

Appendix C – Community Criteria

Community criteria were put the same level of importance as regulatory criteria. The community criteria were divided into placement opportunities and avoidance areas:

- **Placement Opportunities:** Areas that should be considered for a route because land uses and designations are compatible with the construction, operation, and maintenance of a transmission line
- **Avoidance Areas:** Areas that should be avoided unless there are no reasonable alternatives. Can range from very low to high impacts and mitigation may be easily implemented or very difficult or infeasible to implement

In the South Advisory Area, criteria include:

Placement Opportunities:

- Existing energy corridors
- West Wide energy corridor
- Public land (federal and state)
- Transportation and rail corridor

Avoidance Areas:

- Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land in Oregon
- Prime farmland in Idaho
- Irrigated farmland
- Bi-secting fields
- Aerial spraying activity areas
- Private rangeland
- Scenic view sheds
- Areas with potential for residential and/or business development
- Urban growth boundaries
- Areas of tourism
- Historic landmarks
- Narrow valleys with agricultural operations
- Private resource land (i.e., timber)
- Sensitive wildlife areas (i.e., sage grouse leks)
- Water resources and wetlands
- Schools
- City impact areas
- Private residences
- Confined animal feeding operations
- Public land

In the Central Advisory Area, criteria include:

Placement Opportunities:

- Existing energy corridors
- West Wide energy corridor
- Public land (federal and state)
- Transportation and rail corridors

Avoidance Areas:

- Exclusive Farm use (EFU) land
- Irrigated farmland
- Bisecting fields
- Aerial spraying activity areas
- Rangeland
- Scenic view sheds
- Areas that have potential for residential and/or business development
- Areas of tourism (specifically the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center)
- Historic landmarks
- Narrow valleys with agricultural operations
- Private resource land (i.e., timber)
- Sensitive wildlife areas (i.e., sage grouse leks)
- Water resources and wetlands
- Schools
- Private residences
- Medical facilities
- Airports
- Developed areas for recreation (Wolf Creek, parks)
- South La Grande
- Powder River Valley
- Designated scenic highway routes
- Below Thief Valley
- Howard Meadows area
- Public land

In the North Advisory Area, community criteria include:

Placement Opportunities:

- Existing energy corridors
- West Wide energy corridor
- Public land (federal and state)
- Transportation and rail corridors
- Across the bombing range

- Co-locate with wind farms
- Private property owned by people that want the line on their land

Avoidance Areas:

- Irrigated farmland
- Bi-secting fields
- Aerial spraying activity areas
- Scenic view sheds
- Areas that have potential for residential and/or business development
- Urban growth boundaries
- Areas of tourism
- Historic landmarks
- Narrow valleys with agricultural operations
- Private resource land (i.e., timber)
- Sensitive wildlife areas (i.e., Washington ground squirrel habitat)
- Water resources and wetlands
- Schools
- City impact areas
- Private residences
- Confined animal feeding operations
- Public land

In Grant County community criteria include:

Placement Opportunities:

- Existing energy corridors
- I-84 corridor
- Direct route between Boardman and Hemingway

Avoidance Areas:

- Undeveloped areas
- Wilderness areas
- Rural areas
- Roadless areas
- Designated wild and scenic rivers – riparian areas (strips of land that border creeks, rivers or other bodies of water)
- Critical watershed enhancement and restoration areas
- Scenic areas such as the cedar grove, the fossil beds and view sheds
- Recreation areas
- Wildlife habitats such as big game winter range, sage grouse leks and threatened and endangered species habitat
- Forest land and old growth

- Private property
- Exclusive Farm Use Land

In Harney County, community criteria include:

Placement Opportunities:

- Existing energy corridors
- I-84 corridor
- Areas with potential for wind power
- Direct route between Boardman and Hemingway

Avoidance Areas:

- Wildlife habitats
- Undeveloped or wilderness land
- Riparian areas (strips of land that border creeks, rivers or other bodies of water)
- Exclusive Farm use land
- Private land
- Forests and timberland
- Roadless areas