



Project Overview

The Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line (B2H) Project is a proposal by Idaho Power Company (Idaho Power) to design, construct, operate and maintain a new single-circuit, 500 kilovolt (kV) power line between Boardman, Oregon and Melba, Idaho. The proposed route is approximately 300 miles long and crosses federal, state and private lands in six counties in Oregon and Idaho. The B2H Project would provide additional capacity for exchanging energy between the Northwest and the Intermountain West, depending on which region is experiencing the highest demand. The project is advancing through two separate, but simultaneous review processes:

- Federal process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) led by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- State process administered by the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to obtain a Site Certificate from the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC)

What's New?

- BLM and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) announced preliminary preferred alternatives (see inside for details), which will be analyzed in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), along with the other alternatives. Federal agencies will host a 90-day public review and comment period and a series of public meetings following the draft EIS publication, scheduled for public release in January 2014.
- ODOE is reviewing Idaho Power's preliminary Application for Site Certificate (pASC), which describes the proposed project, its impacts, and how Idaho Power intends to mitigate those impacts to provide evidence that the project can meet EFSC's siting standards. ODOE determined that the pASC submitted in February 2013 was incomplete and has requested additional information from Idaho Power.
- Even with an early announcement of BLM's preliminary preferred alternatives, additional data collection across the project area continues. New information may influence the recommendation of the preliminary preferred alternatives and/or result in minor route variations. Idaho Power is conducting additional fieldwork across the project area, including field surveys for cultural resources, paleontology, vegetation, wildlife and noise, which they may use to support amendments to the pASC.
- BLM has announced a new National Project Manager, Tamara Gertsch, from the Washington Office. Tamara has experience managing large transmission line projects.

For Project Information

Project Website

www.boardmantohemingway.com

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Federal Agencies Identify Preliminary Preferred Alternatives

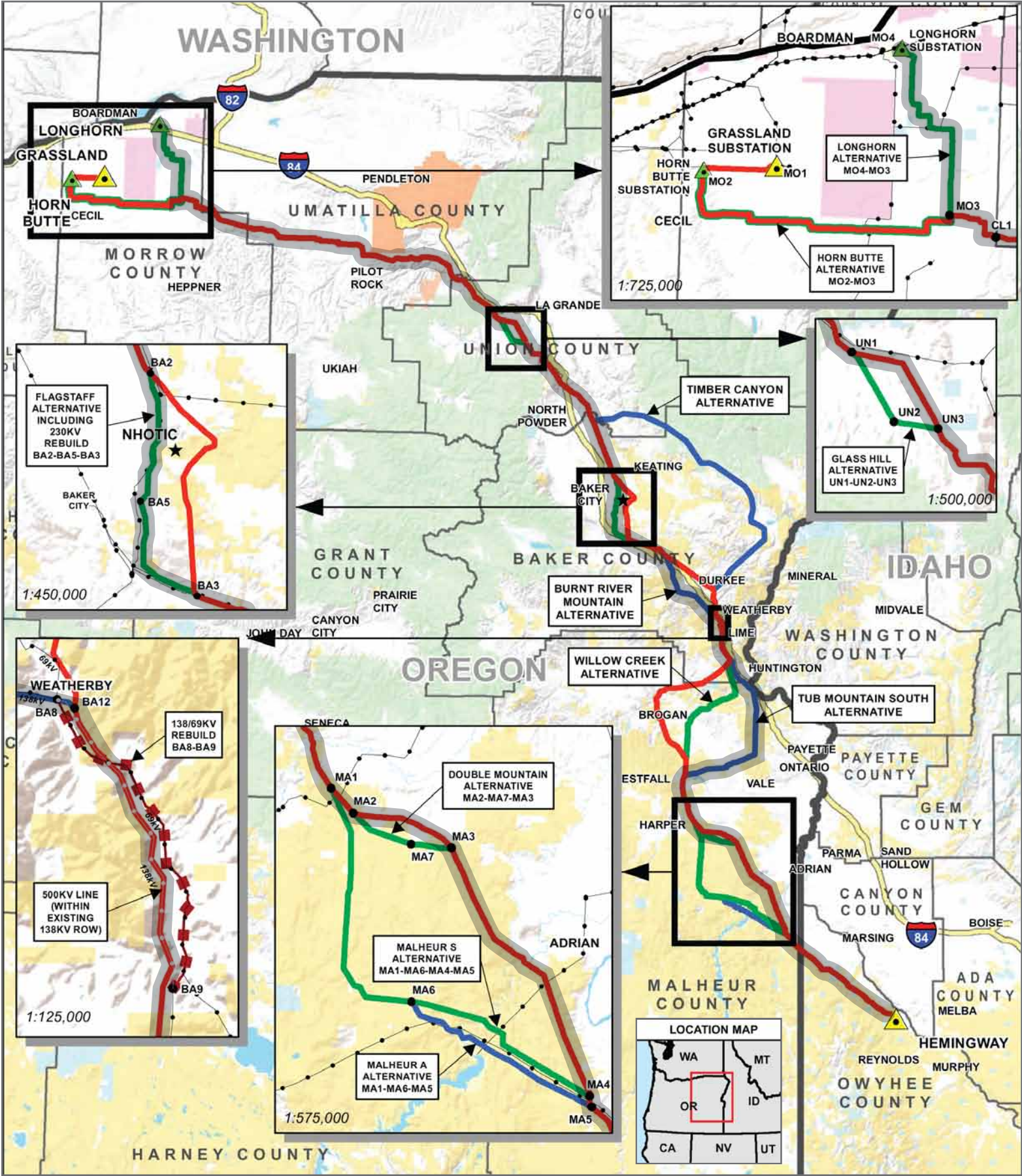
The BLM and USFS, as federal land managers, are required to identify and document the potential effects of the B2H Project, as well as a range of reasonable alternatives that may help avoid, minimize or mitigate for these project effects. In conjunction with the development of the draft EIS, the BLM and USFS interdisciplinary team and consultants, including managers and resource specialists, completed a robust and collaborative process to identify the preliminary preferred alternatives. The multi-step process involved the identification of comparison criteria, which includes issues raised by cooperating agencies and the public:

- Cultural resources
- Fisheries
- Land use (including private property impacts)
- Special designations
- Use of existing utility corridors
- Vegetation
- Visual resources
- Wildlife

The interdisciplinary team assessed the relative importance of each criterion on the selection of preliminary preferred alternatives, and ranked alternatives in each geographic area. The preliminary preferred alternatives identification process and potential effects to the above resources for all alternatives considered will be documented in the draft EIS.

In January 2014, the public will have an opportunity to review the draft EIS, provide comments during an official comment period, and attend public meetings throughout the project area.

B2H Proposed Routes and Preliminary Preferred Alternatives



What's Next?

Federal (NEPA) Process

The federal agencies are currently developing the draft EIS, which will be shared with the public in January 2014. Stay tuned for the publication date, the launch of a 90-day comment period, and information about upcoming public meetings.

State (EFSC) Process

Idaho Power's response to ODOE's first request for additional information is due in July, and ODOE expects to issue more requests for information. ODOE will issue a public notice and hold a series of information meetings in the affected counties when the pASC is deemed complete, but it is unlikely that will occur before mid-2014.

The project website's interactive map has been updated with new data, including wildlife habitat, historic trails, land use, and the preliminary preferred alternatives.

Visit www.boardmantohemingway.com for more details.



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.

The **B2H e-mail list** is the best way to ensure you don't miss any news on the project.

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 This newsletter is printed on paper using 40% post consumer waste.

B2H Boardman to Hemingway NEWSWIRE

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project



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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has announced **preliminary preferred alternatives** for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line (B2H) Project. Meanwhile, Idaho Power has submitted its preliminary Application for Site Certificate to the Oregon Department of Energy. Inside you'll find more information about:

- The preliminary preferred alternatives and identification process
- The upcoming release of BLM's draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Idaho Power's Application for Site Certificate
- Future public comment opportunities

Stay Up-To-Date

Visit www.boardmantohemingway.com for the latest maps, dates of future comment periods and public meetings, project milestones, key documents and more!



A Message from Idaho Power: Boardman to Hemingway

A lot has happened in recent months, including the identification by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of preliminary preferred alternatives for the B2H project. Early identification of the preliminary preferred alternatives allows Idaho Power to continue the simultaneous federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and state Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) review of the proposed project. While the recommendations are preliminary, they have given Idaho Power an indication of what may become the final preferred alternative and allows us to advance fieldwork and likely modify our state application before review by the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) proceeds much further. Below are a few questions and responses to better explain Idaho Power's next steps.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the status of the original Community Advisory Process (CAP) route?

Idaho Power still strongly supports the CAP route but several segments of the line may not be permissible based on information obtained since the CAP. Idaho Power is committed to keeping the CAP route as our proposed route in both the state and federal processes but we are also responding to changing environmental policies by including additional alternatives in areas where the CAP route may face challenges.

For example, Idaho Power proposed the route segment east of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center as a result of the CAP and to meet Sage-grouse guidance from BLM and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife available at the time. However, the evolving regulatory landscape has presented several hurdles regarding the permissibility of the proposed route in this area.

For additional information on the CAP please visit:
www.boardmantohemingway.com/idaho_power_cap_about.aspx



Are you doing additional fieldwork in the project area?

Yes, Idaho Power is conducting additional fieldwork in several areas to ensure data collected to date are adequate for both the state and federal processes. In particular, we are looking at NEPA alternatives identified last summer in Baker and Malheur counties that are part of the preliminary preferred alternatives.

Have any updates related to B2H been made to Idaho Power's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)?

Idaho Power's IRP is a comprehensive look at present and future demands for electricity, as well as a plan for meeting those demands. The IRP describes the company's projected need for additional electricity and the resources necessary to meet that need while balancing reliability, environmental responsibility, efficiency and cost.

The B2H Project is an important component in Idaho Power's 2013 IRP. A line connecting Idaho Power to the Pacific Northwest was first mentioned in the 2000 IRP and Idaho Power continues its efforts to acquire necessary regulatory approvals and permits required to begin construction. The B2H Project is planned to be operational in 2018.

Idaho Power prepares an IRP every two years. In addition, the IRP is updated approximately one year after being acknowledged by the Public Utility Commission (PUC). Because the regional utility market is constantly changing, Idaho Power anticipates the 2013 IRP action plan may be adjusted when the next IRP is filed in 2015, in the update to the 2013 plan, or sooner if directed by the Idaho or Oregon PUC. The IRP is being developed with the help of an Advisory Council who collectively represent the interests of Idaho Power's customers by participating in regular meetings, providing feedback and helping engage the public in the IRP process.

To stay up-to-date on Idaho Power's 2013 IRP, please visit:
www.idahopower.com/AboutUs/PlanningForFuture/irp/default.cfm



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