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## Request for Proposals Middle Mile Dark Fiber Optic Build Design and Engineering

### MODIFIED

**Issue Date: October 28, 2022**  
**Re-Issued: November 11, 2022**

The Port of Lewiston will receive and publicly open clearly marked proposals for the design and engineering of an approximately 95-mile middle-mile dark fiber optic line in north-central Idaho from the City of Moscow to the City of Grangeville.

**Proposals that address and comply with the RFP packet requirements are to be delivered, mailed, or submitted electronically to:**

Port of Lewiston  
Attn: Scott Corbitt  
1626 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Lewiston, ID 83501  
[scott@portoflewiston.com](mailto:scott@portoflewiston.com)

**no later than 5:00 PM PST, December 8, 2022.** Proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud on or about December 9, 2022, at 9:00 AM Pacific Time, at the Port of Lewiston conference room in Lewiston, Idaho.

The Port of Lewiston reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. Awarding of the project is contingent upon the negotiation of a Professional Services Contract. Note that this project is part of a grant through the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Questions regarding this RFP, clarifications, or concerns should be directed to Scott Corbitt, General Manager, by emailing [scott@portoflewiston.com](mailto:scott@portoflewiston.com) or by calling 208-743-5531 **at least two business days before the deadline.**

View and download entire RFP packet, instructions, and details at <https://portoflewiston.com/our-port/contract-services/>

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## **Project Summary and Background**

The Port of Lewiston has been awarded grant funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to build an approximately 95-mile fiber optic line to serve north central Idaho. This project will create a dark fiber connection from Latah County beginning in Moscow, continuing south to Lewiston in Nez Perce County, and terminating in Grangeville after passing through Cottonwood in Idaho County.

For the past 8 years, the Port of Lewiston has been responsible for the construction and administration of a dark fiber optic network. The Port has approximately 50 miles of fiber lines within Nez Perce County, Idaho. This existing fiber network serve multiple internet service providers that provide internet service to numerous businesses, organizations, and locations.

The route being funded through the EDA runs through diverse terrain – north central Idaho is known for its challenging topography, which has contributed to the lack of backbone broadband infrastructure in the region. Elevation ranges from 733 ft above sea level to 8,300 ft in the Clearwater Nez Perce National Forest. There are 29 municipalities in the region with an average size of less than 1,000 people – primary population centers are in the river valleys and on the Palouse and Camas prairies.

The region is dominated by the Snake River that creates the western border and the Clearwater River tributaries and the Salmon River that cut through the region. Except for the deep rich soils of the prairies, the terrain is very rocky. Much of the region is forested. The rock, trees, sudden elevation changes, and the very rural nature of the region make it a uniquely challenging area to build an effective telecommunication system. This grant-funded route also traverses the Nez Perce Tribe Reservation.

The purpose of this project is to create critical segments of an open access fiber network that is not currently available to serve our communities or the region. The network will substantially increase affordable, reliable high-speed internet access for business, education, healthcare, public safety, local government, and residents. It will also provide a redundant pathway within the region.

### **1. Scope of Work**

#### **Design and Engineering**

Design and engineer an approximately 95-mile dark fiber optic connection in at least three (3) segments:

- Segment 1: Moscow, Idaho to Lewiston, Idaho (~35 miles)
- Segment 2: Lewiston, Idaho to Cottonwood, Idaho (~50 miles)

- Segment 3: Cottonwood, Idaho to Grangeville, Idaho (~13 miles)

For reference, see initial proposed routes at the end of this document. Additional details below, include:

- Segment 1: Begins at the Latah County Courthouse and terminates at the northeast end of Memorial Bridge in Lewiston.
- Segment 2: Begins at the intersection of Powers Ave and Reservation Line, or Powers Ave and 28<sup>th</sup> St, in Lewiston and ends at either of the two locations in Cottonwood – Idaho County Fairgrounds or Joint SD 242.
- Segment 3: Begins at either of the two locations in Cottonwood, Idaho County Fairgrounds or Joint SD 242, and ends at the Idaho County Courthouse.

### **Costs and Analysis**

Based on the segmented routes above, the successful respondent will also develop a breakdown of costs as well as analysis on potential obstacles to implementation of each segment. Cost and analysis should outline options for buried versus aerial deployments as well as potential alternates with reasoning related to cost-effectiveness, climate resiliency, or other considerations. Underground routes are generally preferred.

### **Project Management**

The successful firm will also include costs associated with and ability to manage construction once successfully bid, including aspects of project management like preparing documents for bid, meeting with Port staff to review materials, construction oversight, permitting, and review of builds.

## **2. Project Deliverables**

The successful respondent will complete all work necessary to provide the following deliverables for this project:

- At least three (3) separate, standalone designed and engineered routes
- Documents including narratives and maps outlining costs and analysis
- Aerial and underground design and construction drawings, including last mile connection points
- Pole attachments and right of way acquisitions where applicable
- Preparation of construction bid documents and participation in any pre-bid or pre-contract meetings
- Construction-ready files for each route, including KMZ (required) and any other optional supplementary ESRI Shapefile, GIS, or other industry-standard formats

- Construction process oversight
- Review of as-builts and ability to provide GPS data of as-built system if requested
- Permitting documentation as required
- Accompanying presentation of results / above deliverables when work is complete

Final project deliverables will be decided during negotiation with the successful respondent and outlined in the final contract.

### **3. Anticipated Project Schedule**

Oct-Nov 2022:	RFP is sent to potential respondents
December 2022:	Responses to RFP are reviewed and top respondents are chosen (or all responses are rejected)
January 2022	Presentations from finalists (optional)
January 2022:	Contract is negotiated with the successful respondent
February 2023:	Begins project design and engineering
September 2023:	Complete project design and engineering

### **4. Request for Proposal Requirements**

All respondents to the RFP must include the items provided in the following list. All listed items should be addressed completely and should follow, as closely as possible, the order and format in which it is listed below. While we expect respondents to be thorough in their responses, we also expect you to be concise. Please limit proposals to no more than 10 pages, not including additional pages for examples of previous projects or staff resumes.

The categories and criteria listed below will be a major consideration in the evaluation and determination of the most qualified and capable firm(s). The sequence of the listing is not intended to reflect the relative weight of each category.

- Letter of Submittal
  - o Statement indicating an understanding of the work to be performed and interest in performing the scope of work.
  - o Discussion of consultant's availability to complete the project.
  - o Identification of key contact person for communicating with the Port on the proposal and all project-related matters.
- Qualifications
  - o Areas of specialization and business philosophy
  - o Years in the business and history of staff and consultants
  - o Experience with federally funded grant projects

- Project Portfolio
  - Examples of two (2) to five (5) projects the respondent took a lead role on. Projects should be comparable in complexity, size, and scope.
- Project Management
  - Introduction to the team (all staff and sub-contractors assigned to complete work on the project).
  - Services and functional roles to be performed by each team member, including all sub-contractors.
  - Location of each team member.
- Methodology and Process to Complete all Phases of Project
  - Describe the strategic overview and approach of the project.
  - Express how the project components and description reflect or align with your qualifications to successfully complete the project.
  - Include detailed descriptions of the procedures and methods you propose to use to complete all tasks within the scope of work.
  - Discuss tasks, timelines, and anticipated deliverables for each phase of the project.
  - Include the proposed process and methods to assure quality, cost, and schedule control.
- References
  - List of three (3) to five (5) references we may. References will ideally be from the list of similar example projects undertaken within the last five (5) years. Client information should include current email address and phone number.
- Schedule
  - Provide a proposed detailed project work schedule with a start date in February 2023 (contingent upon negotiation of a final scope of work and contract) with all meetings that need to be scheduled built into the timeline.
  - Include timeframes for each major component of the scope of work and target dates for completing each phase of the project.

## **5. Selection Procedure**

The Port of Lewiston will utilize a qualifications-based selection process in determining a successful respondent that will assist with this project. Respondents will be evaluated on their

background, experience, and expertise in preparing design and engineering for long-haul fiber optic routes that are similar to this project. The Port will also review the respondents' abilities to meet schedules, comply with federal grant guidelines, and work effectively within the budget limitations. As such, respondents will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Project Understanding	25 points
- Qualifications and Past Performance	25 points
- Project Approach	25 points
- Project Schedule	25 points
Total:	100 points
- Bonus: Regional Familiarity	10 points
- Bonus: Presentation (upon invitation)	10 points

Responses must be submitted in the manner and format set out in the instructions at the beginning of this RFP. Once proposals have been preliminarily evaluated according to the criteria, the Port of Lewiston may request finalists be invited for further discussion through a presentation.

## **6. General Conditions**

- The Port of Lewiston will not be liable for any pre-contractual expenses incurred.
- The Port of Lewiston reserves the right to withdraw this RFP at any time without prior notice and to reject any and all proposals submitted without indicating any reasons. Any award of contract for services will be made to the firm best qualified and responsive in the sole opinion of the Port of Lewiston.
- The Port reserves the right to negotiate special requirements and service levels using the selected qualification as a basis. Compensation for additional services will be negotiable.
- All responses to this Request for Proposals become the property of the Port of Lewiston. Unless specific information submitted meets the requirements for exemption from public disclosure, the responses that are submitted may be subject to public disclosure per the Idaho Public Records Act; Title 74, Chapter 1 of Idaho Code.
- All documents, records, designs, and specifications developed by the selected firm with regard to this project will be the property of the Port of Lewiston.

## **7. Additional Information**

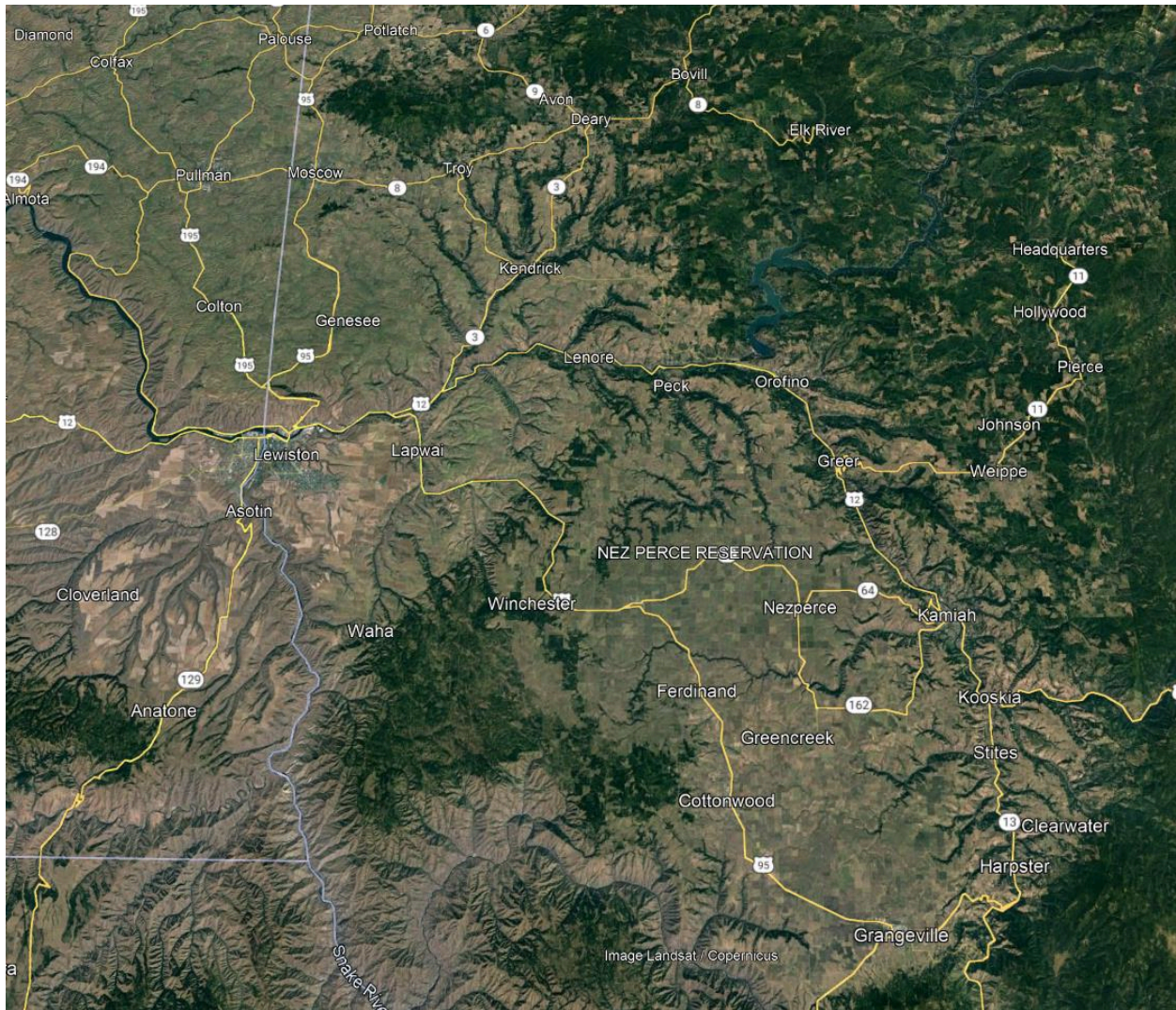
- Find the RFP packet and all information on the Port of Lewiston website:  
<https://portoflewiston.com/our-port/contract-services/>

- Maps and supplemental documents are also attached to this RFP.
- The Port of Lewiston's fiber network can be viewed here:  
<https://portoflewiston.com/our-business/fiber-optic-network/>

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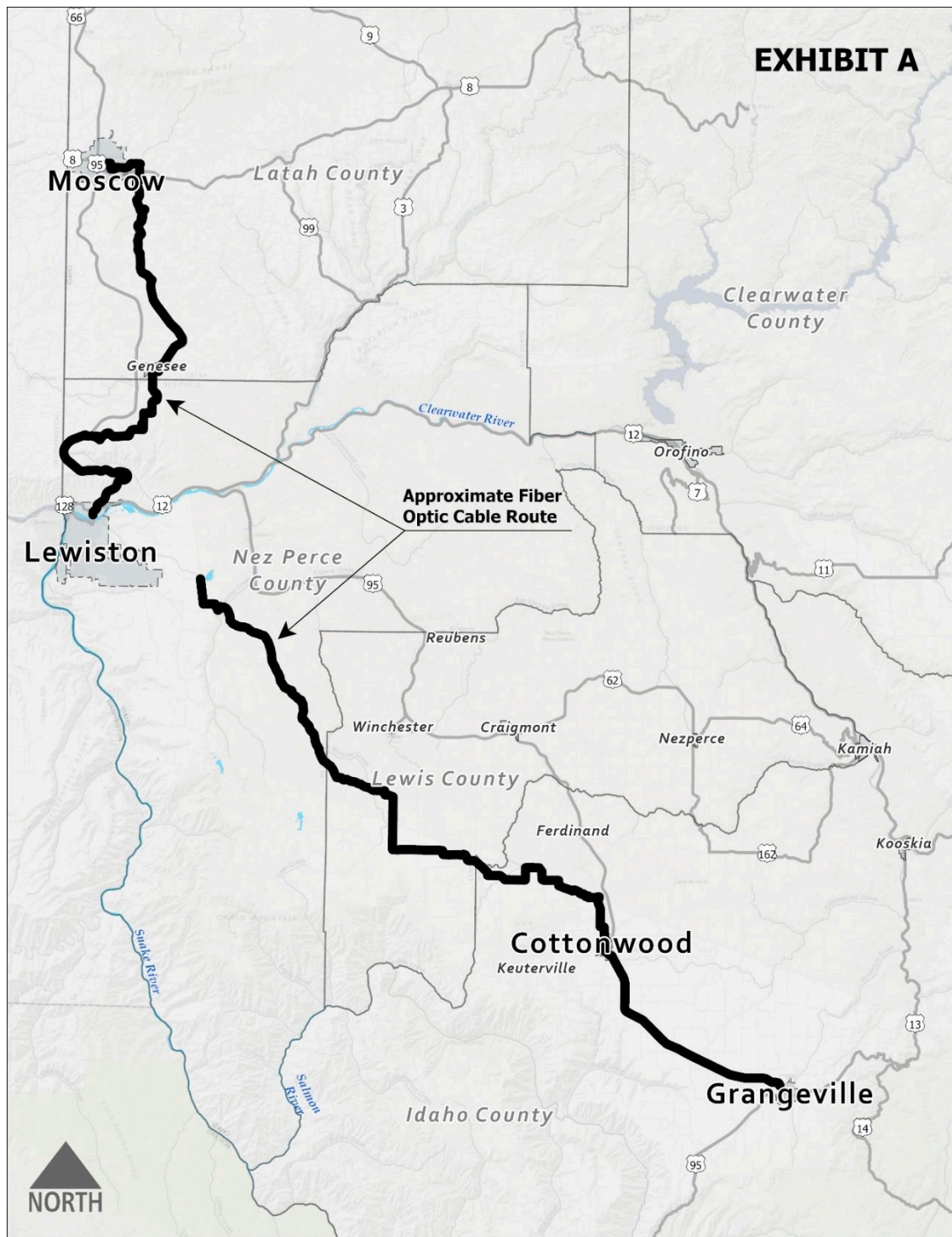


## Map of the Region

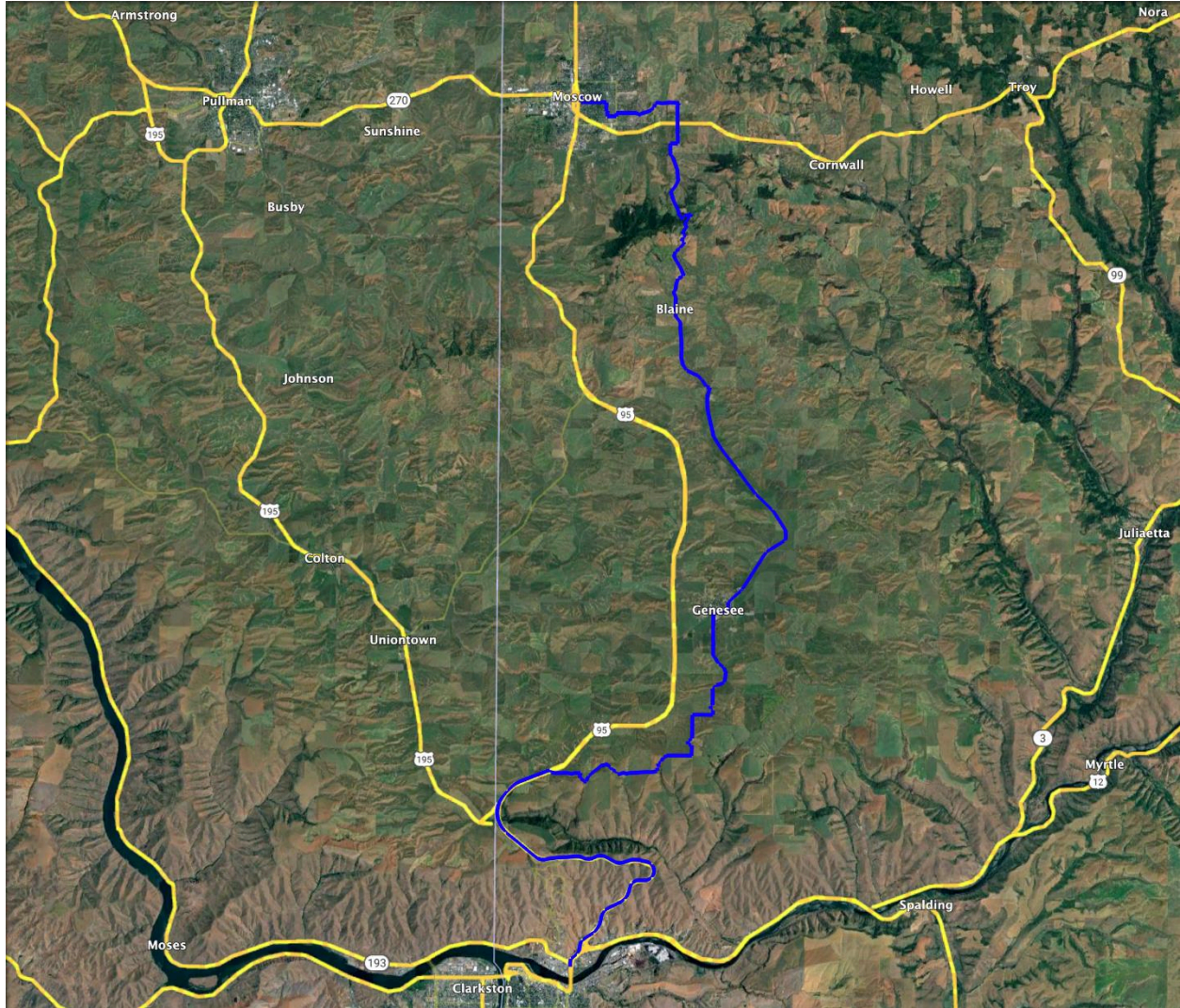




Map with Routes through County Boundaries

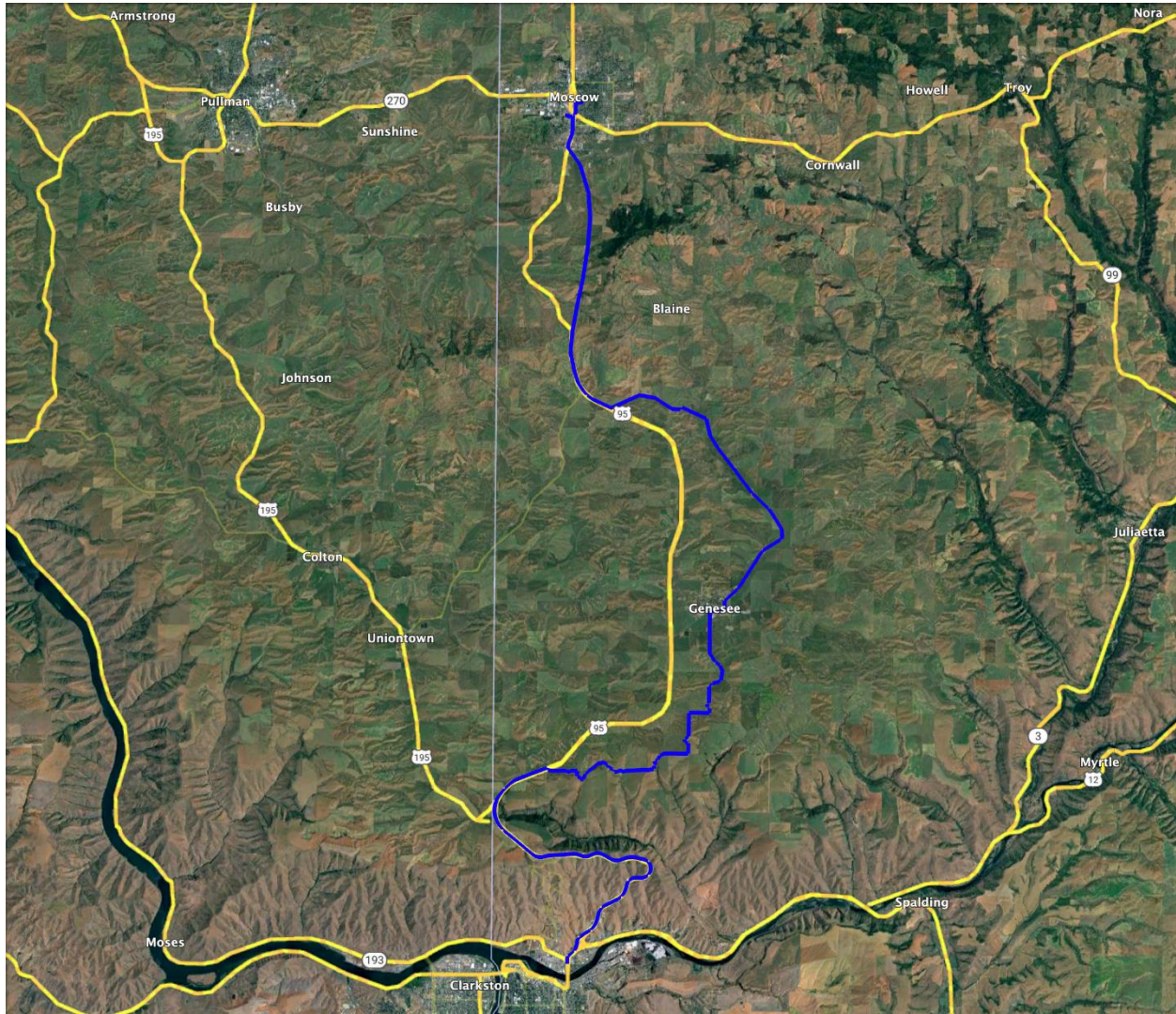


Proposed Route: Moscow to Lewiston, Idaho – Option 1



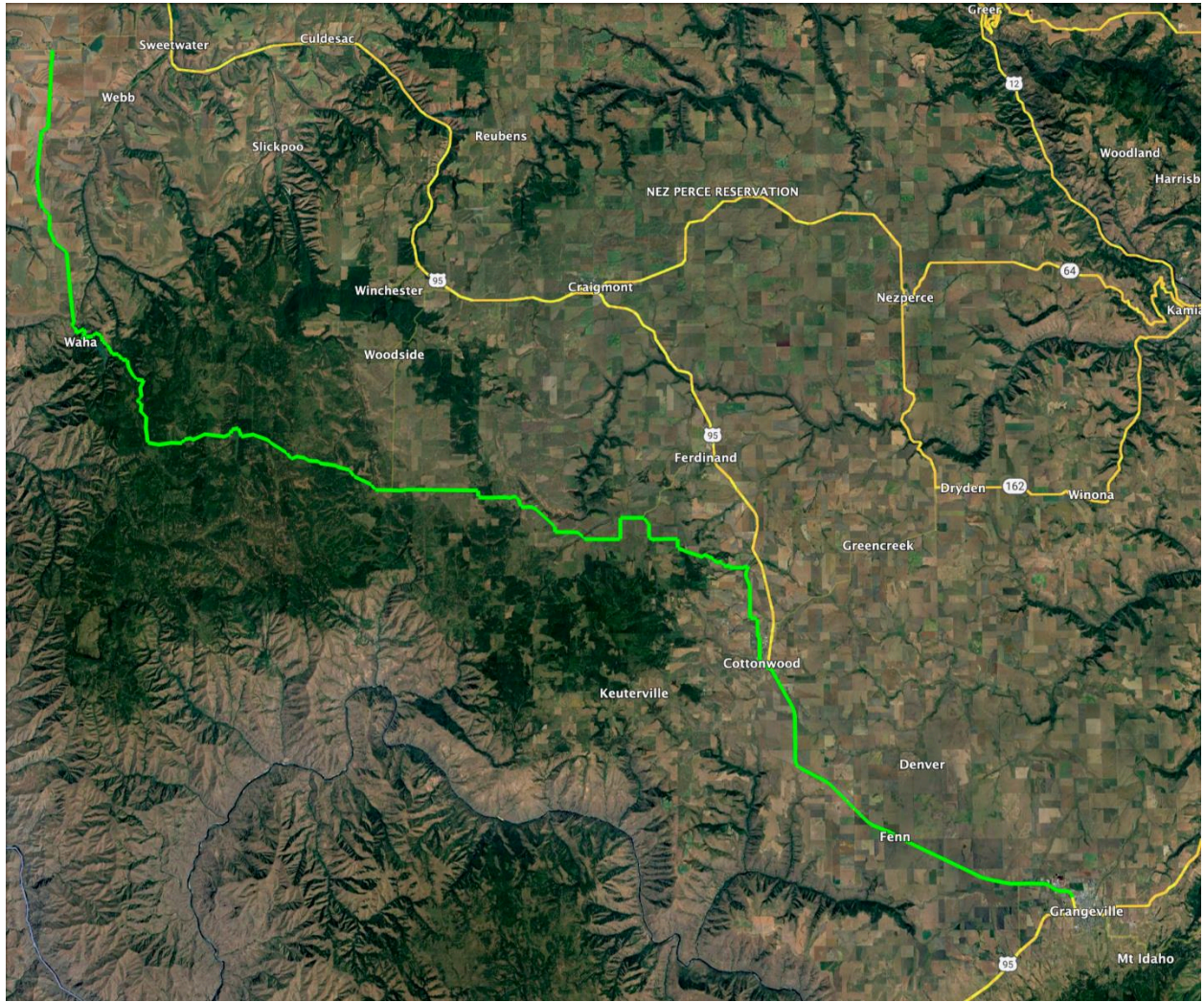


Proposed Route: Moscow to Lewiston, Idaho – Option 2





Proposed Route: Lewiston to Grangeville, Idaho – Option 1





## Proposed Route Lewiston to Grangeville, Idaho – Option 2

