

Community Criteria Overview

The *community criteria* are factors that will be considered when determining a route for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line.

The location of the transmission line will have many effects that are of interest to the local communities. A route that is supported by the public and meets the community, environmental, engineering and regulatory criteria will be preferred.

Background

Project Advisory Teams have been formed in three geographic areas – north, central and south – from Boardman, Oregon to Melba, Idaho. The purpose of the Project Advisory Teams is to identify concerns, suggestions and work closely with the public and technical experts to recommend proposed and alternative routes.

The first set of Project Advisory Team meetings were held May 21 (south), May 27 (north) and June 4 (central). At these meetings, team members learned about the purpose and need for the project, work to-date, and how the Community Advisory Process will work. In smaller working groups the teams identified community concerns and suggestions about the project. The community concerns and suggestions identified by Project Advisory Teams have been developed into *community criteria*.

Project Advisory Teams and technical experts will use these community criteria, along with environmental, engineering and regulatory criteria to help site a proposed route and alternate routes for the transmission line.

Central Project Advisory Area Community Criteria

Definitions

- *Placement Opportunities* – The Central Project Advisory Team identified areas for the transmission line that would be preferred by communities in the Central geographic area.

- *Avoidance Areas* – The Central Project Advisory Team identified areas that are important to the communities in the Central geographic area. The communities recommend avoiding these areas when siting a route for the transmission line.

Placement Opportunities	Avoidance Areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing energy corridors • West Wide energy corridor • Public land (federal and state) • Transportation & rail corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land • Irrigated farmland • Bi-secting fields • Aerial spraying activity areas • Rangeland • Scenic view sheds • Areas that have potential for residential and/or business development • Areas of tourism (specifically the Oregon Trail Interpretative Center) • Historic landmarks (specifically the Oregon Trail) • Narrow valleys with agricultural operations • Private resource land (i.e., timber) • Sensitive wildlife areas (i.e., sage grouse leks) • Water resources and wetlands • Schools • Private residences • Medical facilities • Airports • Developed areas for recreation (Wolf Creek, parks) • South La Grande • Powder River Valley • Designated scenic highway routes • High priority noxious weed sites • Below Thief Valley • Howard Meadows area