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From: EnviroLytical - B2H <info@envirolytical.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 11:23 AM
To: comment@boardmantohemingway.com
Subject: New Communication: Many members of the Oregon-California Trails Association have submitted comments of the DEIS pointing to the specific adverse impacts of the proposed transmission B2H transmission line to the Oregon N

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<https://el2.envirolytical.com/communication/view/103211>

Many members of the Oregon-California Trails Association have submitted comments of the DEIS pointing to the specific adverse impacts of the proposed transmission B2H transmission line to the Oregon National Historic Trail. I support those comments.

The tone of the DEIS is summarized by a comment in Section 3, page 729:

The influence of the alternatives under consideration would have minimal impact when compared to the qualities of the entire 2,170-mile long congressionally designated trail, the 529.2 miles of trail in Idaho, or the 519.5 miles of trail in Oregon.

This statement is not supported by facts since an end-to-end assessment of the quality of the trail in accordance with the BLM's own standards (the NPS) has never been completed. This statement and its inference should be removed from the DEIS.

There are specific adverse impacts at numerous points where the transmission line crosses or approaches within view of the trail. These include but are not limited to Alkali Springs, Tub Mountain, Birch Creek, Swayze Creek, Pleasant Valley and in particular Flagstaff Hill. In each case further efforts to minimize impacts are needed. It is a concern that the final routings will in fact have a greater impact than the approximate routings shown in various maps. Micro-siting of towers could have a major impact on settings.

The situation at Flagstaff borders on the incredulous. Two routes through the area have a major impact on high quality trails segments (Class 1) and the setting. The BLM's own Interpretive Center was sited to provide the view of the trail as it approaches from Virtue Flats, passes over the low pass and then descends into the valley. This setting would be dominated by transmission towers under the routes presented in the DEIS negating the whole reason for the center's location. There must be a better alternative.

In 2013 or 2014 the BLM published Manuals 6450 and 6480 dealing with settings. It does not appear that these manuals have been considered in the preparation of the DEIS. The presence of transmission lines and towers within the setting of the ONHT seems counter to these manuals. How have the instructions of the manual influenced the resulting routes?

Finally, it must be assumed that substantial mitigation will result if the proposed routes are implemented and the impacts are as foreseen and documented in the DEIS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS.

[Signed]

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