

**B2H Project**  
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# B2H Boardman to Hemingway NEWSWIRE



Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

Issue 2 – Winter 2011

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Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project



The B2H Project is a proposal from Idaho Power to build, operate and maintain a 500 kilovolt transmission line spanning from northeast Oregon to southwest Idaho.

## What's New with the B2H Project?

- Idaho Power submits revised proposed route and alternatives
- ODOE to issue Project Order
- BLM and USFS draft Revised Scoping Report

Visit [www.boardmantohemingway.com](http://www.boardmantohemingway.com) for the latest updates and maps.

## Looking Back at 2010

- Idaho Power selected a new proposed route and alternatives, and submitted revised applications to BLM and USFS.
- Idaho Power submitted a new Notice of Intent to Submit an Application for Site Certificate to ODOE.
- BLM, USFS and ODOE hosted a second series of public scoping and information meetings and a comment period.
- BLM acquired the services of Logan Simpson Design, Inc. to assist in the development of the EIS.
- Idaho Power began preliminary fieldwork (see Idaho Power's Fieldwork Overview insert for more information).

## Project Overview

The Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (B2H Project) is a proposal from Idaho Power to build, construct, operate and maintain a new single-circuit, 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between northeast Oregon and southwest Idaho. The project, which would cross nearly 300 miles of public and private lands in both states, must be approved by federal, state and local agencies.

Idaho Power believes this project is needed to relieve pressure on the existing transmission system, improve reliability and provide additional capacity for delivery between the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain Region.

The B2H Project is engaged in the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) site certificate process led by the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE). It is also advancing through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process being led by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). If the project is approved, Idaho Power anticipates beginning construction in 2013 and operations in 2015.

## Project Status

- As a result of its community advisory process, Idaho Power submitted new application materials to the state and federal agencies in summer 2010. Original application materials were submitted in 2008.
- BLM, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and ODOE reopened the public scoping comment period in summer 2010 following receipt of Idaho Power's revised application documents.
- BLM received a revised application from Idaho Power with recently updated routes in March 2011.
- ODOE will soon issue a Project Order outlining the issues and regulations Idaho Power must address in its Application for Site Certificate (ASC).
- BLM and USFS will publish a Revised Scoping Report this May, and have begun analysis that will be documented in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).



## For Project Information

### Project Website

[www.boardmantohemingway.com](http://www.boardmantohemingway.com)

### Contacts

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#### B2H Project

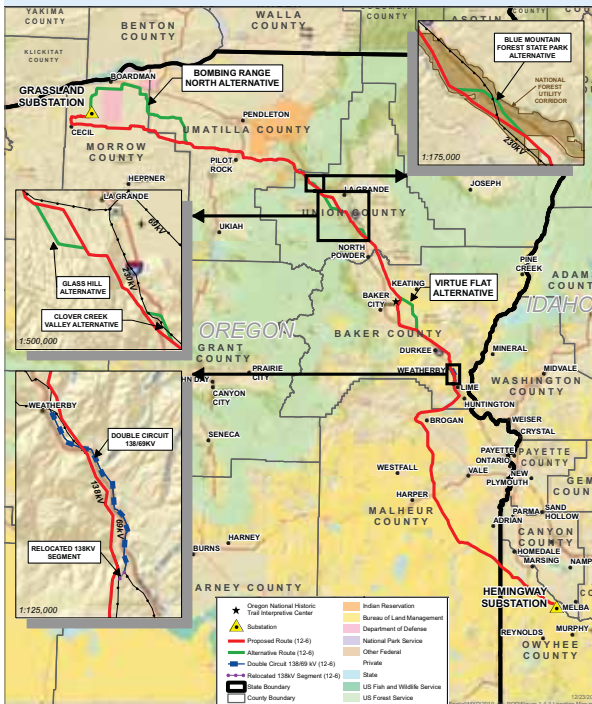
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This newsletter was developed by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Energy to keep you informed about the proposed Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project.

## Idaho Power Submits Revised Proposed Route and Alternatives

Based on public feedback and meetings with landowners, Idaho Power has made changes to its proposed route and alternatives. These changes were officially submitted to the federal agencies in a revised application package in March 2011. The revised routes are shown on the map.

Visit [www.boardmantoohemingway.com](http://www.boardmantoohemingway.com) for the latest route maps.



Overview map showing Idaho Power's revised routes. Detailed maps are available on the project website.

## State and Federal Review Update

### ODOE to Issue Project Order

Following review of comments submitted by the public, agencies and Tribes, ODOE will soon issue a Project Order which will outline the issues and

regulations Idaho Power must address in its ASC. In addition, it will also define specific impact analysis areas Idaho Power will need to consider for the ASC.

ODOE anticipates Idaho Power will submit its preliminary ASC later this year, initiating the next phase of agency review. ODOE, serving as staff to the EFSC, will review Idaho Power's preliminary ASC using state siting standards, public and agency comments, and applicable regulations. Once deemed complete, ODOE will solicit public comment on the application.

### BLM and USFS Draft Revised Scoping Report

BLM and USFS are drafting a Revised Scoping Report summarizing the comments received during the 2008 and 2010 public scoping periods, as well as the comments submitted during Idaho Power's community advisory process. The federal agencies anticipate public availability of the report in May.

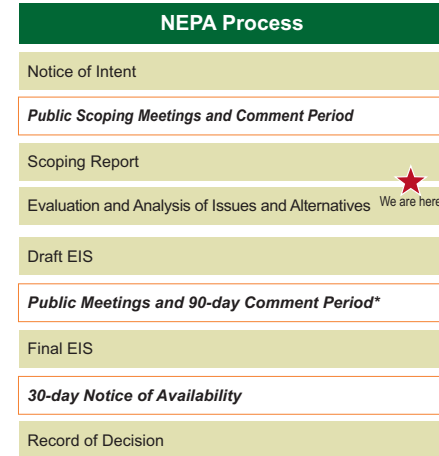
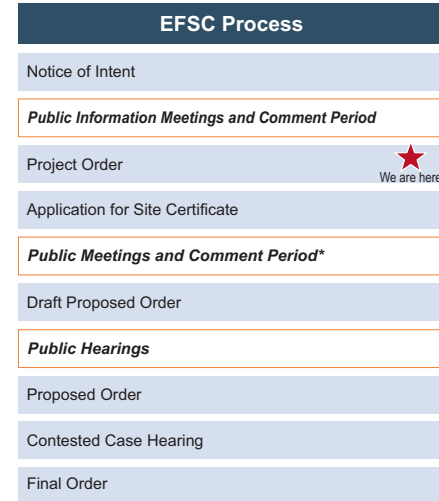
The federal agencies are using these comments to identify specific issues and a range of reasonable alternatives to evaluate in the draft EIS. Over the next year, the federal agencies, with input from cooperating agencies, will evaluate Idaho Power's proposal and the range of reasonable alternatives for potential impacts to environmental, social and economic resources.

### Coordinating Public Participation Opportunities

With separate state and federal review processes underway, the agencies are meeting regularly to discuss opportunities for coordination and to ensure the public knows when and how to participate. The joint public scoping and information meetings held in 2010

represent a first step. At this time the agencies anticipate a similar coordinated approach after the ASC and draft EIS are completed (see agency process diagrams). Look for more information later this year.

## Navigating the EFSC and NEPA Processes



Orange/white boxes indicate public participation opportunities.

\*Next potential opportunity for joint state and federal public participation activities.

## Recap: Summer 2010 Scoping and Information Period

On July 16, 2010, the BLM, USFS and ODOE reopened the public scoping and information comment period. The agencies co-hosted eight public meetings in August to provide the public with an update on the project and solicit comments on Idaho Power's revised proposal. The comment period concluded on September 27, 2010.

### Summer 2010 comment period facts:

- Over 225 meeting attendees
- Over 300 public comments submitted
- Over 900 community advisory process comments submitted by Idaho Power

### Thank you for your input!

BLM, USFS and ODOE appreciate your comments about the B2H Project. Your comments are helping the state and federal agencies develop their separate review documents.

Comments covered a spectrum of topics:

- Potential changes to Idaho Power's proposed routes.
- Specific resources requiring detailed analysis, such as sage grouse, big game and fish.
- Effects on public and private property, such as historic and pristine viewsheds, agriculture and livestock operations, and recreation.
- Specific historic and cultural resources, including the Oregon National Historic Trail.

While this early comment period has concluded, the agencies encourage you to stay involved in the project.

## Stay Involved

Public participation is a key component in both the state and federal review processes. Sharing your local perspective on the project helps the agencies make better, more informed decisions.

The agencies are committed to notifying the public about these opportunities each step of the way.

Stay tuned for updates on the release of key milestone documents, formal comment periods and public meetings!



# Fieldwork Overview

## Types of Fieldwork

Idaho Power began requesting right of entry from landowners along the proposed route and alternatives in late 2010 and limited fieldwork began shortly thereafter. In early 2011, crews will begin a much larger effort that will supplement the information already collected. Information on the various types of fieldwork is included below.

### Terrain and Access Reviews

Engineers and surveyors will conduct reviews of the topography and land features, as well as evaluate corridor accessibility from public rights of way, to identify where access roads and landowner permission may be needed. This work should not result in any ground disturbance.

### Cultural Field Surveys

Archeologists will be looking for cultural resources (archeological or historic sites). If cultural resource sites are discovered, archeologists will work with the State Historic Preservation Officers in Idaho or Oregon, and other interested parties, to determine which sites meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Properties will not be listed in the National Register without the permission of the landowner. Crews will work in small teams on foot, and this work should not result in any ground disturbance.

### Biological Field Surveys

Biologists will conduct surveys to classify the types of vegetation and wildlife habitats present along the proposed route and surrounding areas. Biologists also will survey for threatened, endangered, and other sensitive species according to protocols established by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and either Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife or Idaho Department of Fish and Game. These include surveys to determine the presence of specific species or their habitats, for example sage-grouse leks, raptor nests and Washington ground squirrel colonies. Because different species require specific survey protocols, work could occur throughout the day and night and require ground or aerial access. Biological resource reports will be reviewed by appropriate federal and state agencies. Crews will work in small teams, and surveys should not result in any ground disturbance.



Fieldwork operations for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (B2H Project) are set to continue along Idaho Power's proposed route and alternatives in spring 2011. Contractors hired by Idaho Power will gather a variety of data to continue development of a line route. Fieldwork operations will include terrain and access reviews, cultural field surveys and biological field surveys, using both ground and aerial surveying techniques.

Although a final line route cannot be determined until the federal and state agencies complete their respective reviews, the data gathered from this fieldwork will inform the agency processes and help determine a final location. Initially, fieldwork will take place along the proposed route and alternatives Idaho Power has proposed. Additional work along alternatives identified during the federal review process may be necessary.

Please visit the project website fieldwork page for additional information and updates:

[www.boardmantohemingway.com/  
idaho\\_power\\_fieldwork.aspx](http://www.boardmantohemingway.com/idaho_power_fieldwork.aspx)

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Why is Idaho Power asking permission to enter my property?

Contractors have been hired by Idaho Power to gather a variety of data to continue development of a line route. Collected information will be used by Idaho Power to refine the proposed route where necessary and will be used by the Bureau of Land Management and the Oregon Department of Energy in their permitting processes.

## Does this mean the transmission line will be on my property?

No, the project is in the early stages of development and the data gathered will be used in determining the exact line route. As a starting point, this work is being done along the line routes Idaho Power has proposed. Additional work, along alternatives identified as part of the federal permitting processes, may be required.

## How will landowners be notified?

Upon receiving permission to enter your property a representative will notify you at least 24 hours before any fieldwork begins. Field crews will also be informed of any special conditions that need to be considered (e.g. locked gates, agriculture operations).

## What if my property is damaged?

Idaho Power will make every effort to minimize impacts to private property and will repair any damage caused by this work. Idaho Power does not anticipate that any damage will occur because the work will not include any ground disturbing activities or heavy equipment. Crews will access your property on foot or use all terrain vehicles (ATVs), snowmobiles, and four-wheel drive vehicles to gain access to locations.



## Will you leave markers on my property?

Land surveyors will need to set control monuments along the proposed project corridor; however, no monuments are planned on private land at this time. These monuments will consist of a 24-inch long anchored galvanized steel spike with a 2-inch diameter aluminum cap. A standard steel fencepost will also be set alongside each monument for easy location and recovery. Once these monuments have been established and set in place, a GPS base unit will take a reading over each one to establish precise positions and coordinates. These control monuments will then remain in place indefinitely to allow for precise and repeatable control positioning for Idaho Power as long as the transmission line is in use.



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