

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM
Vale District Office

Federal Review of Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Progresses

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are continuing review of the proposed Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line. Staff will be meeting with landowners identified along several potential new alternative segments in July and will be co-hosting public meetings, with Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) and Idaho Power Company (IPC), along the entire project corridor in August. Please visit the website (www.boardmantohemingway.com) for updates.

The BLM, acting as lead Federal agency, is preparing a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the B2H project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As required by NEPA, the EIS must identify and document the potential effects of the project as well as a range of reasonable alternatives that that may help avoid, minimize or mitigate for these impacts.

Since scoping concluded in late-2010, the federal agencies have been working to:

- Process revisions to Idaho Power's application
- Identify issues to be considered in the EIS
- Develop a range of reasonable alternatives, as required by NEPA
- Review and analyze data being collected by Idaho Power and its contractors
- Coordinate with federal, state and local cooperating agencies to ensure the EIS, where necessary, meets their needs
- Prepare the draft EIS, expected to be completed in early 2013

The B2H project is a new electric transmission line (single circuit 500kV) from a proposed substation near Boardman, Oregon, to the existing Hemingway substation near Melba, Idaho. The proposed route crosses Federal lands administered by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service in Oregon and Idaho. In addition to the federal review process, Idaho Power is currently engaged in the state review process to obtain a Site Certificate from the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) led by ODOE.

Additional information regarding the meetings and project is available online at:
www.boardmantohemingway.com.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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