

# Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

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## Central Project Advisory Team Meeting Summary

June 4, 2009

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Baker Community Event Center

2600 East Street

Baker City, Oregon 97814

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## Introduction

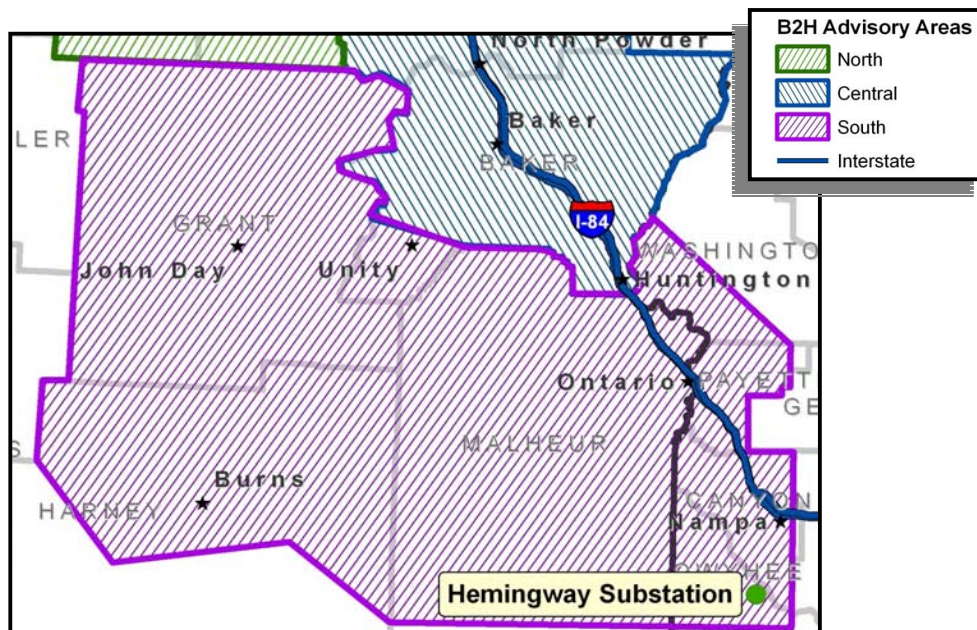
Idaho Power is committed to partnering with communities to identify proposed and alternate routes for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. The initial process of identifying a route began in late 2007 when Idaho Power submitted documents to the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Department of Energy–Energy Facility Siting Council. Following public scoping meetings held in October 2008, these agencies received public input requesting that Idaho Power conduct more extensive outreach while identifying the transmission line route.

In response, Idaho Power initiated a process to engage communities—from Boardman, Oregon to Murphy, Idaho—in siting the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. This process is called the Community Advisory Process (CAP). Idaho Power will conduct a comprehensive and inclusive public process to locate proposed and alternate routes for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project.

The Project Advisory Teams will work closely with technical experts to recommend proposed and alternate routes.

As a part of the CAP, a Project Advisory Team (PAT) has been formed in each of the three geographic project areas: North, Central and South. The three PATs will identify issues and concerns and lead the process of recommending routes. The teams will work closely with technical experts to recommend proposed and alternate routes. Outcomes from the PAT meetings will be presented at public meetings for review and comment.

**This document summarizes the first Central Project Advisory Team meeting held in Baker City on June 4, 2009 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.**



## **Overview**

### **Invitation Process**

Idaho Power developed the initial Central Project Advisory Team (PAT) by:

- Reviewing previous public involvement activities for this project.
- Identifying community leaders.
- Interviewing community leaders for suggested members.

This information was used to assemble a list of invitees, which generally included elected officials, property owners and residents within the Central area. Also invited were representatives from economic development organizations, irrigation districts, businesses, community organizations, resource agencies and advocacy groups. Please see Appendix 4 for the letter of invitation, list of invitees and list of attendees.

During the first meeting, Idaho Power also asked PAT members to identify who was missing from the team. Idaho Power will review these suggestions and add members to the PAT.

### **Central PAT Counties**

The Central PAT includes representatives from the following counties:

- Baker County
- Union County

### **Meeting Agenda and Format**

Idaho Power hosted the first Central PAT meeting in Baker City, Oregon on June 4, 2009, at the Baker Community Event Center.

The meeting objectives were to:

- Review project background, status and the Community Advisory Process.
- Discuss purpose and need for the transmission project.
- Identify community concerns and suggestions.

The following handouts were provided and are available in Appendix 5:

- Agenda
- Idaho Power Company brochure
- A list of Central Project Advisory Team invitees
- Community Advisory Process flowchart
- Handouts about the NEPA and EFSC processes

- “Boardman to Hemingway Newswire” newsletter
- “Boardman to Hemingway Project Advisory Team” PowerPoint presentation
- “For Our Next Meeting” questionnaire
- “Meeting Evaluation” questionnaire

The meeting began with presentations by Idaho Power staff.

- Welcome – Dan Minor, Idaho Power, Senior Vice President of Delivery; Lisa Grow, Idaho Power, Vice President of Engineering & Operations
- Background and Status – Eric Hackett, Idaho Power, Boardman to Hemingway Project Manager
- Community Advisory Processes – Kent McCarthy, Idaho Power, CAP Project Leader
- Purpose and Need – Dave Angell, Idaho Power, Manager of Delivery Planning

After the Idaho Power presentations, the PAT divided into three working groups. The purpose of the working groups was to identify concerns and suggestions for siting the transmission line. Idaho Power staff joined each working group to answer questions. Working groups were limited to 12–14 members and assisted by facilitators.

### **Team Member Input**

In addition to concerns and suggestions, Idaho Power asked team members to evaluate the meeting and the Community Advisory Process. This input will be used to help plan future meetings.

- 41 members attended the meeting.
- 21 members completed the For Our Next Meeting questionnaire.
- 13 members completed the Meeting Evaluation questionnaire.

Idaho Power asked PAT members to identify who was missing from the discussion. PAT members suggested including specific people as well as:

- More landowners.
- Other utility companies that are planning projects.
- Representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife.
- People with knowledge about invasive species.
- More county commissioners.

Idaho Power asked who would be available to help plan:

- Public meetings—9 team members volunteered.
- Mapping sessions—10 team members volunteered.

Idaho Power also gave PAT members two potential dates for the next meeting and asked for availability. The team response was that availability for either June 25 or July 29 was similar. The team members submitted 22 questions on their For Our Next Meeting sheets. These questions are available in Appendix 3.

- When asked to evaluate the meeting, PAT members responded favorably to the current format of smaller working groups. Suggestions for improvement included requests to have Idaho Power representatives provide more in-depth answers and to see information from the South and North Project Advisory Teams.
- The detailed summary of both questionnaires is available in Appendix 3.

## **Presentations**

### **Welcome—Dan Minor, Idaho Power, Senior Vice President of Delivery Lisa Grow, Idaho Power, Vice President of Engineering & Operations**

Dan Minor, Idaho Power, Senior Vice President of Delivery, welcomed participants and thanked them for coming. Minor recently participated in two field trips through Malheur County: one with senior members of the Boardman to Hemingway project team and one with members of the Stop Idaho Power citizens group. After these visits, Idaho Power management recognized that the public didn't feel Idaho Power or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had heard their concerns.

Therefore, Idaho Power decided to implement the Community Advisory Process (CAP). On March 9, 2009, Idaho Power went to Ontario, Oregon, and announced a change in direction. Idaho Power removed the Sand Hollow Substation from the plan and all proposed transmission line routes from the map. The current map begins at the Hemingway Substation near Murphy, Idaho, and terminates at the Boardman Substation. Idaho Power is now looking to this Project Advisory Team (PAT) and the public to help draw the new transmission line route. Involving the public at this level on a project of this size is new for the industry, but Idaho Power knows they need the help of the PAT.

Lisa Grow, Idaho Power, Vice President of Engineering & Operations, continued by noting that the PAT represents different views—some represent the agricultural industry, others want to bring growth and new businesses into the communities, and others are concerned about the environmental impact of the project. Team members need to help Idaho Power develop a reliable source of electricity that remains as inexpensive as possible. Finding a solution will take collaboration from everyone involved and an understanding of other viewpoints. Many think Idaho Power has enough power and that a power shortage is not a current problem. The system Idaho Power has used reliably for years is out of capacity. Additional infrastructure is not only required for growth but to maintain the status quo. Idaho Power is part of the western United States grid and a weakness in one area can cause problems everywhere—Idaho Power is responsible for the reliability of the interconnection. Idaho Power cares about its customers, stakeholders and community members. Grow asked team members to keep an open mind and ask lots of questions throughout the CAP.

Minor concluded by reminding participants that Idaho Power and its management and board of directors are committed to this process and will work with the PAT to site a route that is acceptable to all parties.

### **Introductions and Agenda—Rosemary Curtin, PAT facilitator**

Rosemary Curtin, PAT facilitator, reminded participants that this meeting was being recorded and asked team members to briefly introduce themselves and comment if they desired. Curtin reviewed the meeting's objectives and agenda. A copy of the meeting agenda is available in Appendix 5.

Curtin told the PAT members that a summary of the meeting would be submitted to them for review as soon as possible. She also informed team members that all finalized materials would be available on the project's Web site—[www.boardmantohemingway.com](http://www.boardmantohemingway.com). Curtin also said that the date of the next meeting would depend on feedback from the PAT.

### **Background and Status—Eric Hackett, Idaho Power, Boardman to Hemingway Project Manager**

Eric Hackett, Idaho Power, Boardman to Hemingway Project Manager, introduced himself and delivered a PowerPoint presentation about the background and status of the project. This presentation is available in Appendix 5.

Hackett explained that Idaho Power has proposed building a 300-mile, 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Boardman, Oregon to the Hemingway Substation being constructed near Murphy, Idaho.

Hackett's presentation included information about the following topics:

- Idaho Power is involved in two public processes that evaluate environmental impacts and concerns. The first process began when Idaho Power applied for a right-of-way permit from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and special use permits from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to cross federal lands. These two federal agencies will work together, with BLM acting as the primary agency. The second process began when Idaho Power filed a Notice of Intent to submit an Application for Energy Site Certificate with the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC). This state process examines environmental and land-use zoning effects at a local level with help from sister agencies such as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- In 2006, Idaho Power's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) first identified the need for this project. The IRP identifies a portfolio of projects to guarantee that Idaho Power has the resources to supply energy.
- Idaho Power officially announced the Boardman to Hemingway Project in 2007. At the time, the project scope was slightly different and included the Sand Hollow in-line substation. Once Idaho Power announced the project, the company started collecting data, routing the line and submitting applications and Notice of Intent. The resource agencies held public meetings, and prepared the BLM scoping report. The federal Notice of Intent and right-of-way applications help the federal agencies identify the team who will review

Idaho Power's applications and issue a decision using applicable federal regulations to determine if Idaho Power has sited the line properly.

- Idaho Power worked with public managers from federal agencies and ODOE to develop the public information and scoping meetings. These meetings collected comments from the public and agencies. The BLM issued the scoping report that summarized these comments. In 2009, ODOE issued a Project Order, and in spring 2009, Idaho Power announced the Community Advisory Process (CAP).
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guides the decision-making process of the BLM and USFS. The NEPA process examines environmental impacts and determines the mitigation measures that Idaho Power will have to incorporate. The ODOE will use the EFSC process to obtain input from counties and state agencies to make decisions on state-owned and private land. Both processes are well documented and engage the public.
- Before the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and ODOE application can be published, Idaho Power will complete the CAP. The purpose of the CAP is to collaborate with members of the public, elected officials and private citizens to develop routes to submit to the BLM, USFS and EFSC. At the end of the CAP, Idaho Power will submit an amended right-of-way application to the BLM and USFS. This application will describe the proposed and alternate routes developed by the PATs. Idaho Power will also inform the ODOE of these new routes.
- After the CAP, the BLM will likely re-open scoping and re-publish a revised scoping document. The ODOE will likely re-open their public meetings and issue a revised Project Order. Following the scoping document, the BLM will write a draft EIS that evaluates the alternate routes. Parallel to the EIS, Idaho Power will write the ODOE application.
- Idaho Power will continue to keep the PAT members informed about the state and federal processes.
- All routes are currently off the table, but Idaho Power is still proceeding with actions that are not route specific.

### **Community Advisory Process (CAP) Overview—Kent McCarthy, Idaho Power, CAP Project Leader**

Kent McCarthy, Idaho Power, CAP Project Leader, presented an overview of the CAP. This presentation can be found in Appendix 5. McCarthy explained that Idaho Power has divided the entire area that could potentially be affected by the transmission line into three advisory areas: North, Central and South:

- South Advisory Area – Grant County, Harney County, Malheur County, Washington County, Payette County, Canyon County, Owyhee County.
- North Advisory Area – Morrow County, Umatilla County.
- Central Advisory Area – Union County, Baker County.

McCarthy's presentation highlighted the four steps of the CAP:

1. Identify community concerns and suggestions, which will become the community routing criteria.
2. Develop a range of possible routes that address community concerns and suggestions.
3. Recommend proposed and alternate routes, which will be submitted by Idaho Power to the federal and state agencies.
4. Idaho Power will maintain contact with the PAT during the NEPA and EFSC reviews.

McCarthy then went on to explain what will occur at each meeting:

- *PAT Meeting #1* – The PAT will divide into three facilitated working groups so PAT members can discuss their concerns and suggestions. Idaho Power representatives Dave Angell, Kent McCarthy and Eric Hackett will visit each working group and answer questions.
- *PAT Meeting #2* – A panel of regulatory agencies and Idaho Power representatives will speak to the PAT about environmental and regulatory criteria. Concerns and issues from PAT Meeting #1 will be refined into community criteria.
- *Public Meetings* – Idaho Power will hold a series of public meetings in each of the three advisory areas and ask Project Advisory Team members to help organize these meetings. Results from the PAT meetings will be presented to the public at this point for review and comment.
- *PAT Mapping Sessions* – The PAT will incorporate public input and use regulatory, environmental and community criteria to site alternate routes.
- *PAT Coordinating Teams* – Midway through the process, representatives from the PATs will serve on a coordinating team. The coordinating team will bring together the work of each PAT and ensure that proposed and alternate routes transition smoothly between the three advisory areas.
- *Recommend routes* – The PAT will recommend proposed and alternate transmission line routes. Idaho Power will resubmit applications to the BLM and USFS and the ODOE will continue with its process. Idaho Power will continue to communicate with the PATs throughout the NEPA and EFSC reviews.
- The NEPA process will continue through 2012. Idaho Power may reconvene PAT meetings at this time.

After McCarthy's presentation the PAT facilitator, Rosemary Curtin, reviewed the questionnaire and evaluation forms (Appendix 5) that were included in the packet. She reminded team members that Idaho Power would like assistance with planning the public meetings and mapping sessions. Curtin asked participants to complete the questionnaire and evaluation forms by the end of their working groups or return them by mail as soon as possible.

### **Purpose and Need—Dave Angell, Idaho Power, Manager of Delivery Planning**

Dave Angell, Idaho Power, Manager of Delivery Planning provided an overview of the purpose and need for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. Angell's presentation

included information about the existing transmission system, existing problems, integrated resource planning and regional transmission planning.

The purpose and need presentation included the following information:

### **Transmission Overview**

- Idaho Power generates, transmits and distributes electricity within the Western Electricity Coordinating Council. The power system in the western United States is operated independently of the eastern United States.
- A transmission map of the western system, scaled down to southeastern Oregon and southern Idaho, was displayed. Idaho Power owns and operates a majority of these transmission lines with others, such as PacifiCorp and the Bonneville Power Administration, which own and operate lines as well. Idaho Power is responsible for providing transmission for Idaho Power's customers, electrical cooperative customers, municipality customers, direct service loads, the Bureau of Reclamation generation and independent power producers.
- When Idaho Power first began, hydropower was the primary generation source. As the electrical use grew it was followed by coal-fired plants. These generation sources are not close to the load source; transmission is needed to get the energy from these systems to the users. Recently, Idaho Power has added natural gas, geothermal and wind power generation and expects a substantial amount of wind generation to develop in eastern and southern Idaho.
- Additional transmission lines are needed to move power from available and planned resources to the load. On the western side of Idaho, three 230-kV transmission lines reach into the Pacific Northwest and a single 500-kV line enters southern Oregon. These four lines are important for meeting the electrical needs of customers in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. The electrical use reaches the full capability of the generation and transmission system every summer. Energy demand varies seasonally and Idaho Power's service area experiences peak electrical use in the summer due to irrigation and air conditioning loads. No additional capacity is available during these summer peaks.
- Reliability becomes an issue when peak electrical use occurs in the summer. Many years ago, western utilities identified areas where seasonal needs varied and generators in the west and northwest developed a sharing agreement. This agreement keeps rates low and allows utilities to operate without having to build as many generation facilities. Therefore, if a coal plant on the eastern side of the system can't stay online, Idaho Power replaces that energy from the Pacific Northwest.
- If transmission lines from the Pacific Northwest are full, Idaho Power is not able to replace the missing energy and must reduce the electrical use. Reducing electrical use requires removing service from several of the distribution lines that supply energy to homes and irrigation systems. Idaho Power has previously relied on the disconnection of electrical users to maintain the reliability of the transmission system. These conditions may occur anytime during the summer peak usage until additional resources are available.

- Electrical currents that serve electrical customers in southern Idaho and southeastern Oregon are not the only currents traveling the transmission system. When California experiences peak electrical use, energy is drawn from the Pacific Northwest. Electricity flows based on the path of least resistance, so some of the energy going to California flows around the scheduled path and increases the electrical current on Idaho Power's transmission lines as well.

### **Integrated Resource Planning**

- In the 1990s, Idaho Power began the formal process of integrated resource planning. During this process, Idaho Power examines how the company will reliably meet existing and forecasted electrical use over a 20-year planning period. Idaho Power evaluates both supply (building more generation or transmission) and demand (reducing demand) resources. The purpose is to balance cost, risk and environmental concerns.
- In 2004, Idaho Power submitted an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) that was reviewed by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC). The IPUC mandated that Idaho Power evaluate transmission. Idaho Power incorporated transmission in the 2006 IRP and identified two options that would fit in the preferred portfolio. The first option—originally called the McNary to Locust transmission line, now known as the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Project—was planned as a 230-kV line. The second option was to replace the 230-kV wire on an existing line. If the Boardman to Hemingway Project is built as a 500-kV line, Idaho Power will not have to replace the wires on the second line.
- The 2006 IRP was updated in 2008 to include three projects that are now in service: Raft River Geothermal, Elkhorn Valley Wind Project, and Danskin Simple-Cycle combustion turbine. Two projects are still planned: the 2012 Baseload Resource and the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Project.

### **Regional Transmission Planning**

- The Northern Tier Transmission Group includes several entities that have been working on regional transmission issues. The Northern Tier Transmission Group includes several companies: Deseret Power Electric Cooperative, Idaho Power, Northwestern Energy, Participating Utilities, PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems and public regulators from Wyoming, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Utah.
- The Northern Tier Transmission Group has examined past studies regarding transmission lines, which all agreed that generation in Montana and Wyoming would be useable if transmission lines existed to get the power to the loads. Generation resources are not located in the areas with the greatest loads—Seattle, Portland and Salt Lake City. Proposed transmission lines include lines from Montana, Wyoming and Utah and lines into Washington and Oregon. Coal generation is no longer being considered.
- Several western states have adopted standards for the amount of renewable energy they will include in their portfolios. A national standard of 25 percent by 2025 is expected by the end of the year. Although Oregon and Washington have some renewable projects planned, most

renewable power will come from Montana and Wyoming. New transmission lines are needed to transport this power from areas of generation to areas of need.

### **Regional Transmission Projects**

Several transmission projects are planned for northeast Oregon (all are 500-kV lines unless otherwise noted):

- Bonneville Power Administration is building a line from McNary Dam to the John Day Dam in Oregon.
- Portland General Electric is evaluating a project across Oregon.
- PacifiCorp has a project planned from Hemingway to southern Oregon and a 230-kV line from McNary Dam, Oregon, to Walla Walla, Washington.
- TransCanada has a project planned from Edmonton, Alberta to the Columbia River.
- Another line is planned from British Columbia to northern California.

### **Summary of Purpose and Need Presentation**

As a transmission provider, Idaho Power is obligated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and state commissions to serve electrical users, connect generation and provide for wholesale and interstate transmission uses.

## **Working Groups**

The goal of the working groups was to identify all concerns and suggestions of the PAT members. The outcomes of the working groups will be the development of community criteria. The community criteria will be added to the engineering and regulatory criteria that will be used in the siting process. Three facilitators helped the working groups as they raised concerns and identified suggestions. The three facilitators were:

- Marsha Bracke – Working Group 1
- Fred Kitchener – Working Group 2
- Rosemary Curtin – Working Group 3

Detailed working group summaries and transcribed flipcharts are available in Appendix 1. Idaho Power staff joined each group to answer questions; these questions and answers are transcribed in Appendix 2. Each working group member was given a comment sheet to complete and the transcriptions of these are available in Appendix 3.

## Working Group Comments

The three working groups had overwhelming agreement on the most significant concerns and suggestions for siting the transmission line. The most often-repeated concerns and suggestions are listed below. A more detailed summary of each working group discussion is in Appendix 1.

## Overall Summary

### Concerns

**Participants in all three working groups identified the following concerns with the Boardman to Hemingway project:**

- **Negative impacts to Baker County**
  - *Economic* - Baker County has built an economy based on tourism revenue from the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and scenic beauty of the area. These areas need to be protected.
  - *Agriculture* - Agriculture is a major source of revenue for the area. Valuable farmland should be protected. The line could invite invasive species.
  - *Future lines* – This line could widen the corridor and open the door for future lines and wind farms to be built.
- **Negative impacts to scenic beauty and wildlife**
  - The view shed from the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center should remain unobstructed. Scenic areas should be taken into consideration when siting the line.
  - Sage grouse would be affected.
- **Idaho Power credibility**
  - The community feels that Idaho Power has not provided enough accurate information.
  - Feeling of uncertainty in the community of how Baker County will directly benefit from this line.

### Suggestions

**Participants in all three working groups identified the following suggestions for siting the transmission line:**

- **Take view sheds into consideration.**
- **Avoid building the line anywhere near the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.**
- **Avoid exclusive farm use (EFU) land, private land and irrigated land.**
- **Use existing energy corridors.**
- **Avoid water resources and wetlands.**
- **Site the line on public and federal land.**

## Working Group 1

### Concerns

Working group participants identified the following concerns with the Boardman to Hemingway project:

- **View sheds**
  - The original route would have ruined the view shed from the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.
  - This view should remain the same as when the pioneers first came across the Oregon Trail.
  - People value the scenery and beauty of the Baker Valley.
- **Economic impacts**
  - Baker County's economic strength is tourism.
  - If the line ruins views from the Interpretive Center, Baker County will lose revenue.
  - If the line disrupts productive farmland, revenue will be lost.
- **Impacts to agricultural operations**
  - The original route would have ruined productive EFU land.
  - Noxious weeds – the line will exacerbate this problem.
- **Preservation of historic areas**
  - Original ruts from the Oregon Trail.
  - Keep view sheds unobstructed.
- **Water quality issues**
  - How will Idaho Power mitigate the wetland areas?
  - There are more wetland areas on private land than on federal land.
- **Uncertainty of how landowners will be compensated**
  - What benefits will this line bring to Baker County citizens?
  - Concern that different compensation to different landowners will cause animosity among neighbors.
- **Health concerns**
  - Electromagnetic field could affect humans and animals.
  - High voltage lines could cause cancer.
- **Credibility of Idaho Power**
  - When Idaho Power breaks trust it is hard to rebuild.

- The process needs to be truthful and transparent.
- Opinions that Idaho Power wanted to avoid the federal processes by going through private land.
- **Wildlife**
  - Sage grouse in the area are at risk for being listed on the Endangered Species Act.
  - Effects to big game, elk, birds, etc.

## **Suggestions**

**Working group participants identified the following suggestions for siting the transmission line:**

- Avoid the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.
- Avoid view sheds.
- Avoid historic landmarks.
- Site the line along the least intrusive route to Baker County.
- Site the line on federal and public land.
- Use existing corridors.
- Do not site the line through areas that are inhabited by people.
- Build the line in Idaho.
- Site the line along the OTEC route.

## **Other comments**

- Request for Idaho Power to provide more information about alternative technologies (AC/DC) and green power.
- Request for Idaho Power to provide a cost analysis.
- Request for Idaho Power to provide more information about need for the line.
- Request for Idaho Power to provide more information about health effects.
- Communities should look at developing green power closer to the use areas.

## Working Group 2

### Concerns

Working group participants identified the following concerns with the Boardman to Hemingway project:

- **Negative effects to tourism**
  - Oregon Trail Interpretive Center brings in millions of dollars of revenue to Baker County.
  - Tourists come to Baker County for the scenic beauty of the area.
  - People come to Baker County to see the unobstructed view sheds from the Interpretive Center.
  - People also take scenic drives when they come to Baker County.
  - It is important to preserve historic landmarks in the area (i.e., original Oregon Trail ruts).
- **Negative effects to farmland**
  - The line could limit the amount of useful farmland.
  - Original route was sited through the middle of narrow valleys. This would have ruined the productivity of this farmland in the valleys.
  - The line would limit or prohibit aerial spraying.
  - The line could cause an open pathway for invasive species (i.e., cheat grass).
  - Building restrictions around towers.
- **View sheds**
  - The view shed from the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center should remain unobstructed.
- **Economic impacts**
  - Baker decided to invest in tourism by building the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. This Center is one of the most important economic drivers for the area.
  - Agriculture is the major source of revenue for the area. If farmland is destroyed there will be less revenue.
- **Irrigation**
  - The line would affect pivot irrigation and disrupt the movement of wheel lines.
  - The line could change the flow of irrigation and pipe infrastructure.
- **Health concerns**
  - Idaho Power needs to give more information about health effects.

- People with health concerns may avoid visiting the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center if there is a transmission line near it.
- Effects of electromagnetic fields.
- Risk of leukemia in children and cattle.
- **Honesty of Idaho Power**
  - Uncertainty of whether Idaho Power has the right of eminent domain. And if so, will Idaho Power exercise this right?
  - Opinions that Idaho Power would prefer to build this line on private land.
  - Opinions that Idaho Power has not provided the communities enough accurate information.
- **Land values**
  - Wealthy people want to buy ranches for their aesthetic value.
  - Towers could limit the ability to enjoy wildlife and hunt so people will not be able to sell their ranches.
- **Wildlife**
  - Effects to bird nesting habitats in the wetlands.
  - Protection of sage grouse.
  - Negative effects to elk habitats.
- **Involvement of the federal government**
  - If the communities cannot work with Idaho Power, the federal government will build the line with no public input.
- **Uncertainty of how the line will be maintained**
  - Potential erosion of service roads.
  - Mitigation for wetland areas.

## Suggestions

**Working group participants identified the following suggestions for siting the transmission line:**

- Avoid farmland.
- Avoid view sheds.
- Don't site the line near the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.
- Site the line on federal land.
- Site the line on public land.

- Avoid water resources and wetlands.
- Don't site the line through narrow valleys that have agricultural operations.
- Take historical landmarks into consideration.
- Avoid scenic areas.
- Site the line around Baker County.

## **Other comments**

- Request for Idaho Power to provide a business plan for the project and more financial information.
- Request for Idaho Power to distribute a brochure or handout that specifically addresses health concerns.
- Team members offered to submit additional comments from previous scoping meetings.
- Request for more information about alternative technologies and distributed generation.

## Working Group 3

### Concerns

Working group participants identified the following concerns with the Boardman to Hemingway project:

- **Uncertainty of the benefits this line will have for Baker County**
  - How will this line directly benefit the citizens of Baker County when they are not getting power from it?
- **Idaho Power credibility**
  - Would like transparency in the CAP process.
  - Citizens need access to understandable information (laymen's terms).
  - Citizens need quality, informative answers to questions and concerns.
- **Effects to agriculture**
  - Crop damage.
  - Loss of productive land.
  - Invasive species.
  - Inability to maintain irrigation.
- **View sheds**
  - Protect scenic areas
- **The line will conflict with other utility corridors**
  - Concern that this line will open the route up to future expansion
  - Substations and wind farms will proliferate along the line.
- **Wildlife**
  - Waterfowl migration routes could be affected
  - Sage grouse and other sensitive species
- **Alternatives have not been explored**
  - Technological advancements have not been considered

## Suggestions

**Working group participants identified the following suggestions for siting the transmission line:**

- Avoid exclusive farm use land – consider effects on agriculture.
- Avoid environmentally sensitive areas.
- Consider view sheds.
- Use existing corridors.
- Avoid private property.