

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

DOI-BLM-ORWA-V000-2012-0016-EIS  
OROR-065375  
IDI-036029

November 2016

**Volume 1A:  
Front Matter through  
Section 3.2.12**



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

DOI-BLM-ORWA-V000-2012-0016-EIS  
OROR-065375  
IDI-036029

November 2016

**Volume 1B:  
Section 3.2.13 through  
Appendix J**



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

**Lead Agency:** U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

**Cooperating Agencies:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Wallowa-Whitman National Forest) Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 U.S. Department of the Army, Army Corps of Engineers Morrow County, Oregon  
 U.S. Department of the Navy, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Umatilla County, Oregon  
 (for Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility, Boardman) Union County, Oregon  
 U.S. Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration Baker County, Oregon  
 (DOE/EIS-0507) Malheur County, Oregon  
 U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation Payette County, Idaho  
 U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service City of Boardman, Oregon  
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Owyhee Irrigation District, Oregon  
 Idaho Governor's Office (Idaho Office of Energy Resources) Joint Committee of the Owyhee  
 Oregon Department of Energy Project, Oregon

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

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

**For further information on this document, contact:**

<p>Tamara Gertsch          BLM National Project Manager          Washington Office (350)          P.O. Box 655          Vale, Oregon 97918          (307) 775-6115          tgertsch@blm.gov</p> <p>Arlene Blumton          USFS B2H Agency Coordinator          Natural Resource Staff          La Grande Ranger District          3502 Highway 30          La Grande, Oregon 97850          (541) 962-8522          ablumton@fs.fed.us</p>	<p>Renee Straub          BLM Vale District Project Coordinator          Authorized Officer's Representative          Vale District          100 Oregon Street          Vale, Oregon 97918          (541) 473-6289          rstraub@blm.gov</p>
--	--

**Availability period:** 30 days after the publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*

**ABSTRACT**

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared to analyze and disclose the impacts of granting a right-of-way across federal land to Idaho Power Company (the Applicant) for the purpose of constructing, operating, and maintaining the single-circuit alternating-current, 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and amending Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land-use plans to accommodate the proposed transmission line. The Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project also would include (1)

constructing a 500-kV connection in the proposed Longhorn Substation; (2) constructing an internal communication system to control the transmission line and manage the flow of electricity, with regeneration sites approximately every 40 miles; (3) potentially relocating approximately 0.9 mile of existing 230-kV transmission line in the vicinity of Flagstaff, Oregon (east of Baker City) to allow for efficient placement of the 500-kV line; (4) potentially relocating an approximately 5.3-mile-long section of existing 138-kV line in the vicinity of Weatherby, Oregon, with an existing 69-kV line; the structures would be rebuilt to accommodate the two transmission lines (i.e., double-circuit 138/69-kV, including a 12.5-kV line underbuild) enabling use of the 138-kV line right-of-way for the proposed 500-kV transmission line. Also, although not part of the Applicant's Proposed Action, if an alternative route along the west side of Bombing Range Road is selected, the existing Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) 69-kV line would have to be partially relocated. This additional action of replacing a portion of the BPA 69-kV transmission line is a connected action under NEPA, the effects of which have been analyzed and addressed in the Final EIS. The EIS analyzes the Proposed Action and several alternatives, including taking no action, and assesses the potential impacts on the natural, human, and cultural environment of implementing the Proposed Action or an alternative. Under the Proposed Action, the BLM would issue a right-of-way grant and the USFS would issue a special-use authorization for constructing, operating, and maintaining the proposed transmission line and associated facilities. Depending on the route selected for the transmission line, other potentially affected agencies may tier to the analysis in this EIS in issuing decisions and similar use authorizations.