

March 15, 2015

Re: B2H

This letter is submitted in response to the proposed B2H Transmission Line Project. As a concerned citizen of La Grande and a resident of Morgan Lake Estates, I find the proposed Segment 9 EIS Preferred Route unacceptable. It defaces an historic landscape with its unsightly presence to our view-shed. More importantly, however, it would impact the Rocky Mountain Elk population who consider that landscape "home". During the breeding season, 800 to 1200 elk gather and rut on and around Cowboy Ridge - the high ridge that divides Rock Creek and Sheep Creek. Transmission Line **Segment 9** (Proposed Route) subjects a large breeding concentration of elk to the noise created by corona and electromagnetic fields of a 500 kW transmission line.

The impact of **Segment 9** also infringes on Migratory Birds and Raptors. Currently there is a Bald Eagle Nest and Osprey nest that fledged young during 2014, within a half-mile of the proposed route. We need to be better caretakers of the world we live in and not make decisions at the expense of other populations that do not have a voice.

Additionally, Segment 9 compromises the integrity of Twin Lake, by running transmission lines within half a mile of this lake, which is registered as a Research Natural Area by the Oregon Natural Heritage Program. This lowland pond supports an aquatic eco-system that is unique in the Blue Mountain Province.

Moreover, this route is within a half mile of the Oregon Trail ruts, which are protected by Congress in the National Historic Trail Act. It is also in close proximity to the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Management Area. This plan compromises protected lands and impacts our wildlife resources. For these reasons, Segment 9 of the B2H Transmission Project is a bad plan.

Similarly, Segment 9A (the Glass Hill Alternative), although improving on some of the above considerations, still impacts many of the above-mentioned considerations.

Rather than forcing a square peg into a round hole, Idaho Power should be considering newer technologies that take all of the above into consideration. As a private, for profit project utilizing public lands, there should be significant respect and consideration given to the impact of the project on wild habitat, protected environs, the effects of transmission lines on the health and well-being of our community.

Current and bleeding-edge technology make high-tension lines an obsolete choice and an unjustified decision for the foreseeable future and for long-term investment. Other alternatives should be considered that harmonize with wild habitats and protected environs, while ensuring sound business decisions that protect future generations from the fallout of poor choices made for profit. Possible alternatives should include a distributed generation of power using locally produced solar, wind, and fuel-cell technologies that will carry us to the next generation. These technologies are in practice and only need additional development and implementation to provide a better alternative to unsightly transmission lines. An investment into localized power production is an investment toward future trends.

These concerned citizens respectfully requests serious consideration to a “No Action” choice for the B2H Transmission Project until a proper analysis is done for alternate technologies that would be more appropriate in protecting the planet that we call home.

Thank you for your consideration.

Debra S. Votaw and Merlyn E. Baker