

comment@boardmantohemingway.com

From: Bruce Hummel <bruce@thiefvalleyranch.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 07, 2015 11:32 AM
To: comment@boardmantohemingway.com
Subject: BLM - Timber Canyon Alternative Route Comments
Attachments: Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Letter.docx

Attached are comments regarding the Timber Canyon Alternative Route.

February 10, 2015

Bureau of Land Management

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

P.O. Box 655

Vale, OR 97918

Re: Timber Canyon Alternative

We are opposed to the transmission line following the Timber Canyon Alternative Route.

The Timber Canyon Alternative Route travels across our property and we feel that there are impacts/concerns that have not been adequately studied and addressed. Some impacts affect the majority of the Timber Canyon Alternative Route, some impacts are near our property, and some are on our property.

Impacts Caused By The Timber Canyon Alternative That Affect The Majority Of The Route

Watershed Damage/Fish Bearing Streams-The removal of trees and installation of access roads will decrease water storage which will lead to increased erosion, silt, and reduced summer flows in fish bearing streams.

Habitat Fragmentation-The Timber Canyon Alternative Route creates a barrier for big game (elk and deer) migration to and from Category 2 winter range.

Wildfire-Power lines and additional traffic on service roads create increased risk of fire.

View shed-Removal of trees and the addition of power lines will negatively impact the view shed.

Wildlife Impact-The Timber Canyon Alternative Route will have a negative impact on the following wildlife that use the area: elk, deer, antelope, bear, cougar, fox, bobcat, chuckar, Hungarian partridge, quail, turkey, pheasant, geese, duck, dove, blue grouse, ruffed grouse, golden eagle, bald eagle, osprey, hawk, falcon, owl, songbirds, sage grouse, and bats.

Additional Impact-The Timber Canyon Alternative Route is 15.3 miles longer than the proposed route resulting in 15.3 miles more of impacts on wildlife, habitat, and the environment.

Eagle Cap Wilderness-The Timber Canyon Alternative Route travels close to the Eagle Cap Wilderness and its negative impacts will alter the wilderness. The increased potential for wildfire is especially concerning.

Impacts Caused by The Timber Canyon Alternative Route Near Our Property

Cultural and Historical Resources-The Timber Canyon Alternative Route runs through or near the following: tribal cultural sites and concerns, historic Japanese town site, and pioneer graveyard.

Big Game Winter Range-The Timber Canyon Alternative Route runs through the middle of Category 2 winter range for elk and deer.

Habitat Fragmentation-The Timber Canyon Alternative Route creates a barrier for big game (elk and deer) migration to and from Category 2 winter range.

Impacts Caused By The Timber Canyon Alternative Route On Our Property

CREP-The Timber Canyon Alternative Route runs through the center of two existing CREP projects that were implemented to provide wildlife habitat.

Watershed Damage-The Timber Canyon Alternative Route runs through the center of the Spring Creek Watershed. The installation of access roads will decrease water storage which will lead to increased erosion, silt, and reduced summer flows in fish bearing streams.

Eagles-The Timber Canyon Alternative Route is near active bald and golden eagle nests.

Osprey-The Timber Canyon Alternative Route is near (less than ½ mile) multiple active osprey nests.

Habitat Fragmentation-The Timber Canyon Alternative Route will go through Category 2 winter range for elk and deer.

Forest-The Timber Canyon Alternative Route will create additional fire risks for our home, rangeland, wildlife habitat, and timber.

Wind Tower Cumulative Effect-The existing wind tower field is parallel to and less than ½ mile from the Timber Canyon Alternative Route. The cumulative impact will be significant. We have already seen a change in habitat use by elk and antelope as a result of the wind towers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. If you would like an on the ground tour of these issues on or near our property, please feel free to contact us.

Bruce and Carol Hummel

Thief Valley Ranch

bruce@thiefvalleyranch.com