

comment@boardmantohemingway.com

From: raeannvanarsdall@gmail.com on behalf of Raeann VanArsdall <raeann@mommag.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 5:20 PM
To: comment@boardmantohemingway.com
Subject: Sandra Shook - EIS B2H comments attached
Attachments: Sandra Shook Comments March 2015 B2H EIS.pdf

My comments regarding the EIS B2H comments are in the attached PDF file.

Sandra Shook
 541-877-2000

Copy below, secondary to attached.

Douglas Shook	Burnt River Ranch
Landline 541-877-2000	31116 Burnt River Canyon Lane
Email raeannvanarsdall@gmail.com	Durkee, OR 97905
Tax lots: three affected	Private land condemned by the
11S42E03200, 11S42E03500, 11S42E03600 Burnt River Mountain Alternative	

Addressed to: "Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project Draft EIS."

comment@boardmantohemingway.com

Vale District Office

100 Oregon Street, Vale, Oregon 97918

P.O. Box 655, Vale, Oregon 97918

Regarding: Official Comments "Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project Draft EIS."

Statement: I am 68 years old, and a veteran of the US Army, having served in Vietnam. The Burnt River Mountain Alternative is unacceptable and fatally harmful to our environment, our community and our local economy. It will affect me, my community and the future generations

of my family and our privately owned land that I've worked so hard to build and protect. The Draft EIS underestimated the effect of the Burnt River Mountain Alternative, by neglecting to provide an adequately fair and balanced report. Evidence of where it failed to account for both Environmental and Economic impacts made by this alternative is clear and detailed in each of the topics included in, but not limited to, the items listed below – and in every aspect of the EIS. There is also a blatant lack of purpose and need for this project, evident in all topics and chapters throughout the EIS.

Visual effect is one subject we are told we cannot use in our comments though BLM uses it extensively. They had a man make a study and presentation to us at a town meeting in Baker City on the visual effect of the power line and how it can be lessened for the view from the freeway by going across our ranch. Also crossing our land it would not have a negative visual effect on BLM land in the Burnt River canyon.

My concern is not for the long-haul truck driver on I-84 but for myself, my wife, my daughter, my son in law, my granddaughter, and my grandson. All of whom live and work on this ranch in a family owned business. And our paying guests who come here to enjoy the beauty of this land and our western life style.

Living under and looking up at a powerline corridor day in and day out for the rest of our lives is not an option we accept.

At no time did the BLM or Idaho Power ever ask for permission nor at any time did we give permission for them to use our private land for their private use. I find this kind of business attitude unacceptable and offensive.

Don Gonzales with BLM visited our ranch and was shown where the line is proposed. I then showed him an alternate route of my choosing to the west of our deeded ground on BLM land that would cross the Burnt River canyon at a narrow part, barely visible to the public and continue south on dry range land avoiding sage grouse habitat and thereby staying off valuable farm ground and not disrupting the social and economic balance of the Durkee Valley. Mr Gonzales noted this.

Lack of purpose and need

It is clear that neither the applicant, nor the state of Idaho has had a significant enough growth to warrant this powerline and would be at best ten or more years out. This means to me that there is no real need to build this line. The present administration in Washington DC is trying to bolster a failed presidency using Idaho politicians to push through this part of a power grid improvement though there is no real need for it.

Reference to EIS: Summary, S-2, Line 5 to 8

Idaho Power has proposed and thoroughly studied a preferred route through Baker Co. following the energy corridor already in place. BLM has suggested alternate routes by drawing arbitrary lines on maps that have not been thoroughly studied for environmental and economic impact to the extent the preferred route was. This makes an unbalanced judgement of the impacts to us, the land owners directly affected by the Burnt River Mt. alternative.

In light of the lack of study of environmental and economic impact of those of us affected on this route, and the lack of permission ask for or given, and the lack of real need for the powerline at all, crossing our land is not an option available to them.

If Idaho Power insists on building a project with no real need the route should cross Burnt River canyon west of Sinker Creek, west of our deeded ground, and continue south from there on dry range land.

Our neighboring ranches agree that this route would be far less damaging than crossing more highly valued irrigated farm land.

Economic impact

Our ranch is not only a working cattle ranch but also a guest ranch registered with the State of Oregon as Burnt River Guest Ranch. Agri-tourism is and has always been our main focus. We strongly feel that having a high voltage powerline corridor through the very heart of our ranch would be devastating to our family owned business. The existence of a powerline would devalue and deface our ranch property to the point that agri-tourism would be jeopardized making it impossible to run a profitable business.

Historic cultural impact

Rock cairns exist in the path of the Burnt River Mt. alternative. They are important to the history of Baker Co. whether they are Native American or Basque sheep herder in origin. The fact that they were not known of by the BLM or Idaho Power is another example of lack of study done on the alternate routes compared to the preferred route.

Environmental impacts

Environmental impacts on our ranch alone involve Big Horn sheep that not only graze here but are here during the rut season in the fall and lambing in the spring. Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles are here in pairs during the spring and early summer. We have Wild Turkeys, Canada Geese, Ducks, Pheasant, Chucker, and Quail that all nest and raise their young all in the path of this powerline route.

Deer, Antelope, and Elk also are here in numbers.

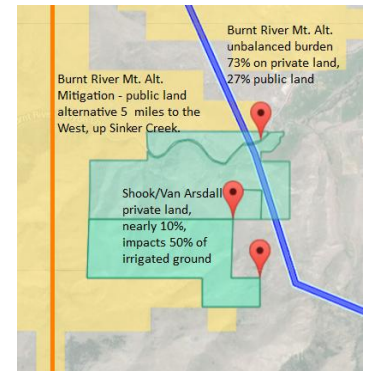
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