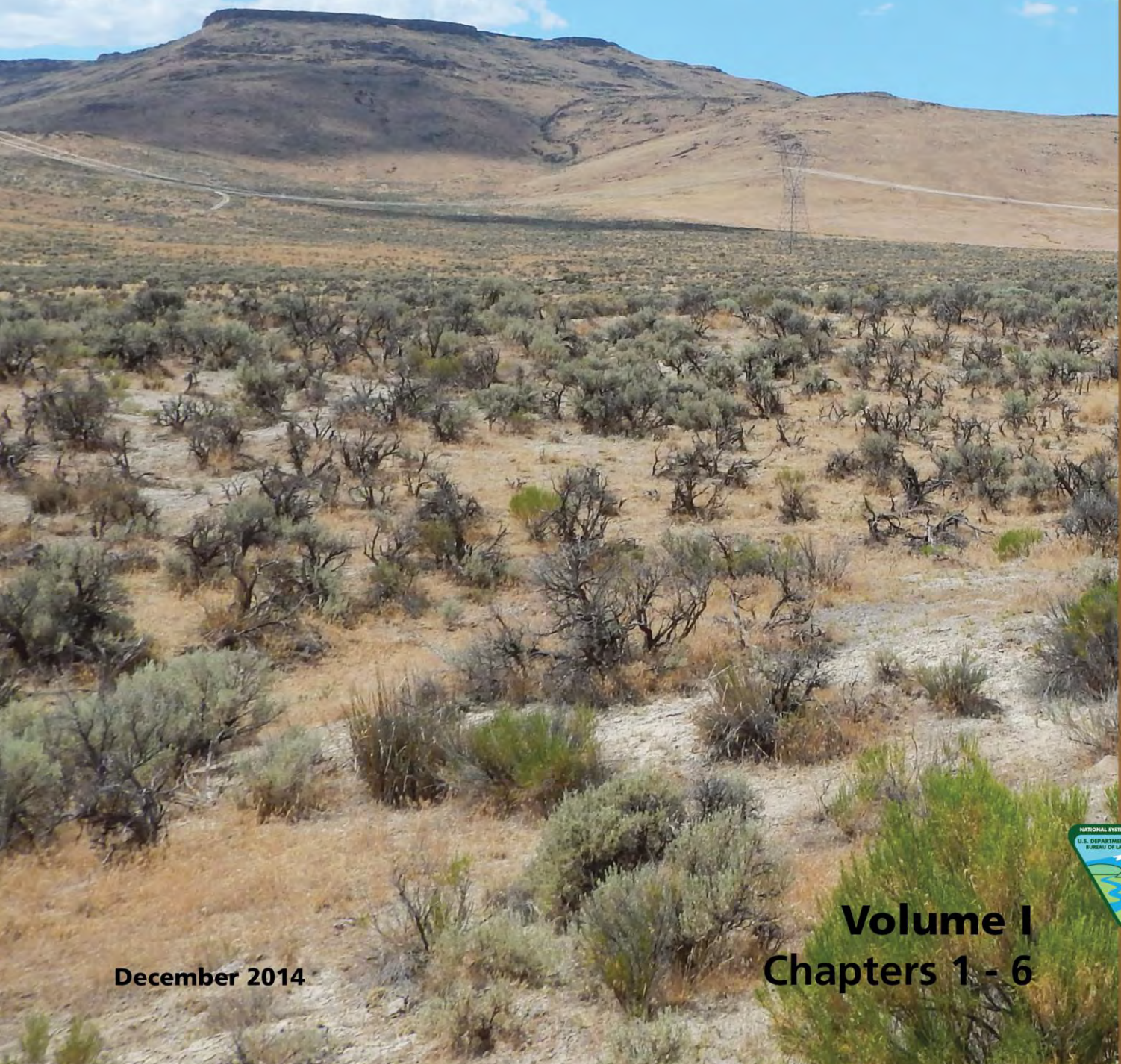


**DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT and
LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENTS for the
BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT**

DOI-BLM-OR-V000-2012-016-EIS



**Volume I
Chapters 1 - 6**

December 2014



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AND LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENTS FOR THE
BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT**

VOLUMES I AND II

DOI-BLM-OR-V000-2012-016-EIS

Vale District Office
100 Oregon Street
Vale, Oregon 97918

December 2014

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**Draft Environmental Impact Statement
and Land Use Plan Amendments
for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project**

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Vale District Office

Cooperating Agencies: U.S. Forest Service, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Morrow County, Oregon
Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Office Umatilla County, Oregon
Bureau of Land Management Idaho State Office Union County, Oregon
Bureau of Land Management Boise District Office Baker County, Oregon
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Malheur County, Oregon
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Washington County, Idaho
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Canyon County, Idaho
U.S. Department of Energy Payette County, Idaho
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency City of Boardman, Oregon
U.S. Naval Weapons Facility, Boardman Oregon Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project,
Bonneville Power Administration Owyhee Irrigation District, Oregon
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife City of Parma, Idaho
Oregon Department of Energy
Idaho Office of Energy Resources

Type of Action: Right-of-way grant from the Bureau of Land Management
Special-use authorization from the U.S. Forest Service
Land use plan amendments

Project Location: Oregon: Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Baker, and Malheur Counties
Idaho: Owyhee County

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Deadline for Comments: Comments on the Draft EIS must be emailed to the BLM, USFS, and cooperating agencies by close of business March 19, 2014.

ABSTRACT

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Land Use Plan Amendments document analyzes the impacts related to granting a right-of-way across federal land to Idaho Power Company for the purpose of constructing, operating, and maintaining the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. The B2H Project would include a single-circuit alternating-current, 500-kilovolt (kV) overhead electric transmission line with ancillary facilities. The transmission line would be approximately 305 miles long, and would connect the Grassland Substation located near the city of Boardman, Morrow County, Oregon, to the existing Hemingway Substation near the city of Melba, Owyhee County, Idaho. The proposed B2H Project would include relocation of approximately 4.5 miles of existing 138-kV transmission line to a newly constructed double circuit 138/69-kV transmission line in the existing right-of-way near Weatherby, Oregon. The B2H Project is proposed to cross federal, state, and private lands in five counties in Oregon and one county in Idaho. The Draft EIS analyzes the Proposed Action, the No Action Alternative, and several action alternatives and assesses the potential impacts on the natural, human, and cultural environment. In addition to analyzing and disclosing the potential impacts, this Draft EIS analyzes the consistency of the project with the applicable Bureau of Land Management resource management plans (RMPs) and U.S. Forest Service land and resource management plan (LRMP) and the potential need for amendments to these plans in order to approve the proposed B2H Project. Under the Proposed Action, the Bureau of Land Management would issue a right-of-way grant and the U.S. Forest Service would issue a special-use authorization for constructing, operating, and maintaining the proposed transmission line and associated facilities. Other federal agencies may rely on the Draft EIS and Final EIS to make decisions regarding authorizing the use of lands they manage (U.S. Navy, Bureau of Reclamation), issuing permits (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), or determining whether to acquire a portion of the agency selected alternative to meet its needs (Bonneville Power Administration).

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AADT	average annual daily traffic
AC	alternating current
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ACSR	aluminum conductor steel-reinforced
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
AGL	above ground level
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
APE	area of potential effects
APLIC	Avian Power Line Interaction Committee
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
ASC	Application for Site Certificate
AU	analysis unit
AUM	animal unit month
B2H Project	Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project
BA	biological assessment
BCC	birds of conservation concern
BGEPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
BP	Before Present
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendments
CadnaA	Computer Aided Noise Abatement
CAFE	Corona and Field Effects
CAP	Community Advisory Process
CCS	cryptocrystalline silica
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH ₄	methane
cmil	circular mil
CMUP	comprehensive management plan
CO	carbon monoxide

CO ₂	carbon dioxide
CO ₂ e	carbon dioxide equivalent
CPCN	Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CTUIR	Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWCS	Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies
CWM	compensatory wetland mitigation
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DecAID	Decayed Wood Advisory model
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
DOGAMI	Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (Oregon)
DSL	Department of State Lands (Oregon)
EDMS	Emissions and Dispersion Modeling System
EFSC	Energy Facility Siting Council
EFU	exclusive farm use
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMF	electromagnetic fields
EMFAC	Emission Factors
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPM	environmental protection measure
ERMA	Extensive Recreation Management Area
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESCP	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute
EUD	ecological unit description
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FG	foreground (distance zone)

FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FMP	Fire Management Plan
FR	Federal Register
FSH	Forest Service handbook
FSM	Forest Service Manual
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIS	geographic information system
GLO	General Land Office
H	high (impact intensity)
HMA	Herd Management Area
HUC	hydrologic unit code
I-84	Interstate 84
IDAPA	Idaho Administrative Procedures Act
IDEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDL	Idaho Department of Lands
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
ILS	intensive level survey
IMPLAN	Impact Analysis for Planning
IOP	inventory observation point
IPC	Idaho Power Company
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IR	instrument route
IRP	integrated resource plan
ISDA	Idaho State Department of Agriculture
ISO	Organization for International Standardization
ISTEA	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991
ITD	Idaho Transportation Department
kcmil	thousand circular mil
KOP	key observation point
kV	kilovolt
L	low (impact intensity)
LCDC	Land Conservation and Development Commission
LDT	light-duty truck

L _{dn}	day–night sound level
L _{eq}	equivalent sound level
L _{max}	maximum instantaneous sound level
LP	linear platform
LRMP	land and resource management plan
LUP	land use plan
LUPA	land use plan amendment
M	moderate (impact intensity)
MA	Management Area
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MFP	Management Framework Plan
MG	middleground (distance zone)
MIS	management indicator species
MMBF	million board feet
MOA	Military operation area
MMD	mineral materials disposal
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	milepost
mph	miles per hour
MRI	Midwest Research Institute
MTR	military training route
MW	megawatt
N	negligible (impact intensity)
N/A	not applicable/not available
NC	no change
N ₂ O	nitrous oxide
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NAICS	North American Industry Classification System
NAS	National Academy of Sciences
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Council
NESHAP	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NHD	National Hydrography Dataset
NHOTIC	National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NHT	national historic trail
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	nitrogen oxides
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSPS	New Source Performance Standards
NSR	New Source Review
NWGAP	Northwest Regional Gap Analysis Project
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
NWSTF	Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility
O&M	operations and maintenance
O ₃	ozone
OAR	Oregon Administrative Rule
ODA	Oregon Department of Agriculture
ODEQ	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
ODOE	Oregon Department of Energy
ODOT	Oregon Department of Transportation
ODWR	Oregon Department of Water Resources
OFP	Oregon Flora Project
OHV	off-highway vehicle
OPGW	optical ground wire (or an optical fiber composite overhead power wire)
OPRD	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
OPS	Office of Pipeline Safety (U.S. Department of Transportation)
OPUC	Oregon Public Utility Commission
OR&N	Oregon Railway & Navigation Company
ORBIC	Oregon Biodiversity Information Center
ORS	Oregon Revised Statute
ORWAP	Oregon Wetland Rapid Assessment Protocol
OSL	Oregon Short Line
OSN	Oregon Steam Navigation

OWC	Oregon Wetland Cover
PA	programmatic agreement
PACFISH	Pacific Anadromous Fish Strategy
PAT	Project Advisory Team
PFY	Potential Fossil Yield (BLM classification system)
PGH	preliminary general habitat
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than 10 microns
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns
POD	Plan of Development
PPH	preliminary priority habitat
Project	Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
RECT	Recreation
ReGAP	Regional Gap Analysis Project
RHCAs	Riparian habitat conservation areas
RLS	reconnaissance level survey
RMP	resource management plan
RNA	research natural area
ROD	Record of Decision
ROG	reactive organic gas
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
ROW	right-of-way
RV	recreational vehicle
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SF 299	Standard Form 299
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SL	sensitivity level
SLIDO-2	Statewide Landslide Information Database (Oregon)
SMA	special management area
SMS	Scenery Management System
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SOx	sulfur oxides
SP	stationary platform
SPCC	Spill Prevention, Countermeasure, and Containment

SQ	scenic quality
SQRU	scenic quality rating unit
SR	State Route
SRMA	special recreation management area
SSP	special-status plant
SSURGO	Soil Survey Geographic
SUP	Special Use Permit
SWPPP	stormwater pollution prevention plan
TCP	traditional cultural property
TES	Threatened, endangered, candidate, and proposed
TMDL	total maximum daily load
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
U.S. 20	U.S. Highway 20
U.S. 26	U.S. Highway 26
U.S. 30	U.S. Highway 30
U.S. 395	U.S. Highway 395
U.S. 95	U.S. Highway 95
U.S.	United States
U.S.C.	United States Code
UNF	Umatilla National Forest
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDOJ	U.S. Department of the Interior
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VC	variety class
VAU	visual analysis unit
VMS	Visual Management System
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
VOC	volatile organic compound
VQO	Visual Quality Objective
VR	visual routes
VRM	Visual Resource Management
VRI	visual resource inventory

WECC	Western Electricity Coordinating Council
WMA	wildlife management area
WRAP	Western Regional Air Partnership
WSA	wilderness study area
WSR	wild and scenic river