

**RECORD OF PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)
DETERMINATION**

CX Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-V050-2014-011-CX

CE Exemption category: 516 DM 11.9, E. 9: Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.

E. 16: Acquisition easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.

BLM Office: Bureau of Land Management, 3285 11th Street, Baker City, Oregon 97814

Phone #: 541-523-1256

BACKGROUND:

Project Name: Gypsum-Soda Creek Distribution Line OR-35720

Applicant: Idaho Power Company

Location of Proposed Action:

Willamette Meridian

T. 12 S., R. 45 E.
secs. 1, 11, 12, 14, 28;

T. 13 S., R. 45 E.
secs. 9, 16, 21, 29, 32.

Additional line previously unauthorized:

T. 11 S., R. 45 E.
secs. 36

T. 11 S., R. 46 E.
sec. 19

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: On December 3, 2012, Idaho Power Company submitted an application (SF-299) requesting the renewal of their existing right-of-way (ROW) grant for the 12.5 kV Gypsum-Soda Creek Distribution line. The original grant authorized a 20' wide and approximately 4.8 mile long ROW in Baker County, Oregon at the locations listed above. Idaho Power has also asked that an additional .51 miles of existing 7.2 kV distribution line, which is a continuation of the Gypsum-Soda Creek Line, be included in the ROW. This portion of line was constructed in 1995 and has never been authorized. There is no new construction or other ground disturbance associated with this renewal.

The ROW would expire on December 31, 2043.

PLAN CONFORMANCE

All actions approved or authorized by the BLM must conform to the existing land use plan where one exists (43 CFR 1610.5-3, 516 DM 11.9). Although it is not a NEPA requirement, the BLM includes within all its NEPA documents a statement about the conformance of the proposed action and alternatives with the existing land use plan. The BLM's planning regulations state that the term "conformity" or "conformance" means that "... a resource management action shall be specifically provided for in the plan, or if not specifically mentioned, shall be clearly consistent with the terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved plan or amendment" (43 CFR 1601.0-5(b)).

The proposed action is in conformance with the program-specific direction for realty management of the Baker Resource Management Plan (RMP), cited on page 23 of the RMP. The right of way is not within a designated exclusion/avoidance area. Exclusion areas are: wilderness areas and wild river segments. Avoidance areas are Wilderness study area, ACECs, and scenic and recreation river segments.

DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS: EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed and none of the circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, and listed below apply.

Yes	No	Extraordinary Circumstances	Specialist and/or FM Initials in each box	Date
	✓	1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	CJ	2/7/14
	✓	2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	CJ	2/7/14
	✓	3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	CJ	2/7/14
	✓	4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	CJ	2/7/14
	✓	5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	CJ	2/7/14
	✓	6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	CJ	2/7/14
	✓	7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	CJ	2/7/14
	X	8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/5/13 12/5/13
	✓	9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or Tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	CJ	2/7/14
	✓	10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	CJ	2/7/14
	✓	11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	CJ	2/7/14
	X	12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species	EM	12/6/13

Yes	No	Extraordinary Circumstances	Specialist and/or FM Initials in each box	Date
		known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		

DOCUMENTATION OF RECOMMENDED MITIGATION

For any item(s) above checked "Yes", proposed mitigating measures for those items are listed below. If the extraordinary circumstances cannot be mitigated, the criteria required for a CE are not met and BLM must prepare an EA or EIS.

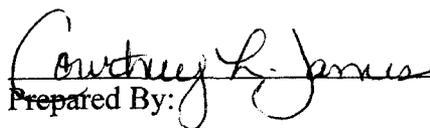
Item No.	Can Be Mitigated	Cannot Be Mitigated	Mitigation Measures	Reviewer	Date

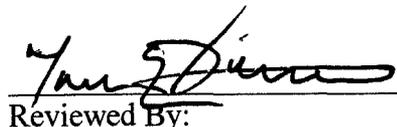
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with the Departmental Manual Categorical Exclusions list, sections of which are cited and quoted above. The proposed action has also been reviewed in relation to the above listed 12 Extraordinary Circumstances in accordance with the Departmental Manual, and none of these circumstances apply.

Decision Record

Based on the enclosed Categorical Exclusion Documentation, DOI-BLM-OR-V050-2014-011-CX, I have determined that the proposed action to authorize the existing 12.5/7.2 kV distribution line for Idaho Power (OR-35270) involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis. It is my decision to authorize this action as proposed. For additional information concerning this project, contact Project Lead Courtney James, Vale District, Baker Resource Area, P.O. Box 947, Baker City, Oregon 97814. Phone (541) 523-1449.

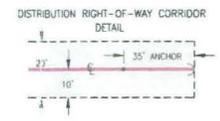

 Prepared By: Courtney L. James Realty Specialist Title 12/5/13 Date


 Reviewed By: Tom Dixon Assistant Field Manager Title 02/12/14 Date


 Authorizing Official David Wood Field Manager Title 2/13/14 Date



- LEGEND:**
- SECTION
 - SECTION 1/16
 - TOWNSHIP
 - PUBLIC ROAD CENTERLINE
 - DISTRIBUTION LINE ALIGNMENT
 - EASEMENT
 - ⑬ SECTION NUMBER

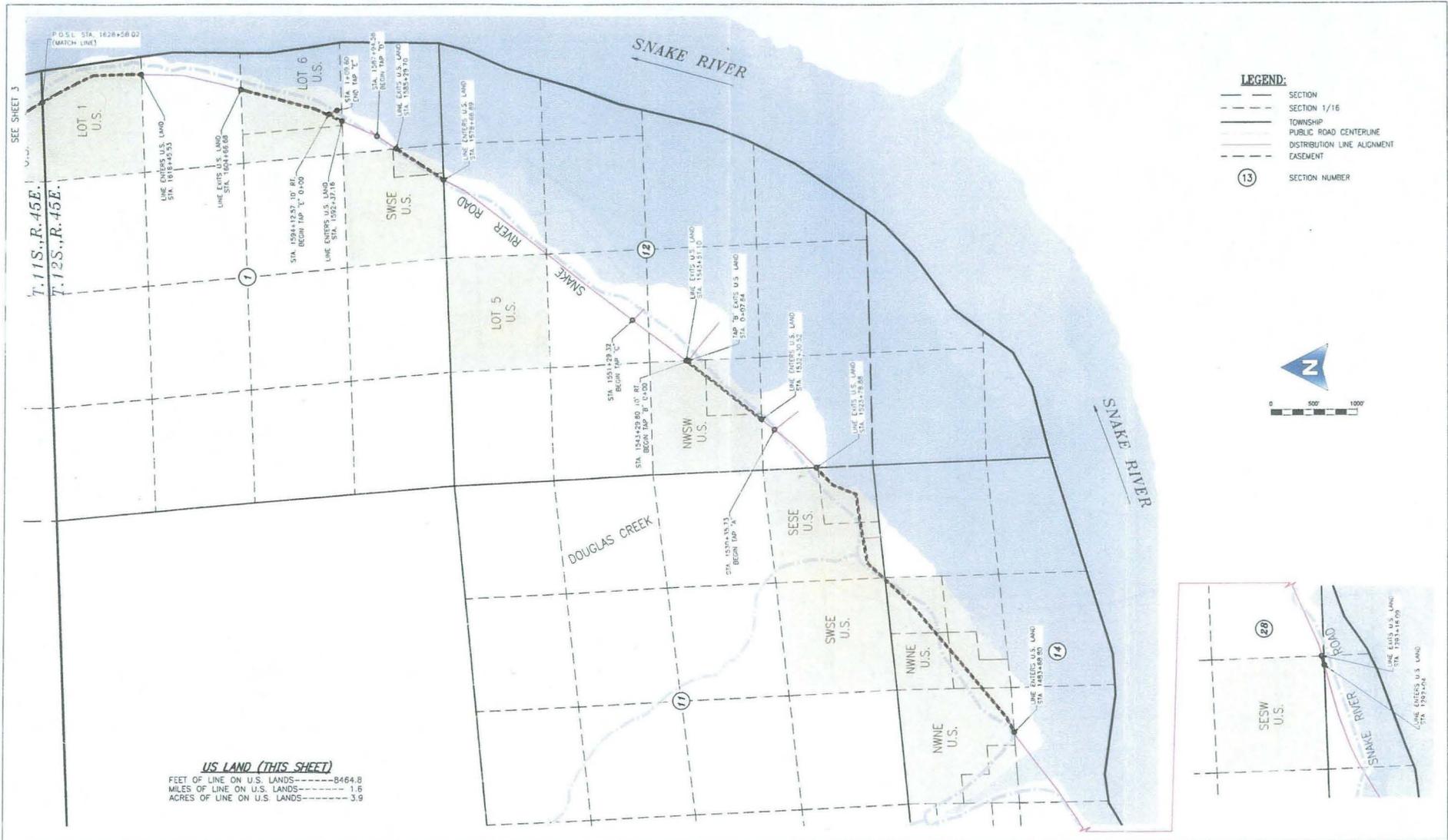


US LAND (TOTAL)
 FEET OF LINE ON U.S. LANDS-----11131.3
 MILES OF LINE ON U.S. LANDS-----2.1
 ACRES OF LINE ON U.S. LANDS-----5.2

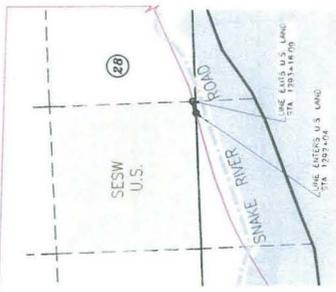
CONFIDENTIAL:
 This document contains Confidential and Critical Energy Infrastructure Information. Ista's Power and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) entered into a Nondisclosure and Confidentiality Agreement on October 1, 2007, and the BLM will treat this information in accordance with that agreement.

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	DSGN	DFTR	NOTES	SIGNAGE	DATE	PROJECT INFORMATION	LANDS DEPARTMENT
- XX		00-00-00	XXXX	XXXX		DSGN: KK 00-00-00		DETAIL MAP TO ACCOMPANY APPLICATION FOR RIGHT OF WAY GRANT GYPSUM-SODA CREEK 7.2kV BAKER COUNTY, OREGON	PERMIT No. #DR-35270 VAULT No.060-42203001 WD No. #27371014-01 SHEET 1/3
						DRFT: AAL 11-14-12			18-2
						SRYP: RWH 00-00-00			
						SCALE: 1"=2000' HORIZ N/A VERT			

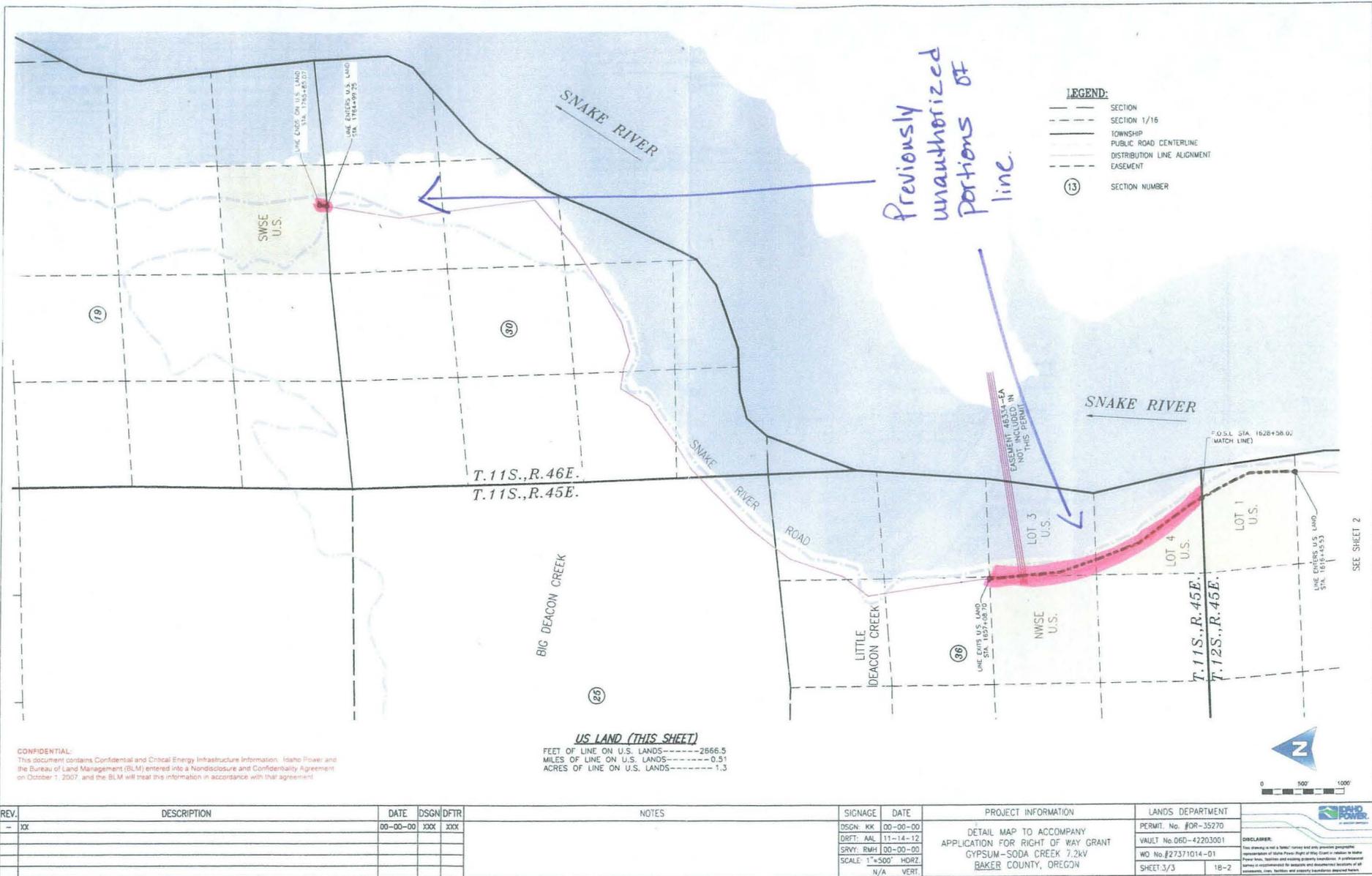
DISCLAIMER:
 This drawing is not a final utility and only provides preliminary representation of Ista's Power Right of Way Grant in relation to state, federal, local, and existing property boundaries. A professional survey is required to establish and delineate boundaries of all easements, lines, facilities and property boundaries. Ista's Power is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this drawing.



LEGEND:
 SECTION
 SECTION 1/16
 TOWNSHIP
 PUBLIC ROAD CENTERLINE
 DISTRIBUTION LINE ALIGNMENT
 EASEMENT
 (13) SECTION NUMBER

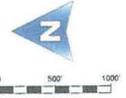


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1	XX	00-00-00	XXX	XXX		DSGN: KK	00-00-00	DETAIL MAP TO ACCOMPANY APPLICATION FOR RIGHT OF WAY GRANT GYPSUM-SODA CREEK 7.2kV BAKER COUNTY, OREGON	PERMIT: No. #OR-35270 VAULT No. 060-42203001 WO No. #27371014-01 SHEET 2/3
						DRFT: AL	11-14-12		<small>DISCLAIMER:</small> This drawing is not a contract. It is not and does not constitute any representation of the Public Right of Way Grant or section to which it applies. It is not intended to be used for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared. It is recommended that all interested parties consult with the appropriate agencies for all applicable laws, codes and regulations before proceeding.
						SRVT: RMH	00-00-00		
						SCALE: 1"=500'	HORIZ		
							N/A	VERT	18-2



Previously unauthorized portions of line.

SEE SHEET 2



DISCLAIMER:
 This drawing is not a "final" design and only provides preliminary information of Idaho Power. Right of the Earth is under the Idaho Power Act. Utilities and existing property boundaries. It is professional's responsibility to verify and describe boundaries of all easements, lines, facilities and property boundaries depicted herein.