



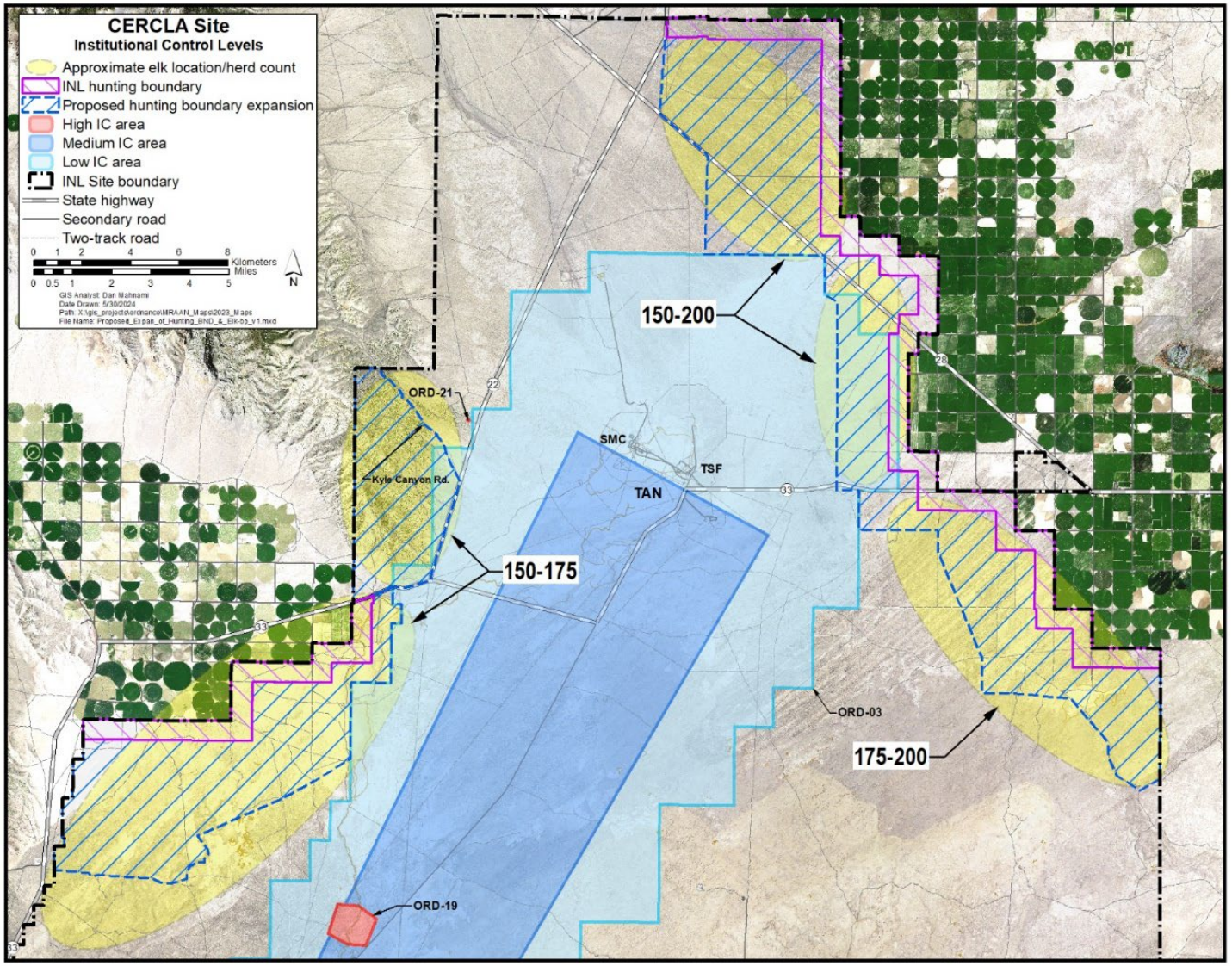
Expansion of Public Hunting Boundaries at the INL Site

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Current and Proposed Hunting Boundaries



History of Hunting on the INL and Basis for Boundary Expansion

- Hunting on the INL first occurred in the late 1980s in response to crop depredation surrounding the INL Site. DOE agreed to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) having an emergency depredation hunt to target problem animals through an MOA
- Following the initial emergency depredation hunt, IDFG and DOE coordinated annually to address specific problem areas. Due to continued, ongoing depredation issues, annual hunts within IDFG-prescribed seasons were authorized by DOE beginning in 1990
- Public hunting has been allowed within the areas allowed by the RODs since then and beginning in 1996 in the NW corner of the INL Site in Kyle Canyon
- IDFG initiated dialogue with DOE-ID in 2022 regarding a significant increase in damage claims in areas adjacent to the INL that had gained congressional interest
- Based on those initiating discussions, IDFG formally requested in 2023 that DOE-ID consider expanding the hunting boundary

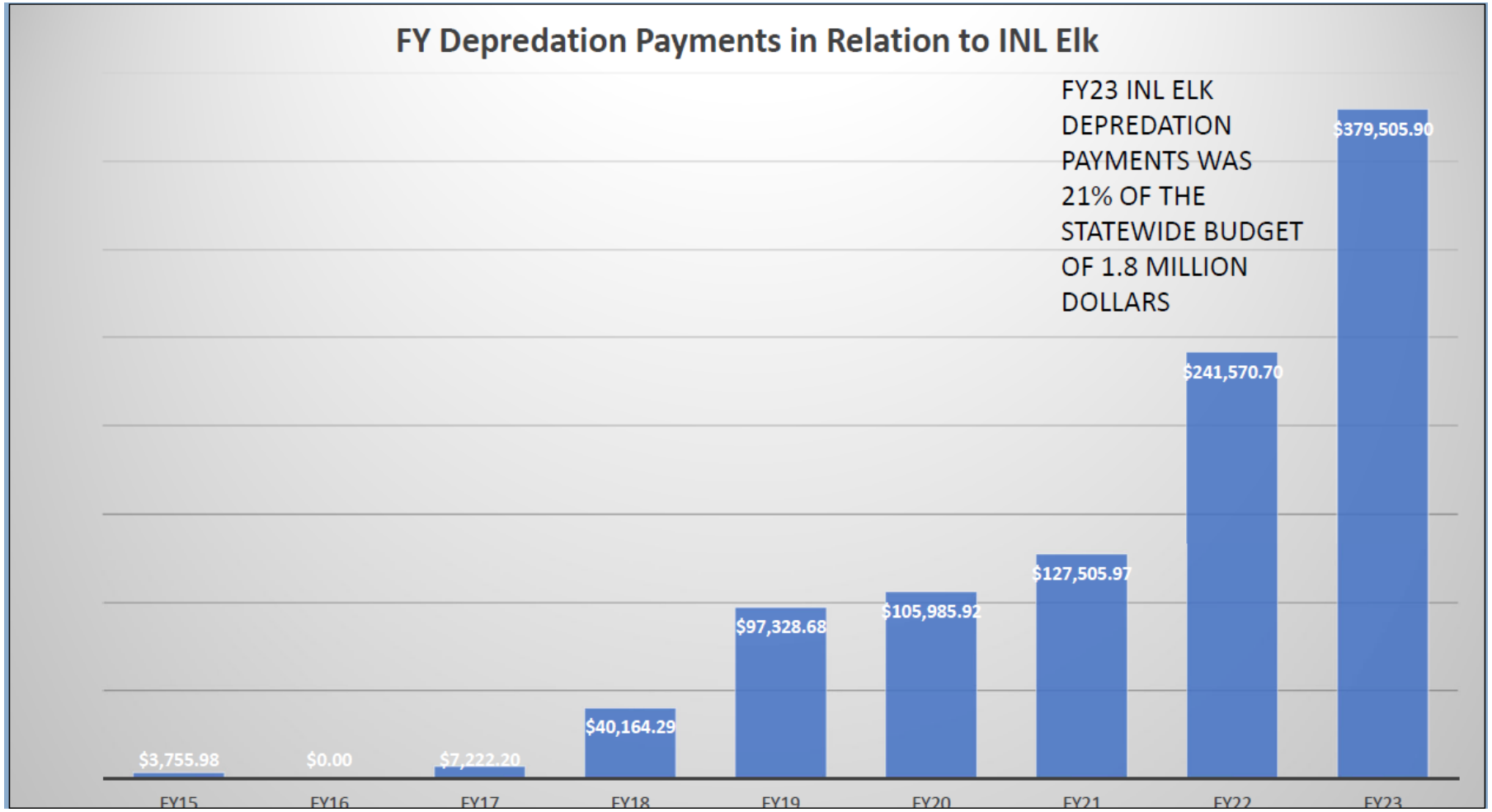
Depredation Claims

- Depredation claims from land-owners adjacent to the INL have increased annually and are primarily attributable to elk (and to a lesser degree pronghorn)

- In FY2023 the IDFG paid $379,505 to these agricultural producers due to losses by big game refuging on the INL site
  - This represents 21% of the total statewide depredation compensation budget
  - The figure does not represent total damages as individual claims are limited to 10% of total fund

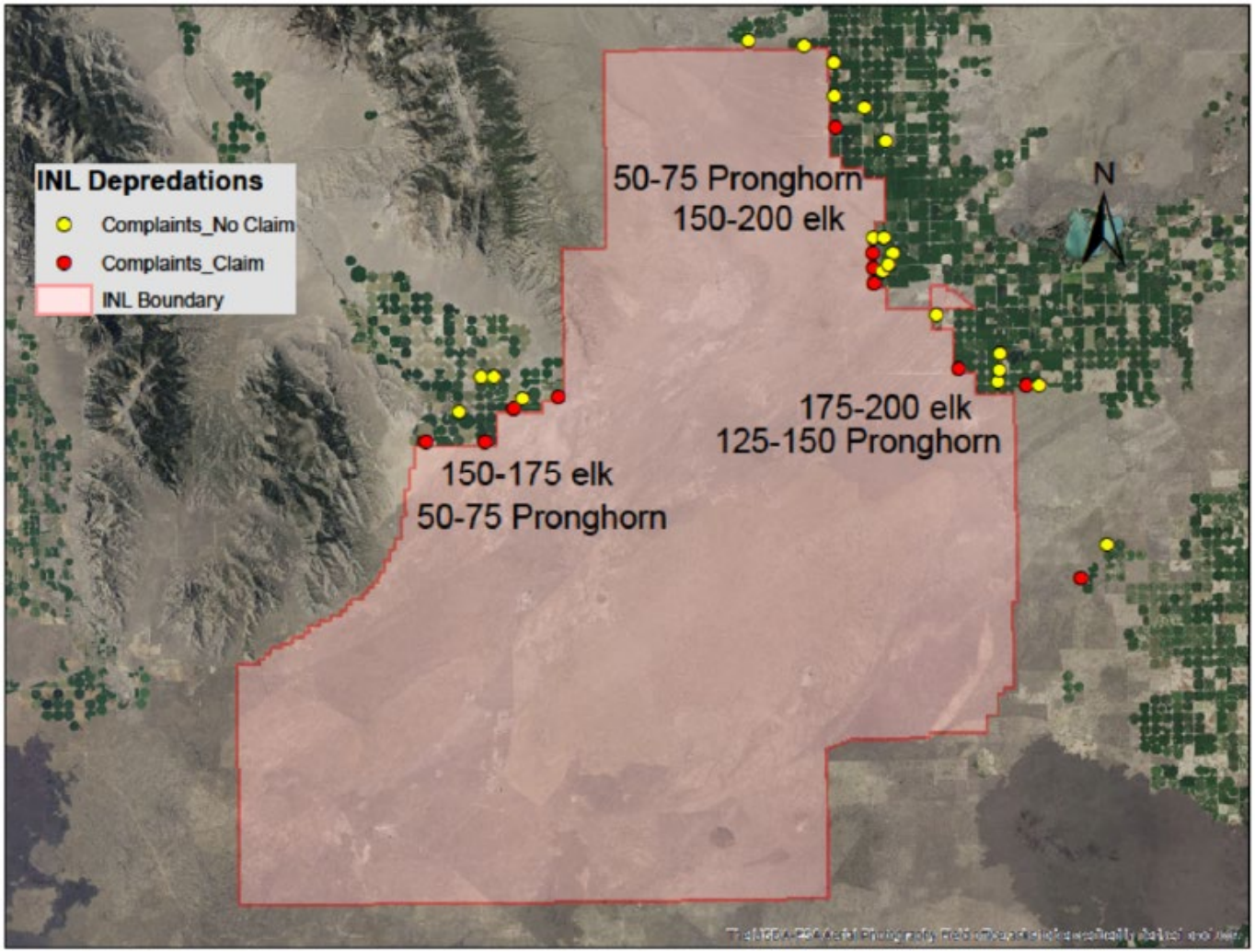
- In addition to monetary compensation, IDFG provided the following to reduce damage to standing and harvested crops:
  - 3,200 feet of metal panels
  - 12,000 feet of Tensar netting
  - Significant manpower to haze elk from agricultural fields

IDFG Depredation Payments



Depredation Complaint Locations

Major Elk and Pronghorn Complaints Resulting in Claims vs. No Claims FY18-FY23



Boundary Expansion Goals

- Elk herds using the INL have become largely nocturnal in nature, leaving the site after legal hunting hours and returning before legal hunting hours
- The goal of expanding the hunting boundaries within the INL is to reduce crop depredation by:
  - Increasing the harvest of problem animals to reduce the overall population
  - Modify the behavior of the herds through increased hunting pressure to encourage the elk to find an alternate food source closer to areas that provide them security
- Similar situations have occurred on other private lands and refuges (e.g., Camas Creek National Wildlife Refuge) where increased hunting access has been successful in the reduction of depredation claims on the surrounding lands

Hunting Season Structure

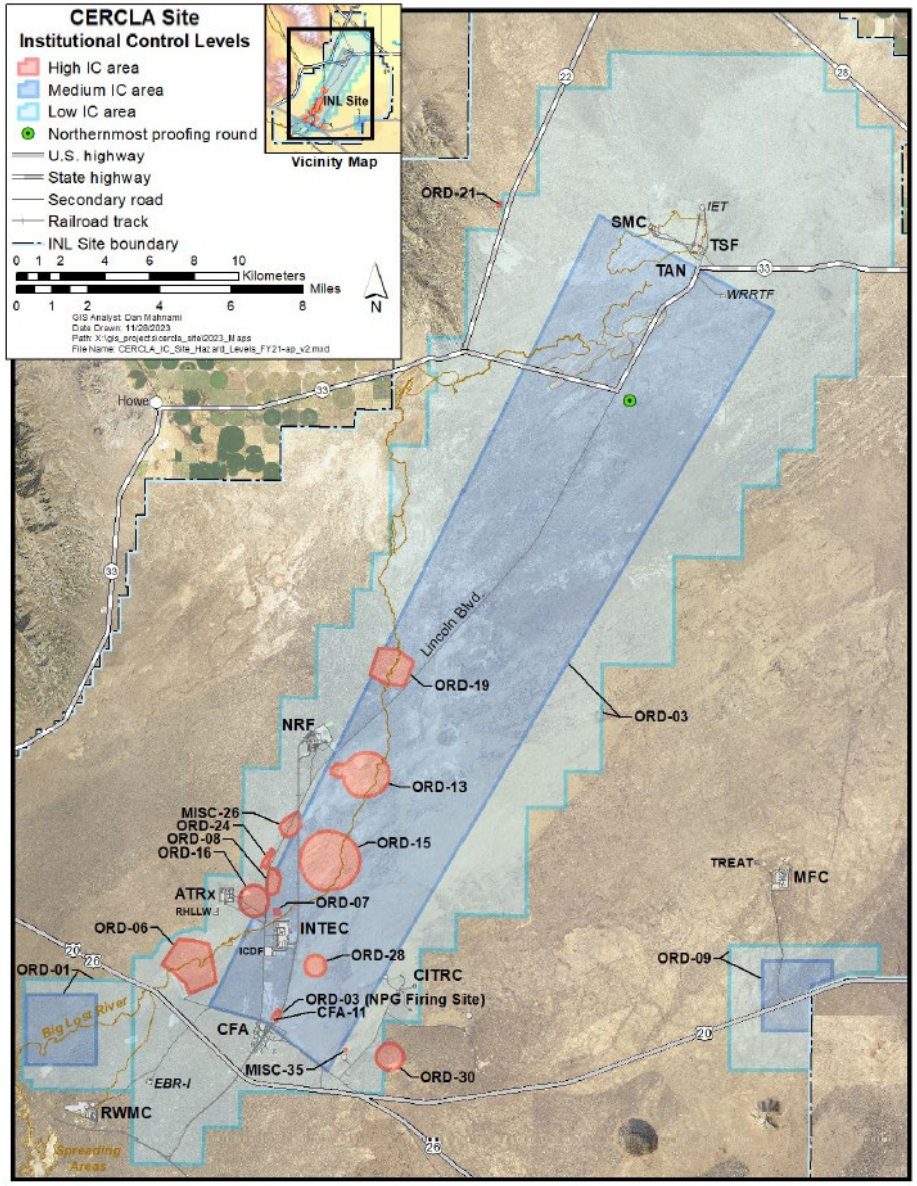
- Hunting on the INL is allowed due to depredation issues on surrounding agricultural land and is currently limited to elk and pronghorn
  - Hunting of all other species is prohibited, even during open seasons prescribed by IDFG
- Public hunting will be allowed on the INL in accordance with the season structure determined by IDFG
  - In 2024, all elk and pronghorn hunts in the hunting units that include the INL are administered as controlled hunts where hunters must apply for tags during an application period ending in early June
    - There are seven different controlled elk hunts offered in 2024 including either sex and antlerless-only tags with varying season dates to maintain pressure on the elk and to maximize hunter success, including the opportunity for a second tag to allow hunters to harvest two elk
    - In addition, IDFG can issue landowner permission hunt slips or emergency kill permits and institute an Emergency Depredation Hunt (typically outside of hunting seasons)

CERCLA Impacts

- CERCLA Records of Decision (RODs) (10-04, 4-13, 5-12, and 1-10) currently indicate:
  - Hunting is allowed for the purposes of reducing depredation on surrounding agricultural lands
  - Public hunting access is limited to ½ mile within select areas bordering agricultural lands on the northeast and western INL Site boundaries
- An Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) is used to make changes to CERCLA Records of Decision (ROD)s that do not substantively affect the CERCLA Remedy
- An ESD has been prepared to document proposed changes to four CERCLA Records of Decision
  - 4-13 ROD, 5-12 ROD and 1-10 ROD changes are only administrative and do not impact remedy
  - 10-04 ROD changes impact remedy for Institutional Controlled Area for Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC)
    - change land use to allow access
    - Implement additional institutional controls

CERCLA Impacts (con't)

- A portion of the expanded hunting boundary is proposed to occur within the outer-reaches of the Naval Proving Ground ordnance site (identified as ORD-03 in the 10-04 ROD)
- Munitions Areas were cleared as part of the CERCLA remedy, however these sites will remain under institutional controls



Boundary Expansion Details

- Current INL Hunting area defined in the ROD:
  - Overall: **20.4 square miles**
  - Within ORD-03: **0.9 square miles**

- Proposed Increase:
  - Overall increase: **79.8 square miles**
  - Increase within ORD-03: **7.8 square miles**

- **Total Proposed INL Hunting Area**
  - Overall: **100.2 square miles**
  - Total area within ORD-03: **8.7 square miles**

Safety Measures and UXO Hazard Mitigation Plans

- To ensure the safety of public hunters from potential ordnance hazards, intuitional controls will be implemented
- DOE will determine the appropriate controls, which will documented in the agency-approved (USEPA, IDEQ) Institutional Controls/Operations and Maintenance Plan
- Controls will include:
  - Ordnance training as a pre-requisite for accessing the INL
  - Signs and postings
  - Other controls to be developed with consultation of INL Site Security, Fire Protection, Cultural Resources, and Environmental Safety and Health, to ensure the public adheres to the same requirements and are offered the same level of protection as INL Site workers
- Requirements hunters must adhere to will be defined in an INL-specific pass issued to each hunter by the IDFG as a condition of their permission to hunt on the INL

Schedule

- Tribal Consultation held September 4, 2024
- ESD issued for public comment – Fall 2024
- CAB Briefing – October 23, 2024
- ESD Final –2025