

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

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



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Chapters 1 - 6**

December 2014



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

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AND LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENTS FOR THE
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VOLUMES I AND II

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

Vale District Office
100 Oregon Street
Vale, Oregon 97918

December 2014

**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).