

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 Grant and Harney counties, as well as in the North, Central and South project areas 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 Grant and Harney counties Project Advisory Team meetings were held November 4 (Harney County) and November 5 (Grant County). 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. 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.

Harney County Community Criteria

Definitions

- *Placement Opportunities* – Project Advisory Teams identified areas for the transmission line that would be preferred by the communities.
- *Avoidance Areas* – Project Advisory Teams identified areas that are important to the communities. 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• I-84 corridor• Areas with potential for wind power• Direct route between Boardman and Hemingway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wildlife habitats<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sage grouse leks• Undeveloped or wilderness land• Riparian areas (strips of land that border creeks, rivers or other bodies of water.)• Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land• Private land• Forests and timberland• Roadless areas

Input collected at public meetings held in Grant and Harney counties supports the community criteria.