

NEPA Process

National Environmental Policy Act Process (NEPA)

- Federal process requiring agencies to consider impacts to natural, cultural, social and economic resources when making decisions
- Dual purposes:
 - Disclose the environmental effects of an action
 - Inform and involve the public in the agencies decision-making processes
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a major component of NEPA documenting the environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives

What is Considered in the EIS?

- Analyzes potential environmental, social and economic impacts to both public and private lands; however federal authorizations apply only to federally-managed lands
- Considers impacts from the proposed route and a range of reasonable alternatives
- Evaluates ways to avoid, minimize and mitigate the effects of the project
- Uses public comments, field surveys and resource studies in analysis

How will the EIS be used?

- To determine whether to approve or deny Idaho Power's permit applications together with other application requirements
- If approved, permits may include specific terms and conditions and mitigation measures
- Decisions and rationale are documented in individual Records of Decision

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Roles and Responsibilities

Bureau of Land Management

- Lead agency responsible for complying with NEPA and preparing the EIS

Cooperating agencies

- Assist the BLM with the NEPA analysis

Cooperating agencies include:

Federal	U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
Oregon	Department of Energy; Department of Fish and Wildlife; Malheur, Baker, Union, Umatilla and Morrow counties; Owyhee Irrigation District; Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project
Idaho	State of Idaho; Canyon, Payette and Washington counties; City of Parma; Ten Davis Recreation District; Black Canyon District

Public

- Participate in the scoping process, stay informed and provide comments during scoping and on the draft and final EIS

Idaho Power

- Develop the proposed project and document the project's purpose and need
- Apply to the BLM, USFS, U.S. Department of Navy and Bureau of Reclamation for authorization to construct, operate and maintain the proposed project on federal property

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