

**comment@boardmantohemingway.com**

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**From:** Kim Ross <Kim.Ross@malheurco.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 10:23 AM  
**To:** 'comment@boardmantohemingway.com'  
**Subject:** B2H comments from Malheur County  
**Attachments:** B2H.pdf

Attached please find comments from the Malheur County Court regarding the recently issued EIS for the Boardman to Hemingway project

Thank you,

Kim Ross

Executive Assistant

Malheur County Court



# MALHEUR COUNTY

COUNTY COURT

251 B Street West, #5, Vale, Oregon 97918, (541) 473-5124, Fax (541) 473-5168

3/11/2015

B2H Project;

The Board of Directors for the Stop Idaho Power (SIP) organization met to discuss the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) issued by BLM recently for the Boardman to Hemmingway (B2H) 500 kilovolt transmission line. SIP's mission was to keep the line from going over Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land in Malheur County. Originally, the line crossed approximately 38 miles of EFU land in Malheur County in four different irrigated areas; Big Bend/Adrian, north of Nyssa along Gem Avenue, a segment that paralleled the siphon between Morgan Avenue and the Malheur Butte, and over farmland out by the SCRI prison. The preferred alternative in the EIS goes through approximately 6 miles of EFU land in one irrigated area about six miles north of Vale. There are two remaining issues that SIP has identified with the "preferred alternative" in the EIS. One has already been mentioned above and that is the line is still crossing EFU in Malheur County; although a much smaller amount of EFU land is being affected. The other issue is the line crosses the Oregon Trail in two places; although BLM made sure the line crossed the Oregon Trail on private land so as not to impact the Oregon Trail Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) which envelopes the Oregon Trail on BLM land. SIP still feels that the line should be west of Brogan but with the sage grouse issues in that area, it probably will not happen. SIP has not been contacted by any land owner on the Tub Mountain alternative for help in fighting the line. SIP has concluded that the preferred alternative is not ideal for SIP or Malheur County but it is probably the best route that we can hope for due to the sage grouse issue.

Dan P. Joyce, County Judge

Don Hodge, County Commissioner

Larry Wilson, County Commissioner