

March 16, 2015
1700 Blaine Ave NE
Renton WA 98056

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS Response
P.O. Box 655 Vale, OR 97918

BLM,

A number of individuals and groups are providing letters and comments concerning the B2H Transmission Line. There is a lot of discussion of important issues, be it the cutting of trees; the damage of the viewscape with the towers; the concern for the endangered sage grouse; the violation of the Oregon landscape to provide power for other regions of the country but none for Oregon; or the expectation that trail traces must be protected as part of the National Historic Trail system.

I am definitely not opposed to providing power for the millions of United States residents. The transmission lines are intended to provide a backup to the current main power grid.

I have one overriding concern, and that is the potential for further degradation of irreplaceable emigrant Oregon Trail routes, which are unique in the world. Since the line will be providing backup power transmission, it is certainly not so much of an urgency to get the lines up and functioning that their route cannot be shifted from the current configuration to one that has the least impact on trail traces.

Construction of the transmission lines in the current configuration will provide access to trace areas that are currently pristine. Once there is easier access to those traces, they are at great risk of damage and perhaps destruction by ATV drivers, hunters, and even workers overseeing the transmission lines. Those traces cannot be "replaced," and their loss cannot be mitigated. Once they are gone, they are GONE. There is no replacement for them.

I call for BLM's acceptance of their responsibility to approve transmission line routing in locations that are the least detrimental to the historic trails. Please advocate for routing with minimal impact to the trail traces.



Marley Shurtleff
Former Oregon resident
Advocate for Historic Trails

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