

comment@boardmantohemingway.com

From: Mema <jb47ranch@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 7:40 PM
To: comment@boardmantohemingway.com
Subject: Fwd: B2H route through Baker County

To Whom It May Concern:

I have lived in the Durkee area all my life. My family has been ranching in this area for over 100 years, and I am proud of our stewardship of the land. The original route proposal, which is no longer being considered due to issues with sage grouse habitat, would have brought your transmission line through a big piece of our family ranch, with no benefit to me or any of my family. The new proposed route through Baker County, and specifically the Burnt River Alternate, doesn't appear to me to be much of an improvement, aside from the fact that it would affect my neighbors more than myself. This is still not especially palatable.

While admittedly avoiding the bulk of my property, The new route proposal still puts the transmission line through high-value agricultural land, which is just not a good thing to do, in my opinion. In addition, I believe that this new route has not been properly studied, and requires much greater study before it can even be a worthwhile option. At a community meeting in Durkee in late February a change to the Burnt River Alternate was proposed that was agreeable to the majority of those at the meeting. The description of that proposal follows:

Beginning at Milepost 2 of the Burnt River Alternate, proceed directly south to the Township 12/Township 13 boundary line.

Follow this line due east to the midpoint of Range 43 E.

Turn precisely southeast until approximately 1.5 miles south of the Range 43 E boundary line.

Turn due east to the existing alternate routing line, connecting to this line at approximately mile 191.5.

The route change above would touch the least amount of private agricultural property as well as avoiding currently defined sage grouse habitat.

Please consider this modification of the Burnt River Alternate. I believe that this change would affect the fewest people and the least amount of critical habitat in the area.

Sincerely,

Jean Bunch
Durkee, Oregon