

MAR 18 2015

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B.L.M. VALE DISTRICT

Comments on Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

This is an extension of the letter written on Feb. 28, 2015 on my comments concerning the proposed action of Idaho Power in seg. 4 going thru the Brogan Area. (Fig. 2-1) I am emphasizing that my choose is the Tub Mountain South Alternative.

- #1 25.6 miles are located on BLM managed land.
My experience in the past 24 years on my private land with the existing Idaho Power Company 69-KV Transmission line which is on the south side of Hwy. 26. When routine maintaince is done, Idaho Power Crew or Contract Crew access the line from the closest point of access not on the easement right-way. The private landowner has no say over Idaho Power crew or their contract crew accessing thru their land.
On BLM managed land, BLM personnel would be able to oversee environmental concerns such as nocuous weeds and erosion on disturbed land.
- #2 The Kitten Complex fire further degraded sage grouse habitat. In the area Of MP 212 the centerline cross over area the sage grouse are currently seen. The stretch from MP 211.4 to MP 214 did not burn. This area was checked after the fire and the leks were not destroyed. I believe construction in this area would have a very negative effect on the small number of sage grouse in this area.
- #3 Approximately ¼ to ½ mile to the south of MP 212 & MP 213 area is the Nesting ground for special species of the long billed curlew and the burrowing owl. If the construction crew access the right a way from any point as they do with the 69-KV line. These birds would be disrupted.
- #4 I see no way for the landowner to control noxious weeds in disturbed Ground, white top and scotch thistle are concern for me. Erosion could be a potential problem.
- #5 I believe the visual impact has been understated-traveling north on HWY 26 From south of Brogan to leaving the valley, the proposed power line would be the skyline view for over 180 degrees.

We are currently involved in projects to improve the sage grouse habit such as installing fence markers. Bird escapes on water troughs and conserving the remaining sagebrush. We have range drilled 200 acres and airplane seeded 400 acres of crested wheat grass and nomad alfalfa to compete with the cheat grass to reduce the fire danger.



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