



Boardman to Hemingway Project Advisory Team

Grant County
Project Advisory Team
Meeting 5



Tonight's Objectives

- Present the proposed route Idaho Power is submitting in its revised applications to the BLM and ODOE-EFSC
- Discuss how and why the proposed route was selected
- Discuss next steps in the siting process

Agenda

- Presentation of Proposed Route
 - How and why the proposed route was selected
 - SF-299
 - Questions and answers
- Next Steps
 - Public meetings
 - Overview of how the federal and state processes will proceed
 - Scoping
 - Future CAP communication

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Presentation of the Proposed Route

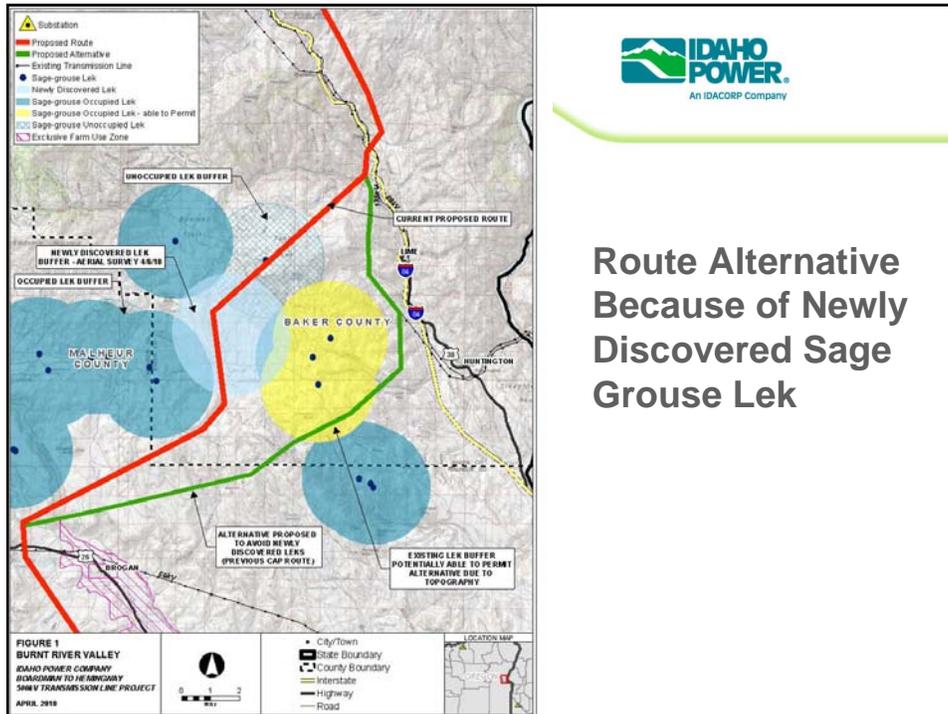


Boardman to Hemingway Proposed Route



Boardman to Hemingway Proposed Route Revised Because of Newly Discovered Sage Grouse Lek





B2H Proposed Route

- Idaho Power selected the Eastern Route as the proposed route based on a variety of factors,
 - How the communities ranked their siting criteria
 - Placement opportunities and avoidance and exclusion categories (not just the number of line miles or total number of resources crossed, but the type of resource that would be impacted)
 - Difficulty of construction
 - Regulatory criteria from,
 - BLM
 - Forest Service
 - Oregon Department of Energy
 - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 - Results of the technical analysis of the 3 proposed route alternatives and segments

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B2H Proposed Route

- Community criteria are an inherent part of the route since Project Advisory Team members created routes that reflected what is important to them
- Idaho Power considered Community Criteria when looking at routes in a particular area
 - Example: Retaining visual quality around the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTIC) has been identified as an important consideration in developing routes
 - While the route that crosses in front of the NHOTIC has relatively the same permitting difficulty as the proposed route, Idaho Power did not select it as a proposed route or route variation because of community concerns

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B2H Proposed Route

- Idaho Power also considered the comments submitted following the March 2010 PAT meetings. Overall, comments did not identify any new issues or concerns that were related to permitting or were not already being considered through the community criteria
- Mitigation costs were considered but did not impact the decision

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B2H Proposed Route

- **Advantages of the Eastern Route include:**
 - Crosses fewer (8) special status streams than the Western Route (46) and Central Route (13)
 - Uses a designated USFS utility corridor and would require fewer miles (188) of new corridor than the Western Route (229 miles) and Central Route (224 miles)
 - Fewer acres of forested timber to be cleared (681) than the Western Route (1754) and the Central Route (1763)

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B2H Proposed Route

- **Advantages (continued):**
 - Minimizes the amount of rugged terrain and steep slopes (35 miles) encountered compared to the Western Route (59 miles) and the Central Route (56 miles)
 - Fewer total miles (65.3) of high construction difficulty (defined by terrain, road construction, equipment movement, accessibility, severe weather, and clearing) than the Western Route (117.1) and the Central Route (99.3)

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B2H Proposed Route

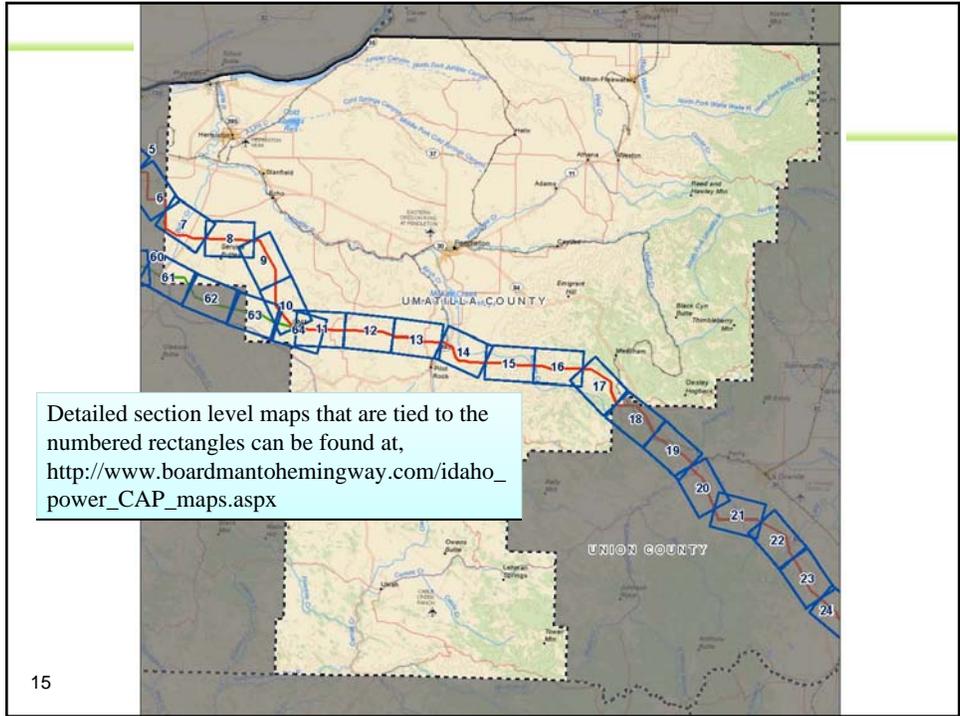
- **Disadvantages of the Eastern Route include:**
 - Adds 24 more miles than the Western Route and 15 more miles than the Central Route. Additional miles may or may not affect the overall ability to permit the route; this is more dependent upon the type of resource impacted and the length of the impact
 - More private land crossed than other two alternatives
 - Within the view shed of the back side of the National Historic Oregon trail Interpretive Center

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B2H Proposed Route

- **Issues that could cause route changes:**
 - New sage grouse leks discovered during aerial survey
 - New buildings or housing developments
 - Expansion of city areas of impact
 - Change in the regulatory status of plant and wildlife species
 - New Washington ground squirrel habitat discovered during survey
 - Change in BLM Resource Management Plans, Forest Service Land Management Plans, or county or municipal requirements
 - Discovery of cultural resources not previously identified

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NEPA/EFSC Processes



SF-299 and EFSC NOI

- Idaho Power will be submitting a revised SF299 to re-start the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process
 - SF299 is the standard government form titled “*Application for Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands*”
 - BLM requires that Idaho Power indicate one *proposed* line route in the application. Alternative routes are also allowed.
- A Notice of Intent will be filed with the Oregon Department of Energy, Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC)
 - The EFSC NOI will be submitted after we submit the revised SF-299 but before the NEPA scoping meeting

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NEPA/EFSC Timeline

- Idaho Power has completed the following steps following selection of the Eastern Route as the Proposed Route
 - Submit draft SF-299 and Plan of Development (POD) to the BLM and Forest Service – April 9, 2010
 - Review draft SF-299 and POD with BLM and Forest Service – April 15, 2010

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NEPA/EFSC Timeline

- The BLM and Forest Service are continuing their review of the draft SF-299 and POD. Once Idaho Power receives their comments, we anticipate the following:
 - Submit SF-299 and POD to the BLM and Forest Service – Spring 2010
 - BLM publishes Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to start the 60-day scoping period – Summer 2010
 - Idaho Power submits Notice of Intent (NOI) to EFSC – Spring 2010
 - Public scoping meetings will be held jointly with BLM and EFSC at multiple locations – Summer 2010

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NEPA Process

- The NEPA process is broken into 4 major steps,
 - Notice of Intent (NOI)
 - Draft Environmental Impact Statement (dEIS)
 - Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Record of Decision
- Notice of Intent/Scoping
 - BLM issues public notice that it is preparing an EIS
 - Publication of NOI in the Federal Register initiates a minimum 30-day public scoping/comment period
 - Idaho Power expects scoping period to be 60 days

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NEPA Process

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - BLM develops alternatives to address the issues and concerns identified during scoping
 - BLM issues the draft EIS which documents the social and environmental effects analysis of the proposed action and alternatives
 - BLM provides a minimum 60-day public review and comment period on the draft EIS
 - BLM will hold public meetings during this stage.

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NEPA Process

- Final Environmental Impact Statement
 - BLM releases the final EIS, which includes the agency's response to comments on the draft EIS
 - Final EIS identifies the agency's preferred alternative
 - BLM provides a minimum 30-day availability period
- Record of Decision
 - BLM decides on whether or not to approve the requested action

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EFSC Process

- The EFSC process is broken into 7 major steps,
 - Notice of Intent
 - Project Order
 - Application for Site Certificate
 - Draft Proposed Order
 - Proposed Order
 - Contested Case Hearing
 - Final Order

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EFSC Process

- Notice of Intent
 - The NOI initiates public comment period on the proposal and allows agencies and affected local governments to identify applicable requirements and special issues of concern
 - ODOE will hold public information meetings during this phase
 - The NOI is not an application to construct the facility – it merely states the applicant’s intention to submit an application in the future
- Project Order
 - ODOE issues the Project Order which identifies applicable statutes, rules and ordinances and defines the impact analysis areas

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EFSC Process

- Application for Site Certificate
 - Idaho Power submits its application which describes the facility, its anticipated impacts and how it will meet EFSC's standards. Idaho Power must indicate the final proposed corridor, but has the option to request a site certificate that includes more than one corridor
 - Idaho Power must comply with all local land use requirements and indicate which land use permitting route they will take, either the local jurisdictional land use approval process, or the EFSC land use permitting process, where EFSC acts in place of the local jurisdictions and makes the decision on compliance with local land use requirements

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EFSC Process

- Draft Proposed Order
 - ODOE requests comments from the public and from other state and local agencies, and will issue a Draft Proposed Order recommending approval or denial of the application
 - ODOE holds public hearings on the Draft Proposed Order
 - Anyone can raise issues or objections to the Draft Proposed Order in writing or at the public hearings. *Failure to comment in person or in writing on the record of this hearing precludes participation in the subsequent contested case and the right to appeal EFSC's final decision*
 - Since the EFSC process also serves as the land use process, the public hearings also serve as the land use hearings for this project

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EFSC Process

- Proposed Order
 - ODOE issues the Proposed Order based on comments from EFSC, the public and other government agencies
- Contested Case Hearing
 - The contested case hearing is a formal hearing and only those persons who commented on the Draft Proposed Order may participate in the contested case
- Final Order
 - EFSC decides whether it will issue the site certificate

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Next Steps



Next Steps in Process

- Idaho Power plans to submit SF299 to re-start the NEPA process after BLM has reviewed the Plan of Development
- After the BLM Notice of Intent is published in the Federal Register, A Notice of Intent will be filed with the Oregon Department of Energy, Energy Facility Siting Council
 - Note, the BLM NOI and EFSC NOI are different documents with different meanings
- Idaho Power will continue working with the community members throughout the project. We will send out periodic communications to Community Advisory Process members concerning the status of both the NEPA and EFSC processes

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Additional Information

- www.boardmantohemingway.com
 - Project information
 - Links to BLM, Oregon Department of Energy, Idaho Power
 - Comment forms