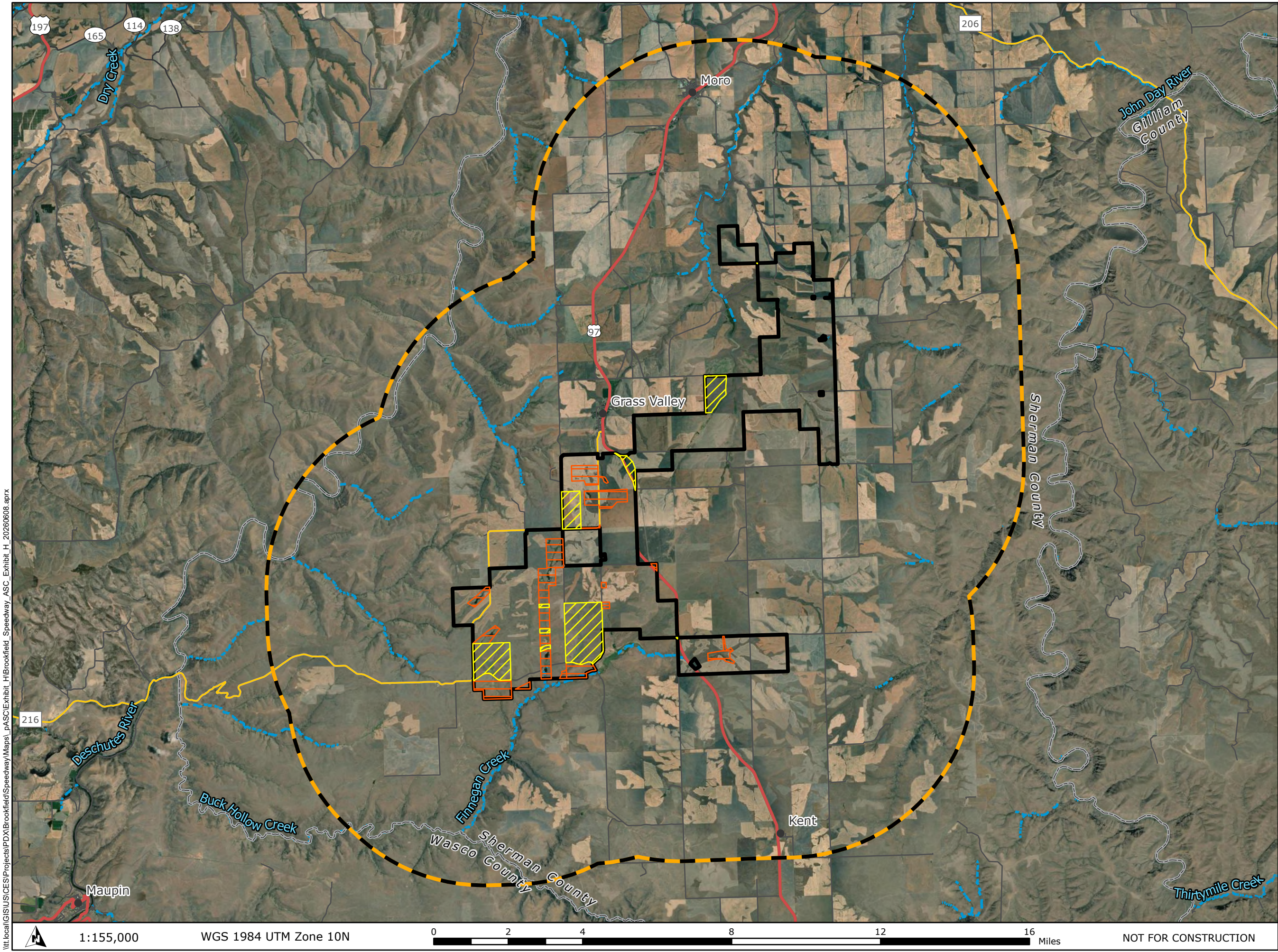
Table H-2. Approval Standards and Submittal Requirements Matrix

Requirements	Location
OAR 345-022-0070 Threatened and Endangered Species	–
Approval Standards	
To issue a site certificate, the Council, after consultation with appropriate state agencies, must find that:	-
(1) For plant species that the Oregon Department of Agriculture has listed as threatened or endangered under ORS 564.105(2), the design, construction and operation of the proposed facility, taking into account mitigation:	-
(a) Are consistent with the protection and conservation program, if any, that the Oregon Department of Agriculture has adopted under ORS 564.105(3); or	Section 7.0
(b) If the Oregon Department of Agriculture has not adopted a protection and conservation program, are not likely to cause a significant reduction in the likelihood of survival or recovery of the species.	Section 8.0

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Requirements	Location
(2) For wildlife species that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission has listed as threatened or endangered under ORS 496.172(2), the design, construction and operation of the proposed facility, taking into account mitigation, are not likely to cause a significant reduction in the likelihood of survival or recovery of the species.	Section 9.0
Submittal Requirements	
(3) To assist the Council in determining whether the standard outlined in (1) through (2) has been met, the Applicant must submit information about threatened and endangered plant and animal species that may be affected by the proposed facility, providing evidence to support a finding by the Council as required by OAR 345-022-0070. The applicant must include:	-
(a) Based on appropriate literature and field study, identification of all threatened or endangered species listed under ORS 496.172(2) and ORS 564.105(2) that may be affected by the proposed facility;	Section 4.0
(b) For each species identified under (a), a description of the nature, extent, locations and timing of its occurrence in the analysis area and how the facility might adversely affect it;	Sections 4.0 and 5.0
(c) For each species identified under (a), a description of measures proposed by the applicant, if any, to avoid or reduce adverse impact;	Section 6.0
(d) For each plant species identified under (a), a description of how the proposed facility, including any mitigation measures, complies with the protection and conservation program, if any, that the Oregon Department of Agriculture has adopted under ORS 564.105(3);	Section 7.0
(e) For each plant species identified under paragraph (a), if the Oregon Department of Agriculture has not adopted a protection and conservation program under ORS 564.105(3), a description of significant potential impacts of the proposed facility on the continued existence of the species and on the critical habitat of such species and evidence that the proposed facility, including any mitigation measures, is not likely to cause a significant reduction in the likelihood of survival or recovery of the species;	Section 7.0
(f) For each animal species identified under (a), a description of significant potential impacts of the proposed facility on the continued existence of such species and on the critical habitat of such species and evidence that the proposed facility, including any mitigation measures, is not likely to cause a significant reduction in the likelihood of survival or recovery of the species; and	Section 8.0
(g) The applicant's proposed monitoring program, if any, for impacts to threatened and endangered species.	Section 9.0
EFSC 2-2025, amend filed 04/02/2025, effective 04/02/2025	

Figure



Speedway Energy Facility

Figure H-1
Analysis Area for
Threatened and
Endangered Species

SHERMAN COUNTY, OR

- Facility Site Boundary
- Analysis Area (5 mile buffer)
- City/Town
- County Boundary
- US Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Local Roads
- Stream
 - Perennial Stream (NHD)
- Areas Not Surveyed
 - To Be Surveyed for Botanical Resources in June 2026
 - Area Will Not Be Developed



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