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From: EnviroLytical - B2H <info@envirolytical.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 2:27 PM
To: comment@boardmantohemingway.com
Subject: New Communication: 3/16/2015 B2H Transmission Line Project PO Box 655 Vale, OR 97919 Re: DEIS Comments 1.Cultural Impact One of our nat

Ann Mehaffy <mehaffya@gmail.com>
<https://el2.envirolytical.com/communication/view/103091>
 3/16/2015

B2H Transmission Line Project
 PO Box 655
 Vale, OR 97919

Re: DEIS Comments

1.Cultural Impact

One of our nations richest history stories is that of the great migration of the Oregon Trail. From 1843 to 1869, over 500,000 people migrated along this 2200 mile overland route to settle in the West. Baker County has one of the most visible and defined 15 mile stretches of wagon train ruts along that 2200 mile route. One can well imagine that the ruts would be well protected as a Historic Landmark and National Treasure; protected from damage or harm of any nature. The proposed high voltage transmission line towers will be a huge detriment to the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, the extant Oregon Trail ruts, and the accompanying view sheds.

2.Economic Impact

Our Baker Valley and the surrounding hills and mountains are well known for their pristine beauty and uniqueness as preserved culture, history, and lifestyle, as well as endless recreational potential. The Baker County Economic Development Strategic Plan 2014 targeted tourism as having one of the greatest potentials for charging the economy and assisting in quality growth. Visitors already show their great appreciation of our valley and county by infusing our local economy with their tourist dollars. The greatest appeal for traveling tourists is: the historical context of Baker City and surrounding towns within the County, the survival of the built environment, the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and the ruts, and the uncluttered beauty of our natural environment. Additionally, important ranch and farm land will be destroyed in the process of building and maintaining the proposed towers, adversely affecting the local economy and the families who run farms and ranches.

3.Responsibility of BLM

Agency Role and Responsibility

As described in the B2H website: Idaho Power has submitted applications to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Department of Navy and the Bureau of Reclamation to obtain authorization for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (B2H Project) to cross the lands they manage. These agencies are obligated to review and make decisions on Idaho Powers applications.

Because these decisions may have significant environmental effects, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is being prepared, consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). BLM is the lead federal agency for NEPA compliance and will coordinate the analysis for all the federal agencies.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - BLM is responsible for carrying out a variety of programs for the management and conservation of resources on 258 million acres. BLM manages multiple resources and uses, including energy and

minerals, timber, forage, recreation, wild horse and burro herds, fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness areas, and archaeological, paleontological and historical sites."

Has BLM placed a high enough value on the Baker County land it manages? Is it managing the truly significant historic Oregon Trail site and is it protecting the people and animals that inhabit this land? Is BLM adhering to its mission statement?

BLMs Mission Statement is: It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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