



What's Inside

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for public review and comment. Inside you will find more information about:

- The DEIS and its contents
- How to access and review the document
- How to provide comments
- Dates and locations of public open houses near you
- Document viewing locations



Stay up-to-date about the project by visiting www.boardmantohemingway.com for the latest maps, public meeting dates, key documents and more!

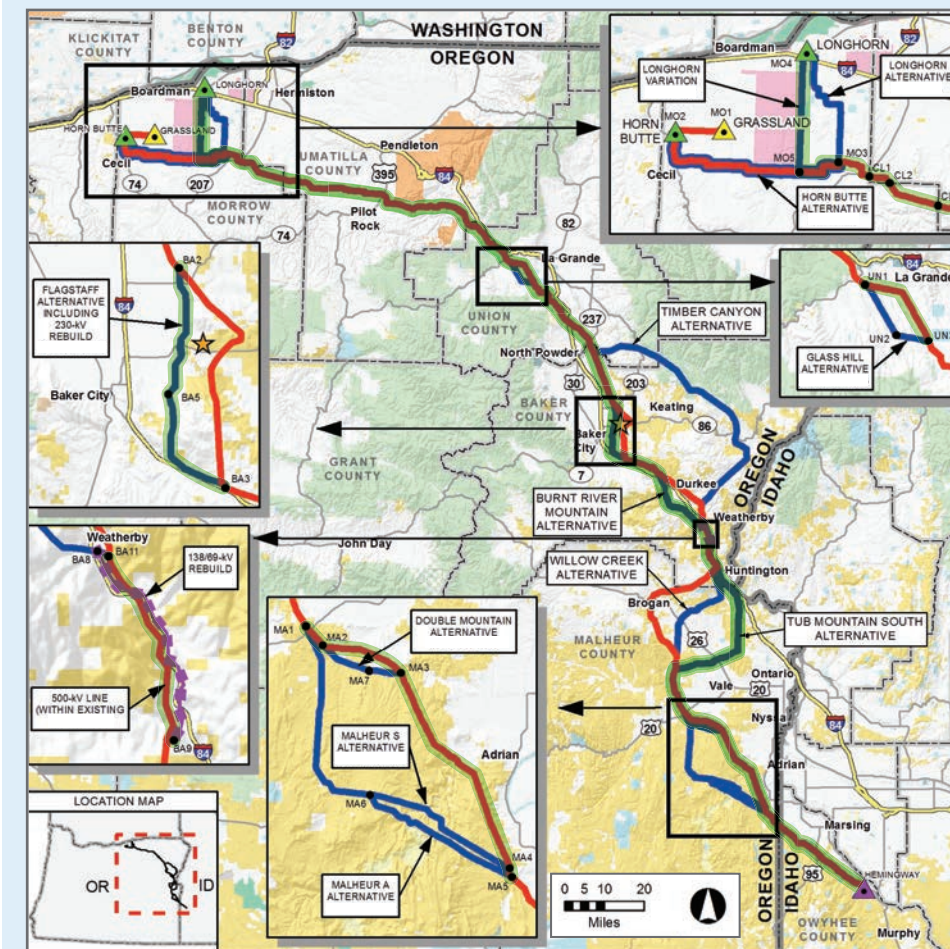


Draft Environmental Impact Statement Released

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (B2H). The project, proposed by Idaho Power, would add approximately 300 miles of new high-voltage transmission line across northeast Oregon and southwest Idaho and rebuild five miles of existing 138 kV and 69 kV lines.

The release of the DEIS marks an important milestone in the project's environmental review process. The DEIS documents the potential effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives, including a no-action alternative. Comments on the DEIS will be accepted from December 19, 2014 through March 19, 2015. Substantive comments received during this 90-day comment period will be documented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Project Map



PROJECT FEATURES

- ▲ Alternative Substation
- ▲ Proposed Substation
- ▲ Existing Substation
- Proposed Action
- Proposed Rebuild
- Alternative

REFERENCE FEATURES

- ★ National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
- Interstate
- Highway
- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- Forest Service
- Indian Reservation
- Private
- State
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Agency Preferred Alternative

About the project

B2H is a proposal to design, construct, operate and maintain a new 500 kilovolt, single-circuit electric transmission line from a proposed substation near Boardman, Oregon to the Hemingway Substation near Melba, Idaho. The Proposed Action would also include rebuilding a five-mile stretch of existing 138 kV and 69 kV lines.

Idaho Power has submitted applications to the BLM, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the Bureau of Reclamation to obtain authorization for B2H to cross the lands they manage. These agencies are obligated to review and make decisions on Idaho Power's applications.

What is a DEIS?

Environmental impact statements are prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for federal actions that may significantly affect the human environment. Authorizing a high-voltage electric transmission line on federal lands is a major federal action and a significant portion of the proposed route traverses lands managed by the BLM, USFS, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

The DEIS provides the public an opportunity to learn about and be involved in the federal decision making process by providing comments and feedback before the Final Environmental Impact Statement, which serves as the basis for the project's Record of Decision.



How to access the DEIS:

- Download a copy or request a DVD version at boardmantohemingway.com
- Review a copy at a document viewing location, BLM, or U.S. Forest Service (USFS) office (see insert)
- Attend the Online Open House: boardmantohemingway.com
- Attend an upcoming public open house (details below).

Navigating the DEIS

The B2H DEIS is approximately 3,000 pages with six chapters and eight appendices. While the BLM encourages full review of the document, some key sections are highlighted below.

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Executive Summary: Provides a stand-alone summary of why the DEIS has been prepared, descriptions of the Proposed Action and alternatives, and documents the potential effects of the Proposed Action.</p> | <p>Chapter 1, Purpose and Need: Details the purpose and need for this project from Idaho Power's perspective, as well as the purpose and need for the federal environmental review.</p> | <p>Chapter 2, Alternatives: Provides a detailed overview and summary of the proposed project, route alternatives, design variations, and the no-action alternative. Chapter 2 also summarizes the comparison between route alternatives, mitigation measures, and the necessary plan amendments.</p> | <p>Chapter 3, Affected Environment and Environmental Effects: Describes how various components of the environment, including wildlife, historic trails and private property, would be affected by the Proposed Action and alternatives.</p> | <p>Appendix A: Maps of the Proposed Action and alternative routes.</p> | <p>Appendix C, Environmental Protection Plans and Measures: Includes the environmental protection measures proposed by Idaho Power.</p> |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|

Routes analyzed (Chapter 2)

The Proposed Action and alternatives were initially presented to the public during public scoping in 2010. Since that time, the routes and alternatives have been refined based on agency input, as well as public comment and feedback. Please visit boardmantohemingway.com and click on Maps to view the routes and alternatives in detail.

Effects (Chapter 3)

Potential effects of B2H are documented in DEIS Chapter 3: Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences. Analyzed effects include:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 3.2.1 – Earth Resources | 3.2.7 – Visual Resources |
| 3.2.2 – Water | 3.2.8 – Cultural Resources |
| 3.2.3 – Vegetation | 3.2.9 – Trails |
| 3.2.4 – Wildlife | 3.2.10 – Air/Climate |
| 3.2.5 – Fish and Stream Crossings | 3.2.11 – Socioeconomics |
| 3.2.6 – Land Use | 3.2.12 – Public Health |

Public open houses

Seven open houses are scheduled in communities throughout the project area. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact individually with project staff, learn more about the DEIS, ask questions about the National Environmental Policy Act analysis and decision process, discuss concerns, and submit written comments. General information about the project, agency roles, schedule, and concurrent permitting processes will be available. This information will also be made available via an online open house at boardmantohemingway.com

Find an open house near you

All meetings are scheduled for 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--|
| Monday, January 5 | Boardman, OR | Port of Morrow Riverfront Center 2 Marine Drive |
| Tuesday, January 6 | Pendleton, OR | Convention Center 1601 Westgate |
| Wednesday, January 7 | La Grande, OR | Blue Mountain Conference Center 404 12th Street |
| Thursday, January 8 | Baker City, OR | Best Western Sunridge Inn 1 Sunridge Lane |
| Friday, January 9 | Durkee, OR | Durkee Community Hall 28716 Old Highway 30 |
| Monday, January 12 | Ontario, OR | Four Rivers Cultural Center 676 SW 5th Avenue |
| Tuesday, January 13 | Marsing, ID | Marsing Senior Center 218 Main Street |



Visit the online open house at boardmantohemingway.com from December 19 - March 19

For Project Information

Project Website

boardmantohemingway.com

Contacts

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B2H Project

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E-mail:

comment@boardmantohemingway.com

This newsletter was developed by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Energy to keep you informed about the proposed Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project.

Commenting on the DEIS

All comments submitted will be read and reviewed, but only substantive comments will be fully analyzed and utilized for preparation of the final EIS. Comments are most useful that provide relevant and new information with sufficient detail. Individual response letters will not be provided. To ensure your comments are as substantive as possible, please follow one or more of these guidelines:

- Comments should:
 - Be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to chapters, pages and line numbers of the DEIS (e.g., Chapter 1, page 1-3, line 10) along with any sources that support each comment.
 - Provide new information pertaining to the proposed project (also called “Proposed Action”), an alternative or the analysis.
 - Identify another alternative that reduces resource impacts and meets the underlying project need.
 - Identify a specific flaw in the analysis or make factual corrections, providing sources that support the correction.
 - Suggest alternate methodologies that should be used (including reasons why).
 - Identify a different source of credible research, which if used in the analysis, could result in different effects.
- Please note the Agency Preferred alternative may not be the final decision and comments provided on each alternative remain applicable. Additionally, comments that identify a new proposed alternative should indicate how it would avoid, reduce, or mitigate resource impacts better than the alternatives studied in the DEIS.
- Potentially affected landowners should review Chapter 3: Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences of the DEIS, including the associated maps found in the Appendix A.

Submitting comments

- Submit comments online: boardmantohemingway.com
- Email: comment@boardmantohemingway.com
- Send written comments: B2H Project, P.O. Box 655, Vale, OR 97918
- Attend a public open house (see newsletter)
- Comments must be postmarked by March 19, 2015 to be included in the project record.

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Document Viewing Locations

| Idaho | | | |
|--------------|--|-----------------------|--------------|
| Boise | BLM-Boise District Office | 3948 Development Ave. | 208-373-4000 |
| Boise | Boise Public Library | 715 S. Capitol Blvd. | 208-384-4238 |
| Marsing | BLM-Owyhee Field Office | 20 1st Ave. W. | 208-896-5912 |
| Murphy | Owyhee County Planning Department | 17069 Basey St. | 208-495-2095 |
| Nampa | Nampa Public Library | 101 11th Ave. S. | 208-468-5800 |
| Oregon | | | |
| Baker City | Baker County Library | 2400 Resort St. | 541-523-6419 |
| Baker City | Baker County Planning Department | 1995 Third St. | 541-523-8219 |
| Baker City | BLM-Baker Field Office | 3285 11th St. | 541-523-1256 |
| Baker City | USFS-Wallowa Whitman National Forest, Whitman Ranger District | 1550 Dewey Ave. | 541-523-6391 |
| Boardman | Boardman City Library | 200 S. Main St. | 541-481-2665 |
| Burns | Harney County Public Library | 80 W. D St. | 541-573-6670 |
| Hermiston | Hermiston Public Library | 235 E. Gladys Ave. | 541-567-2882 |
| Irrigon | Morrow County Planning Department | 205 N.E. Third St. | 541-922-4624 |
| John Day | Grant County Library | 507 S. Canyon Blvd. | 541-575-1992 |
| La Grande | La Grande Public Library | 2006 Fourth St. | 541-962-1339 |
| La Grande | Union County Planning Department | 1001 4th St., Suite C | 541-963-1014 |
| La Grande | USFS-Wallowa Whitman National Forest Office | 3502 Highway 30 | 541-963-7186 |
| North Powder | North Powder City Library | 290 East St. | 541-898-2175 |
| Ontario | Ontario Library | 388 S.W. Second Ave. | 541-889-6371 |
| Pendleton | Pendleton Public Library | 502 S.W. Dorion Ave. | 541-966-0380 |
| Pendleton | Umatilla County Planning Department | 216 S.E. Fourth St. | 541-966-0201 |
| Prineville | BLM-Prineville District Office | 3050 N.E. 3rd St. | 541-416-6700 |
| Salem | Oregon Department of Energy | 625 Marion St. N.E. | 503-378-4040 |
| Vale | BLM-Vale District Office | 100 Oregon St., | 541-473-3144 |
| Vale | Malheur County Planning Department | 251 B St. W. | 541-473-5185 |