Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

100356

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

100356

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

BLM

Date: 10/24/11

First Name: George Last Name: Kelley

Organization or Office Name: Concerned Land Owner

Mailing Address: PO Box 25 City: Albion State: ID Zip: 83311

Daytime Phone: (208) 312-0085 Email: george.m.kelley@hotmail.com

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I am the owner of a 3000 acre farm which would be directly affected by the TEF alternate line. The proposed site will interfere with normal farming operations. In addition, a rock quarry is in operation in the direct path of the proposed line. Because the rock is initially broken up using explosives, there is a great potential for damage to the power line during these procedures. The quarry covers over 900 acres of land permitted and zoned by Cassia County and the Idaho State Dept. of Lands for such use. The

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

1/2

continued on back

Name: George Kelley

proposed line would go directly over this quarry.
The 7EF proposed line will also interfere with guided hunts in the area. It will ~~also~~ interfere with future plans to establish a game farm, as well.
The 7 or 7H proposals are preferred.

2011 OCT 28 AM 10:
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

2/2

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

From: Kerri Franklin
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 8:21 AM
To: Gateway BLM
Subject: FW: Gateway West Project - - DEIS Comment Sent to Wyoming State Director

Kerri Franklin | EnviroIssues

101 Stewart Street, Ste 1200 | Seattle 98101
206.269.5041 | www.enviroissues.com

From: George, Walter E [mailto:wgeorge@blm.gov]
Sent: Sunday, October 16, 2011 2:17 PM
To: Kerri Franklin; joy.mclain@tetratech.com
Subject: Gateway West Project - - DEIS Comment Sent to Wyoming State Director

Please add to the DEIS comment record.

From: Simpson, Donald A
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2011 12:30 PM
To: Bud Barnes
Cc: George, Walter E
Subject: RE: Gateway West Project

Thanks. I will copy on to the project manager.

From: Bud Barnes [mailto:almybudbarnes@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2011 12:03 PM
To: Simpson, Donald A
Subject: Gateway West Project

Dear Mr. Simpson,

I'm sure you have your hands full but please consider the views of an old man raised in the area affected by this project:

I recommend the proposed route of segment 4 be abandoned and Alternative 4A be used instead.

As proposed, and according to the Gateway West Transmission Line EIS Table 2.8-4, Segment 4A would be half as long and disturb less than half the operations and construction area as Segment 4. In almost all the comparison features of the table, Segment 4A is superior.

Segment 4 looks good on the map but someone needs to put boots on the ground and go look at the route. The segment from Fontenelle to Cokeville is some of the most rugged and unspoiled wilderness left in Wyoming. Construction would be difficult and expensive and have a short season

due to the severe winters in that area. A transmission line is a transmission line and a road is a road. Mitigation or no, the area would be scarred forever.

It would be a real shame to have that beautiful strip of old Wyoming from Fontenelle to Cokeville desecrated by a commercial venture, especially when an existing rout is available.

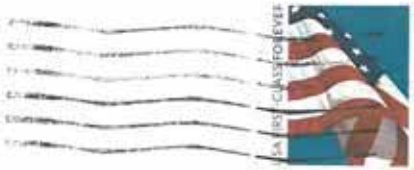
Instead of Proposal 4 please accept Alternate 4A. Or choose EIS Para. 2.3: No Action Alternative and scrap the entire plan.

Thank you for your time.

Almy (Bud) Barnes

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

RAWLINS WY 82301
PM
24 OCT
2011



ENTERED
100394

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

82003#7018 B047

1/2

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

ENTERED 100394

2011 OCT 27 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Date: 10-18-11

First Name: Angie Last Name: Roy

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: HC 32 Box 3 City: Rawlins State: WY Zip: 82301

Daytime Phone: 307-324-9531 Email: aroybal4@carbonpower.net

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I am writing in concern of the location of the Gateway West Transmission Line Project. According to the map "Project Overview Figure A-1" the proposed route in red clearly goes around the Ft. Steele community and historic site. I am in favor of this route for the following reasons: The transmission line does not go through or over the community of Fort Steele therefore preserving human life, livestock,

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Name:

ENTERED 100394

wildlife, the historic site, and the property value of all structures & residences. Fort Steele is a unique area & community that needs to be free of any 500 KV transmission lines to ensure the health of all life in Fort Steele.

I do not support the 2A & 2B alternate routes.

I appreciate your care & consideration of the inhabitants of Fort Steele in routing the Gateway West Transmission Line away from the Fort Steele area. It is my hope that those in charge of the final decision making will see to it that the proposed route is followed. This route will also allow room for the other transmission lines that will soon follow. It is of the upmost importance to establish an energy corridor away from human life to ensure the quality of life for future generations to come.

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

POCATELLO ID 832

26 OCT 2011 PM 1 L

POCATELLO MAIN OFFICE
OCT 26 2011

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

100338

820034701B

100338

Bureau of Land Management

Gateway West Project

Thank you for sending me the map of all the routes through Hawkins Basin. I am glad to see the alternative routes we suggested at our meeting in 2009 are recorded and you are taking them into consideration. The route 05 is the most troubling for the residents in the Basin as it goes over or very near to most the homes in the valley. Route 07 would still be closer than we would like but is much more acceptable than 05. We understand the desire to avoid the forest and roadless areas and moving Rt 07 north to avoid them is not a big problem for us. As long as you can keep the lines west of the existing power lines I do not think there will be much heart burn. This is a list of the people that are affected by this very short segment of your project; Jim and Jenny Orgill, Tracy Hawkins, Barry and Maria Neilsen, Bruce and Dawn Ann Bradley, Lee and Lauri Hawkins, Colleen Allen, Paul Hatch and Carwin Smith. By moving the route to either 07 or the alternate routes we suggested, everybody would avoid a lot of unnecessary hassle and a lot fewer people will be annoyed. There is not one person saying "Not in my backyard", but a very small community saying, "Please not over the top of our houses and through our back yards when there is an endless area that can be accessed that will not be harmful to our health, homes, wells, farm land and livestock." By using route 07 you will avoid all occupied residences in the Basin. The land along 07 is almost all private and you have to deal with those land owners, but except for Dave Burnham, none have residences in that area and Dave's is not occupied. Thanks again for your help.

Barry Neilsen

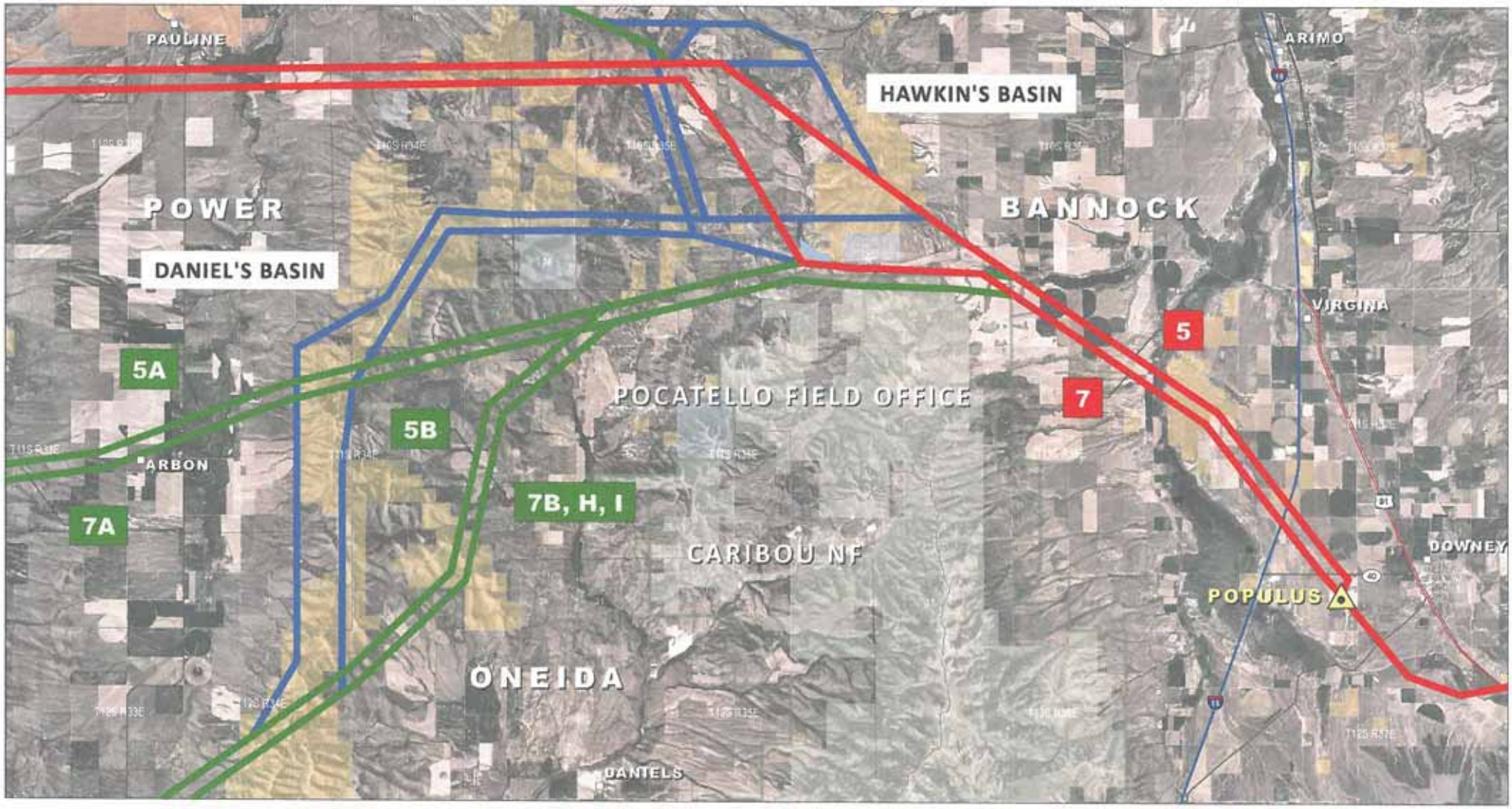
15316 S. Hawkins Rd

Arimo, ID

208-335-2180

2011 OCT 31 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

2/2



GATEWAY WEST TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT
IDAHO/WYOMING

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER
IDAHO POWER

SEGMENTS 05/07

PROPOSED ROUTE ADJUSTMENTS IN THE HAWKIN'S AND DANIEL'S BASIN AREAS

ROUTE FEATURES
- Proposed Route
- Feasible Alternative
- Proposed Route Adjustment
- Approximate Substation Location
- West Wide Energy Corridor (WWEC)

OWNERSHIP
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Defense Department
- National Park Service
- US National Forest
- US National Grasslands
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Other Federal
- Indian Reservation
- Private
- State or Local
- State Fish and Game
- State or Local Park
- Water

OTHER FEATURES
- BLM Field Office
- National Forest
- County

N

PROJECT AREA

De Williams
<de@arbonvalley.com>
10/28/2011 04:01 PM

To undisclosed-recipients:;
cc
bcc
Subject Comment on Transmission Line Project

Walt George
Gateway West Project Manager

I am Barry Williams and I am commenting on your proposed route of two power lines through Arbon Valley, Idaho. I own irrigated land in the proposed route including a wetland meadow. I and several others have homes close to the route. We have an elementary school within 600 ft. of the proposed line going to Borah. You are proposing running the lines over a rugged mountain on the west side of Arbon Valley where the snow drifts deep and becomes hard in late winter with sloping banks over any cut roads. Access would be difficult. Roads through this mountain would also put more hunting pressure on wildlife.

A more feasivle route for the north line would be to follow the three existing lines through the Fort hall Indian Reservation north of Pauline.

A more feasible route for the south line would be to go south just north of Buist and then along the Utah and Nevada border. The other alternate route over Arbon, goes diagonal across wetlands meadows and across a considerable amount of farm land. It also crosses a rugged mountain on the west side of Arbon Valley.

These lines should be run across public land as much as possible. The environmental impact on public land is not as great as the impact on private land owners.

Contact me @ Barry T. Williams
1277 Mink Creek Rd.
Arbon, Id 83212

Cell Phone 208-681-5357

Bart Fowers
<bfowers@aol.com>
10/28/2011 09:33 AM

To Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Proposed Transmission Line

Bureau of Land Management.docx

October 28, 2011

Bart Fowers & Sharon Fowers
28749 Anderson Loop Road
Bruneau, ID 83604

To the Bureau of Land Management,

We support the alternative route proposed by Frank Bachman and the Citizens Group. This route would cross the Snake River near the Cove recreation area, to the north side of the river. The proposed segment #9 that crosses Mormon Blvd and goes west thru Grand View, would impact our little valley immensely. It would go directly over two of our neighbors' houses. It would require us to remove a pivot that is 2485 feet long. Currently with that pivot, we have 3 pivot corners with our existing farming practices. If we would have to remove that pivot, we would have to replace it with three smaller pivots resulting in "12 pivot corners". The irrigation cost to farm corners is higher than that of non-corners.

With the proposed segment #9, the cost to remove and replace our existing pivot would be approximately $300,00.00. This would require putting in power, pipe lines, breaking the existing pivot into two smaller ones and purchasing an additional pivot to water the same acres.

Sincerely,

Bart & Sharon Fowers

Draft EIS Comment Form

100164

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

BLM

Date: 9-14-11

First Name: Lerthe E. Last Name: Mullin

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: 7198 Melmont Road City: Melba State: Id Zip: 83641

Daytime Phone: 208-495-2775 Email: —

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I don't want a high power line to come close to my home or property. I guess I would rather the line went south of the Snake River. I don't like change - but it is bound to come sooner or later. The most economical way it can be handled is best, because ultimately the people have to pay for the whole project.

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

From: jmclain@blm.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 12:13 PM
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: Gateway West Project

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 10/04/2011 01:12 PM -----

"Betty Slifer" <slifer@filertel.com> 10/03/2011 09:40 PM

To <Gateway_West_WYMAIL@blm.gov>
cc
Subject Gateway West Project

Dear BLM,
I have great concerns about the proposed Gateway West Project.
First I am not convinced that it is needed. It CERTAINLY is not needed for Idaho. And why should Idaho citizens suffer from living under massive transmission lines and towers and from paying higher power rates so that Vegas, Arizona, and California can benefit?
Also, I am concerned that this Project would stimulate the production of coal.
And most controversial is the placement of the routes. I have looked at various websites, and each has different maps full of proposed routes, alternative routes, other alternative routes, and other routes. If the lines and towers go through private lands, what compensation will there be for landowners??
In short, I am opposed to this Project, and hope that it will not be approved.
Sincerely,
Betty Slifer
in Filer

100163

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

BLM

Date: Sept. 14, 2011

First Name: Beverly Last Name: Morris

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: 1733 C. Southside Blvd. City: Melba State: ID Zip: 83641-5157

Daytime Phone: (208) 495-2551 Email: I dont have a computer —

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I live one and a half miles north of Melba. Melba is going to grow big in the future. If the power line is put just about a mile south of me (in the middle of farmland Route 8A) in the near future it will be in the middle of Melba — too close to children and too many people in general.

The route through the BLM land, Route 8 south of Melba seems a much better choice to me.

Of course, I want the electricity, I just want it in a better place.

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

100358

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Draft EIS Comment Form

100358

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

BLM

Date: 10/24/11

First Name: Bill Last Name: Kelley

Organization or Office Name: Concerned Land Owner / Pilot

Mailing Address: PO Box 575 City: Albion State: ID Zip: 83311

Daytime Phone: (208) 312-0087 Email: virginiacrbill@aol.com

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

My concerns regarding the TEF power line proposal are as follows:

The TEF alternate line falls too near the Albion Airport interfering with safe take-offs and landings. Due to the fact that the airport sits at the base of an 8000 ft. mountain to the south, a pilot often finds it necessary to take off and turn to the north in order to successfully complete the take-off. Take-off direction is also dependent upon weather conditions, pilot competency and load of aircraft. The proposed site for the power line would

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

1/2

continued on back

Name: Bill Kelley

be in the direct line of ascent causing serious, even deadly consequences to the aircraft, passengers and the power line itself.

The airport was designed and engineered by Briggs and Assoc. of Boise in 1969. A government grant financed the initial engineering of the airport. It has been in continuous operation since that time.

My family owned and operated a crop-dusting business for 30 years based out of this airport. During the agricultural season, we would fly as many as 30 take-offs and landings each day. Student pilot training has also been conducted from this airport.

The airport is located on 900 South and the 7EF proposed line will be as close as 800 South. Proposed line 7 or 7H would be preferred.

2/2

2001 OCT 28 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
CHEYENNE, WYOMING
BLM

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

100299

CASPER WY 826
1 PM
17 OCT
2011

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

$2003$7018 B047

100299

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

BLM

Date: 10/15/11

First Name: Bob & Karin Last Name: Scheidt

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2136 City: Glenrock State: Wy Zip: 82637

Daytime Phone: (925) 596-5724 Email: Bob.Scheidt24@gmail.com

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

Hello. Our physical address is 625 W. Grove St. The back of our home sits on the Glenrock Golf Course and has a beautiful view of the Laramie mountain range.

Two concerns we have:

1. An obstructed view of the mountains
2. Value of our beautiful home on the Glenrock Golf Course

Please find an alternative route whereby

1/2

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Name: Bob & Karin Scheidt

we don't have to see the Transmission Lines from the back of our home

Otherwise, we have no objection of the project.

Thank you,

Karin Scheidt

2011 OCT 20 AM 10:00
RECEIVED
001-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Draft EIS Comment Form

100508

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

ENTERED 100508

BLM

Date: 9-12-11

First Name: Boyd Last Name: Anderson

Organization or Office Name: Osprey Ridge (proposed development)

Mailing Address: 17220 S Cloverdale Rd City: Kuna State: ID Zip: 83634

Daytime Phone: 208-362-4649 Email:

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I favor the southern most proposed route. Birds of Prey Coalition is against that route, but there are 10 birds of prey to 1 bird of prey where I live on the Segment 8 alternative. The birds come to the farm ground to eat where there is food for them.

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Bret McKenzie
P.O. BOX 442
HAGERMAN
IDAHO 83332

ENTERED
100472

Bureau of Land Management
Att: WALT GEORGE
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

82003879018

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Walt George
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

ENTERED 100472 1/1

2011 NOV -1 AM 10: 00

RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE WYOMING

Having lived a ½ mile north of Hagerman for 26 years I know the area very well. From my home I can already see at least 5 High Voltage Power Lines converging on the Lower Salmon Dam area. We don't need more transmission lines 145 to 190 feet tall, generating 500KVs in an already congested area.

Gateway West, Idaho Power and the Bureau of Land Management are in the process, this very moment, on deciding whether to go with the proposed Segment 8 corridor route north of I-84 {well away from the towns of Wendell, Hagerman, Bliss} <u>or</u> the Alternate Segment 8A corridor route, which will run close to Wendell and down into the Hagerman Valley coming within 1 mile north of town.

To encourage the BLM, who is going to make the final decision, <u>NOT</u> to use the Alternate Segment 8A Route, myself and others have noted some facts that the powers in charge have missed or chosen to ignore.

Interference with the Billingsly State Park

Interference with the newly remodeled park and boat docks above and below Lower Salmon Dam.

Health Impacts from EMFs, Electromagnetic Fields [<u>google</u> power lines/Health Issues]

The lowering of Real Estate values due to fear of Electromagnetic fields and visual interferences.

Possible effects on many Historical Sites such as the Oregon Trail and Toana Road which has been added to the Register of Historical Sites.

Obtaining easements or using their power of <u>eminent domain</u> to secure right of ways from property owners such as Willow Lane and Billingsley Creek Estates residents, Billingsley State Park and others

Interference with recreational activities such as hunting, fishing and boating

Sincerely

Bill McKenzie

From: jmclain@blm.gov
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2011 7:12 AM
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: Comments on Gateway West Transmission Line - EIS
Attachments: pic30106.jpg; image001.png

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 08/26/2011 08:11 AM -----

"Dale Willis"
<dalew@willisprop
erty.com>
08/24/2011 11:21
AM

To
<Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
cc
Subject
Comments on Gateway West
Transmission Line - EIS

To Whom It May Concern:

I have ownership of 1,065 acres of productive farmland in Melba, Idaho and would like to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Gateway West Project.

I am strongly in favor of the proposed route of Segment 8, Midpoint to Hemingway.

Regards,

C. Dale Willis, Jr.
(Embedded image moved to file: pic30106.jpg) 3850 East Baseline Road, Suite 118 Mesa, Arizona 85206
(480) 507.6200 Office
(480) 507.6333 Fax
(480) 220.2047 Cell
dalew@willisproperty.com

(See attached file: image001.png)

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

100290

BOISE ID 837

19 SEP 2011 PM 3 1

West George 9320

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

82003+701A

Draft EIS Comment Form

100290

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

BLM

Date: 9/19/11

First Name: CAL Last Name: LOW

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: 21101 OREANA LOOP RD City: OREANA State: ID Zip: 83650

Daytime Phone: 208-834-2384 Email: CAL@LOWSREADYMIX.COM

2011 SEP 23 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

MY WIFE, SUSIE, AND I ARE BOTH IN OUR LATE 50'S. SIX YEARS AGO WE SOLD OUR PROPERTY IN EAGLE, IDAHO WHERE WE HAD LIVED MOST OF OUR LIVES AND PURCHASED A 476 ACRE RANCH ON CASTLE CREEK NEAR OREANA, IDAHO. WE BUILT A NEW HOME UP ON THE 150 FT BLUFF OVERLOOKING THE RANCH AND CAPTURING AN INCREDIBLE VIEW OF THE OWYHEE FRONT. THIS IS WHERE WE PLAN TO FARM, RANCH, AND RETIRE SOON SO WE SPARED NO EXPENSE IN BULDING A LARGE 2 STORY HOME WITH FULL BASEMENT, A SHOP, AND A LARGE STEEL BARN WITH HORSE STALLS AND A LOW

OVER

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

1/2

continued on back

Name: CAL + SUSIE LOW

MILKING PARLOR. IDAHO POWER CO. NOW WANTS TO LOCATE A POWER LINE OVER THE TOP OF OUR HOUSE. THE PATH OF THE POWER LINE THAT IS TRANSPOSED ON THE AERIAL VIEW HIDES OUR ROOFTOP. IT IS THAT CLOSE TO OUR HOME. PLEASE ENCOURAGE THEM TO MOVE THIS POWER LINE TO ALTERNATE ROUTE #9D ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE SNAKE RIVER WHERE IT WON'T IMPACT US OR ANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS.

VERY TRULY YOUR
CALD LOW

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2011 7:05 AM
To: Gateway BLM
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Carol and Edmund Brand

Organization:

Mailing Address:
15507 Bates Creek Rd.

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Oreana

State:
ID

Zip:
83650

Daytime Phone:
2088342086

E-mail:
rickbrand@speedyquick.net

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
Gateway West Project:
~~ From Hemingway Butte to Bruneu Idaho:

We are oppossed to any of the routes on the Southwest side of the Snake River. Please keep the propossed new electrical transmission lines on the North East side of the Snake River. Please follow your proposed route 9D.

There are many reasons to keep the line on the Northeast side of the Snake River: It will be good for the birds of prey, according to many Biologists and it will not effect private land owners in that location.

Thanks,
Carol and Edmund Brand
Oreana, Idaho

"John and Carolyn Firth"
<jcfirth@pmt.org>
10/28/2011 11:59 PM

To <Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Gateway West Transmission Line Draft EIS Comments

Wyoming Bureau of Land Management:

I would like to express my concerns over the Proposed Action of routing the Gateway Transmission line across thousands of acres of prime farmland in Cassia County. I grew up in Cassia County south of Declo on a farm close to the Proposed Route. I am very familiar with the area. My husband and I farm about 600 acres of irrigated farmland in Minidoka County, some of which is irrigated with center pivots, some with wheelines, and some with handlines. The Proposed Route would be devastating to agricultural production in a portion of Cassia County. One power line would not be a major problem. But as far as I can determine, the EIS does not mention that once a right-of-way is established with one power line, it will be much easier to construct additional power lines along the same route. In fact, it is my understanding that as many as four additional power lines spanning a width of two miles could be constructed in the future. The EIS should make it clear that the scenario of a 2-mile wide corridor of five transmission lines side by side is very probable. I would very much favor the more southern route that essentially follows the Utah-Idaho state line. The Proposed Route would take out of production some of the most fertile land not only in Idaho, but in the whole world.

Another concern I have is the financial estimate of agricultural rental payments used on page 3.4-41 (Chapter 3). There is a statement that in Idaho cropland in 2010 rented for an average of $160 per acre for irrigated cropland. As a farmer, I have first hand knowledge of the amount of money it takes to rent an acre of irrigated land. The figure of $160 per acre is definitely too low. A more accurate figure on the low end would be $200 per acre, and as high as $600 or $700 per acre for high value crops such as potatoes.

I noticed as I was reading through the EIS, the Power County Task Force was quoted numerous times, but findings of the Cassia County Task Force were not included in the EIS. Why were they not included? I know several people who spent many hours meeting with the Cassia County Task Force. Were their findings contrary to what Idaho Power prefers, so they were dismissed? The EIS mentions that the impact on agriculture will be minimal when compared to the entire project area, but I would argue that point. To the many farm families who would be affected, their entire livelihood would be destroyed. Idaho, and Cassia County in particular, will not benefit from this transmission line. Yet farmers in Cassia County are being asked to sacrifice everything. There will be a domino effect when production agriculture no longer contributes to the tax base in Cassia County. I strongly urge you to seriously consider and alternative route, specifically the southern (state line) route for this transmission line.

Carolyn Firth
360 S. 1050 W.
Heyburn, ID 83336

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2011 8:50 PM
To: Gateway BLM
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Casie Taylor

Organization:

Mailing Address:
PO Box 326

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Declo

State:
ID

Zip:
83323

Daytime Phone:

E-mail:

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:
chapter 3.18 section 2

Comment:
In Reference to prime farmland section 7. The discounting of validity of using public lands due to the restraints of cost and impact does not account for the private land users cost and impact. The proposed red line does not account for private environmental impacts. Public power should be on public land not PRIVATE!

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2011 7:12 PM
To: Gateway BLM
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Chad Good

Organization:

Mailing Address:
27121 Good Rd.

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Grand View

State:
ID

Zip:
83624

Daytime Phone:

E-mail:

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
I am against proposed rout segment 9. I am for the alternative 9D. I do not want this close to my farm, or my home.
Chad

From: jmclain@blm.gov
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2011 9:44 AM
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: Gateway West Transmission Line

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 09/14/2011 10:44 AM -----

"Charmaine Berggreen" <cberggreen@cox.net>
09/14/2011 08:32 AM

To <Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
cc
Subject Gateway West Transmission Line

To whom it may concern,

I am a property owner in the Melbourne Kuna area and would like to voice my strong support for the proposed route of segment 8, Midpoint to Hemingway (Gateway West Transmission Line).

Sincerely,

Charmaine Berggreen

100530

ENTERED 100530

October 6th, 2011

To whom it may concern:

As a landowner in the Gateway West proposed 1E corridor, we would like to express our support for 1E-C and oppose 1E-A and 1E-B.

- 1E-C would parallel 1W and would stay in the existing corridor thus following Governor Mead's executive order.
- 1E-C would not cross additional core sage grouse area. This is important as Wyoming has received an award for the protection of these areas.
- The majority of landowners on 1E-A and 1E-B are not seeking wind development and therefore transmission should be placed on the wind promoter's property, not those of us who want to keep our land "as is" for our future generations.
- Eminent domain should not be used to benefit a "few" landowners when the majority are against the transmission lines crossing their property.
- The Dunlap Ranch is in the core sage grouse area and therefore can't be developed. Why would RMP rate payers be required to pay for a line to nowhere?
- If this line is for reliability, why don't we see reliability in all areas across Wyoming?
- 1E-A and 1E-B corridors are crowded onto primarily private land and cross into the foothills of the Northern Laramie Range. The line continues to be in the mountains in some areas rather than the plains and this can't be the most economical project for the RMP ratepayers. It appears this line was designed to avoid the core sage grouse area and therefore (with no other logical reason than to pick up wind development on the Dunlap Ranch) it ended up crammed between the mountains and the core area.
- These corridors are much longer and have more surface disturbance. The RMP ratepayers should be paying a fair price, not on a projection that wind "may" be developed. Building a transmission line through the mountains will be very costly. RMP should be responsible to their ratepayers and this a perfect reason why it is necessary to regulate their actions.
- Wind promoters to the south and east would have an opportunity to build a smaller collector line back to Aeolus. This would be at the expense of their project, not all RMP ratepayers.
- A collector line would not have eminent domain (due to the current moratorium) and promoters would need to seek and negotiate a fair price with landowners. This payment would be in contrast to the current onetime payment for a transmission corridor with the use of eminent domain.
- 1E-A and 1E-B corridors are located within recorded Wyoming G&F elk migration and winter ranges. The elk herd in Area 7 is known as one of the best in the state and brings in revenue for the state yearly.
- Tourism is important to Wyoming's economy. Drive from Casper to Laramie and view the drastic, ugly view of the RMP's Dunlap Ranch. The towers are tolerable, the transmission is not. This should be an eye opener for us as individuals.

- Wyoming residents live in Wyoming because of their quality of life. The wide open vistas, miles and miles of pristine, untouched landscapes, along with abundant wildlife are a few of the reasons we should responsibly select placement for industrialization.

In conclusion, we support 1E-C in that NO new transmission corridors will be established in Wyoming.

ENTERED
100520

Clint and Sharon Rodeman

(307) 472-5971

(307) 258-1713

"Clint Rodeman"
<CRodeman@cablevision.com>

10/28/2011 11:03 AM

To <gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject comments

The information transmitted in this email and any of its attachments is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information concerning Cablevision and/or its affiliates and subsidiaries that is proprietary, privileged, confidential and/or subject to copyright. Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient(s) is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you received this in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete and destroy the communication and all of the attachments you've received and all copies thereof.

Map321.pdf

Gateway to The West.docx

Gateway to The West

Dear BLM,

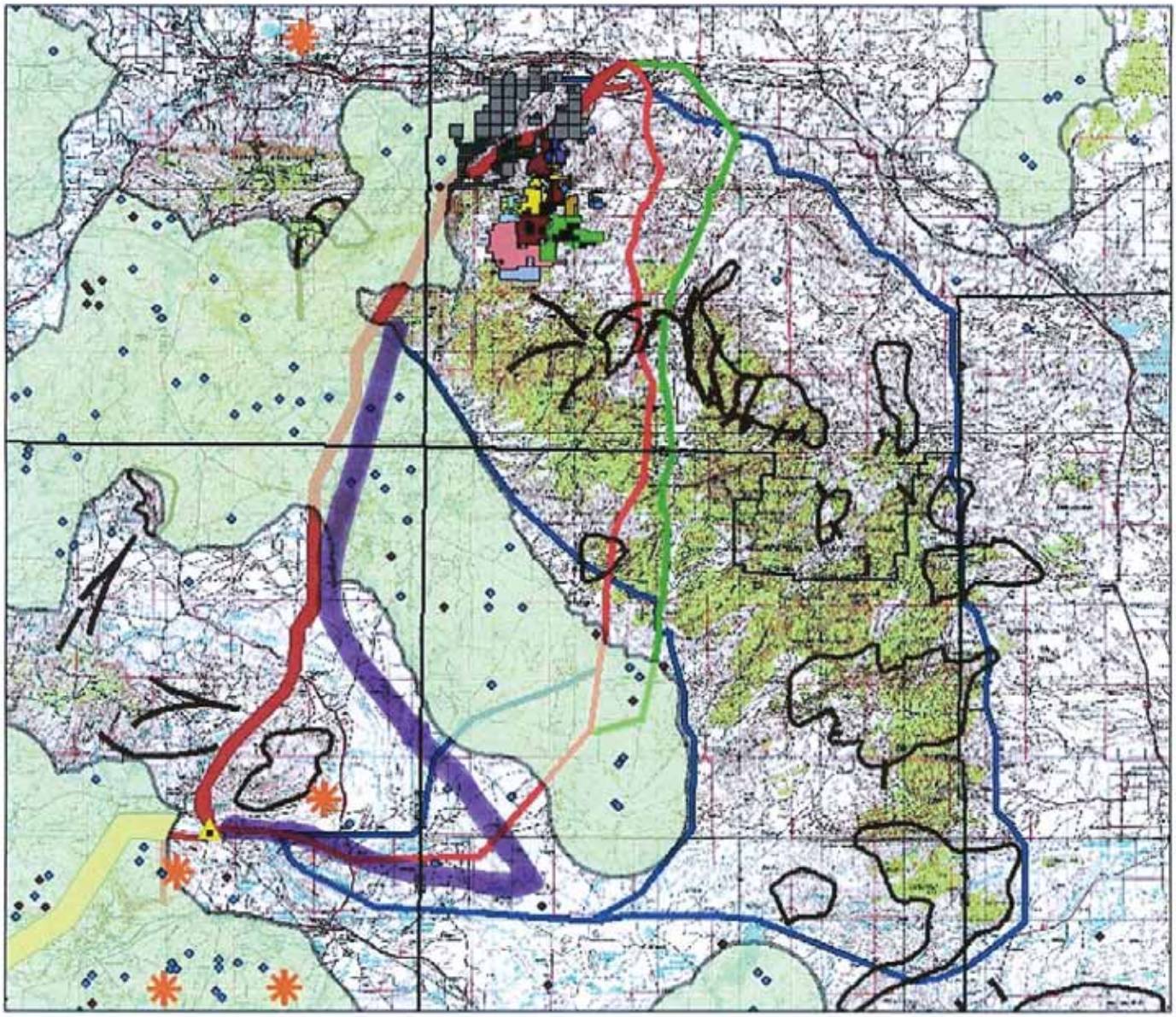
I am writing to express my concerns over the proposed Gateway to the West project, specifically segment 1E-A. This segment is unnecessary, intrusive and opposed by the majority of landowners for the following reasons:

- Section 1E-A is being promoted by Rocky Mountain Power to provide redundancy. This is the only section of "so called" redundant line in the proposed route across Wyoming. This clearly an attempt to provide a transmission line to an area Rocky Mountain Power plans to develop in the future and designating it as a transmission line will avoid the moratorium on collector line construction.
- Rocky Mountain Power is planning for development and this line should not be approved for a planned project.
- Any wind development projects can be served by collector lines routed to the Rocky Mountain Power substation at Aeolus. Collector line construction would be at the expense of the developer and not at the expense of rate payers. Developers would also be required to negotiate fair rates with landowners for collector lines and landowners would not be subject to eminent domain.
- The proposed route crosses a large section of private land and landowners overwhelmingly oppose this line and do not plan to develop wind energy on their property.
- The proposed line passes through critical elk range.
- Part of the proposed route passes through Sage Grouse core areas.
- The proposed route impacts archeological and historical sites.
- The Wyoming Governor's executive order states that all new lines should follow existing corridors. This proposed line is in an unindustrialized area with no existing transmission lines.

Alternatives exist that will not encroach on unindustrialized areas, critical elk range, sage grouse core areas and that are favorable to landowners. This line can be routed south of the core sage grouse area in to the area where landowners are favorable to wind development and transmission. See attached map with purple line showing alternative. Thank you for your consideration.

Clint Rodeman

WASATCH WIND'S MOUNTAIN COUNTRY LEASES AND STATE OF WYOMING REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS



Legend

- RFP State Locations
- Wasatch Applied State Lands
- Cole-Wasatch Wind Lease
- LGrant-Wasatch Wind Lease
- RGrantA-Wasatch Wind Lease
- Hakalo-Wasatch Wind Lease
- Hardesty-Wasatch Wind Lease
- Hiser-Wasatch Wind Lease
- Howrey-Wasatch Wind Lease
- Sno-ShoeRanch-Wasatch Wind Lease
- Stratton-Wasatch Wind Lease
- True-Wasatch Wind Lease
- Elk Crucial Ranges
- Elk Migration Routes
- Sage Grouse Core Areas 06-29-10
- Leks Occupied
- Leks Unknown
- Final Core Transmission Corridor
- RMP's 1W Route
- RMP's Seg 1E (Proposed)
- RMP's Seg 1E Alt (Proposed)
- RMP's 20090904 Seg1E
- RMP 09/04/09 Seg1E Route
- Substation
- Wind Farms

N

Northern Laramie Range Alliance - 03/31/2011

Sources: WyGISC:
All Topo Map, Counties, Towns, Wind Farms, Applied and Authorized Wind Leases

Rocky Mountain Power:
Transmission Line Routes

Wyoming Game & Fish Department:
Elk Migration Routes, Elk Crucial Ranges, and Sage Grouse Core Breeding Areas

"Cory Kress"
<ckress@dcdi.net>
10/28/2011 08:10 AM

To <Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Comment

Possible Alternative Segments 5B and 7B of the Gateway West Transmission Line Project cross several miles of our owned and operated cropland. Consequently, we are opposed to the construction of both lines.

Sincerely,
Cordell Kress

From: jmclain@blm.gov
Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2011 1:17 PM
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: Gateway West EIS

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 09/08/2011 02:17 PM -----

"Craig Moore" <moore@speedyquick.net> 09/08/2011 01:08 PM

To <Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
cc
Subject Gateway West EIS

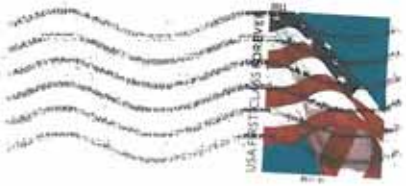
I am a property owner in the Melba Idaho area and I strongly support the Proposed Route for the power lines to be located per the “Draft Environmental Impact Statement.”

Craig A. Moore
PO Box 14
1753 H 45 South
Melba, Idaho 83641
208-495-2776

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

BOISE ID 837

26 OCT 2011 PM 2 L



Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

100339

8200337018

Draft EIS Comment Form

100339

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

2011 OCT 31 AM 10:00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

BLM

Date: 10-24-11

First Name: CRAIG Last Name: SEARLE

Organization or Office Name: LAND OWNER

Mailing Address: 522 EAST 600 SOUTH City: BURLEY State: ID Zip: 83318

Daytime Phone: 208-678-1599/208-312-1595 Email:

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I feel that the proposed Gateway transmission line is a public utility and therefore should be put on public land. The southern-most route that is suggested crosses the most public land. Why should my occupation as a farmer be disrupted because of these lines going through my fields and I dont even get to use the electricity?

Let the public decide if they want electricity or sage grouse.

1/1

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

From: jmclain@blm.gov
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 7:30 AM
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: Gateway West Transmission Project

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 10/17/2011 08:30 AM -----

"Dale and Saundra Robbins" <drobbins@starband.net> 10/10/2011 03:25 PM

To <Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
cc
Subject Gateway West Transmission Project

To Whom It May Concern:

We attended the BLM Open house in Douglas on October 6, 2011. We were able to ask questions and did receive some answers. Now we would like to offer our comments on the Gateway Transmission Line.

We would like to see route 1E-C which follows the existing corridor used for this Transmission Line.

We are against the routes of 1E and 1E-A and 1E-B for the following reasons.

It would be shorter thus less expensive to stay in the established corridor.

It would cost a lot more to build through the mountains then on the flat where the established corridor is located.

Route 1E,1E-A and 1E-B would all be going through sage grouse habitat and disrupting the strutting and nesting process.

Route 1E, 1E-A and 1E-B would go through prime elk habitat being area 7 which is one of the best trophy hunting areas in the state. It would disrupt their mating and calving seasons as well as the hunting.

Route 1 E,1E-A and1E-B would go through irrigated meadow land as picture #860 in your Enviromental Impact Statements show.

Routes1E,1E-A and 1E-B are not needed as there is a proposed

Wheatland-Chugwater- Aeolus route which would pick up any wind turbines located to the east and south of this area.

For these reasons we believe it is totally unnecessary to go through the pristine area in the undisturbed mountainous area of the southern Laramie Range when the same objective can be accomplished by staying in the current corridor, 1E-C.

Sincerely,

Dale and Saundra Robbins

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

ENTERED
10046

MEDICINE BOW
OCT 11 2011
82329

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

82003$7018 B047

2011 OCT 13 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

1320 Mule Creek Road

Medicine Bow, WY 82329

ENTERED
100416

1/2

Bureau of Land Management

Gateway West Project

P.O Box 20879

Cheyenne, WY 82003

To Whom It May Concern:

We attended the BLM open house in Douglas on October 6, 2011 and are now sending our comments on the proposed transmission line to you.

We would like to see route 1E-C which follows the existing corridor used for this transmission line.

We are against the routes 1E, 1E-A and 1E-B for the following reasons.

It would be a shorter distance thus less expensive to use the existing corridor.

It would cost considerably more to build the line through the mountains than it would to build it on the flat ground where the existing corridor is located.

Routes 1E, 1E-A and 1E-B would all go through sage grouse habitat which would disrupt the mating and nesting of these birds.

Routes 1E, 1E-A and 1E-B would all go through prime elk habitat being area 7 which is one of the best trophy hunting areas in the state. The line and building of it would disrupt the elk mating and calving season as well as the hunting season.

Routes 1E, 1E-A and 1E-B would all go through irrigated meadowland as shown in your Enviromental Impact Statement picture number 860.

Routes 1E, 1E-A and 1E-B are not needed as there is a proposed transmission line, Wheatland-Chugwater to Aeolus that would pick up any wind turbines to the southeast of them.

For these reasons we believe that it is totally unnecessary to take lines 1E, 1E-A and 1E-B through the pristine area of the undisturbed area of the southern Laramie Range when the same objective can be obtained by using the existing corridor.

Sincerely, Dale Robbins

Dale Robbins

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

ENTERED
100416

OCT 11 201
82329

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

82003$7018 B047

2011 OCT 13 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

1320 Mule Creek Road

Medicine Bow, WY 82329

ENTERED
100416

2/2

Bureau of Land Management

Gateway West Project

P.O Box 20879

Cheyenne, WY 82003

To Whom It May Concern:

We attended the BLM open house in Douglas on October 6, 2011 and are now sending our comments on the proposed transmission line to you.

We would like to see route 1E-C which follows the existing corridor used for this transmission line.

We are against the routes 1E, 1E-A and 1E-B for the following reasons.

It would be a shorter distance thus less expensive to use the existing corridor.

It would cost considerably more to build the line through the mountains than it would to build it on the flat ground where the existing corridor is located.

Routes 1E, 1E-A and 1E-B would all go through sage grouse habitat which would disrupt the mating and nesting of these birds.

Routes 1E, 1E-A and 1E-B would all go through prime elk habitat being area 7 which is one of the best trophy hunting areas in the state. The line and building of it would disrupt the elk mating and calving season as well as the hunting season.

Routes 1E, 1E-A and 1E-B would all go through irrigated meadowland as shown in your Enviromental Impact Statement picture number 860.

Routes 1E, 1E-A and 1E-B are not needed as there is a proposed transmission line, Wheatland-Chugwater to Aeolus that would pick up any wind turbines to the southeast of them.

For these reasons we believe that it is totally unnecessary to take lines 1E, 1E-A and 1E-B through the pristine area of the undisturbed area of the southern Laramie Range when the same objective can be obtained by using the existing corridor.

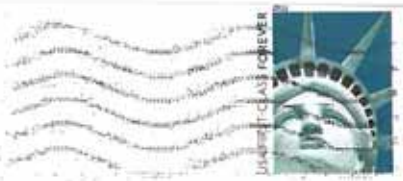
Sincerely, Saundra Robbins

Saundra Robbins

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

BOISE ID 837

11 OCT 2011 PM 3 L



ENTERED
100439

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

82003+7018

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

ENTERED 100439 1/1

BLM

Date: Oct 7-11

First Name: Darrell Last Name: Funk

Organization or Office Name: Double Eagle Inc.

Mailing Address: 3173N 4900E City: Murtaugh State: Id Zip: 83344

Daytime Phone: 208 539 6662 Email:

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

My thoughts are that if this is a public benifit then put it on public lands. It will be less interputive there and will do less enviormental dammage. It will have enough positive aspects for the wildlife as it will be detrimental. If you are worried about the roads you make close them. They BLM does this all the time after fires anyway. Leave the private lands alone.

2011 OCT 17 AM 10:00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

100518

September 21, 2011

RE: Gateway Transmission Project

In regards to the proposed Gateway Transmission Power project involving Idaho Power, we would like to address some concerns. We are aware of a need for this project; however, our concern is interrupting our private property and family businesses. There creates a liability concern with both personal and community involvement. The danger of these types of power lines crossing over homes and surrounding areas, which involve children, animals, and employees, is of great concern. Therefore, we feel a negative impact on personal and community life in our County.

Your support for this County will benefit this generation and the generations that will follow of this community.

With Sincere Concern,

David and Susan Beck

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Sunday, August 28, 2011 5:48 PM
To: Gateway BLM
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Dawayne Palmer

Organization:

Mailing Address:
4385 Rio Verde Dr

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Green River

State:
wy

Zip:
82935

Daytime Phone:

E-mail:
dawaynep@yahoo.com

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
I want to comment on the project as a whole. My wife and I bought a piece of property in Spring Canyon Ranches three years ago. We sit to work building our dream cabin and three years later we are alomost finished. This is something we have dreamed about our intire 25 years of marrage.
We bought this property for its unspoiled view and remoteness. We placed o ur cabin so we could view the unscared mountain. We also enjoy the wildlife, and hunting opportunity. Now if this project goes through we will have the wonderful view of the power lines running up the mountain instead. The power line will also build new roads and public access to an area that should remain wild.
There is no good reason that I have heard yet to divert away from the existing power line coridor just to run the power line through Spring Canyon and then back into the existing coridor. I can't help but feel this is someones personal agneda.
Please apply come common sense and keep the new power line with the exsting power lines and leave Spring Canyon Ranch area alone.

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2011 7:19 PM
To: Gateway BLM
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Dean Schultz

Organization:

Mailing Address:
23636 Bachman Grade

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Oreana

State:
ID

Zip:
83650

Daytime Phone:

E-mail:

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
Proposed rout segment 9 would run right over my head, and I don't want that. Please use alternative 9D Thanks!
Dean

100495

"Foxley, Deanna S"
<dfoxley@graniteschools.org>

10/27/2011 12:10 PM

To "gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov"
<gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Gateway West line

Please read and consider when planning.
Thank you.
D. Foxley

Gateway West Transmission Line Map

HawkWatch International's Conservation Science Director, Dr. Steve Slater, recently submitted public comment on Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) of two energy developments being planned in the western U.S.

First is Gateway West, an energy transmission line proposed to span across Wyoming and southern Idaho, totalling construction of approximately 1,100 miles of 230 kilovolt (kV) and 500kV power lines.

The following summarizes some of HawkWatch International's primary concerns regarding the development, as well as suggestions to emeliorate them:

1. We encourage the adoption of the single solid pole-structures for the transmission line towers to the maximum extent possible in order to avoid supporting increases in common raven populations. Ravens are known predators of greater sage-grouse. Sage-grouse were petitioned for listing in 2010 and remain on the candidate list and raven depredation may become a concern for population stabilization or recovery.
2. Power line structures without perch deterrents installed may also unnaturally concentrate raptors to the potential detriment of prey species such as: sage-grouse, pygmy rabbits, white-tailed prairie dog, ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, sage thrasher, loggerhead shrike, Brewer's sparrow, and sage sparrow.
3. It is critical that raptor nest surveys and protection measures are adhered to during construction and operation activities to avoid take of nests or disruption of breeding activity.
4. Transmission lines and associated structures can also be dangerous for birds due to risk of electrocution or collision. Regarding electrocution, we suggest that an Avian Protection Plan be developed for the transmission line in accordance with APLIC guidelines (http://www.aplic.org/).
5. Unfortunately, the EIS does not give adequate consideration to the raptor collision risk associated with the project proponent's preferred route that transects a known raptor migration ridgeline. HawkWatch International has operated a fall migration count on Commissary Ridge for the past 10 years and has recorded an average passage of 3,665 raptors each fall and an average of 400 eagles. Both Bald and Golden Eagles are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle protection Act. The Bald Eagle is also a Wyoming BLM sensitive species.

Draft EIS Comment Form

100165

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

BLM

Date: 9-14-11

First Name: Deanna Last Name: Ratcliff

Organization or Office Name: None

Mailing Address: 6848 Melba Rd City: Melba State: Id Zip: 83641

Daytime Phone: 208-880-8993 Email: None

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I am for the ~~Alt~~ Route that would go down Melba Rd I personally think the Route thru private ground would not ~~that~~ bother things to much would rather See it go through private as to go thru BLM and Bother Birds and the Views of Nature Rather have power lines as a lot of houses breaking up the farm ground I think the lines are a Good thing I like my power Any way I could help would be happy to

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

jimanddebschell@aol.com
10/29/2011 10:16 AM

To gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Fwd: Gateway West Transmission Line Project

-----Original Message-----
From: jimanddebschell <jimanddebschell@aol.com>
To: ""\"Gateway_West_WYMail \"" <"Gateway_West_WYMail ""@blm.gov>
Sent: Fri, Oct 28, 2011 8:50 am
Subject: Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Mr. Walt George, BLM Project Manager,

We own a small piece of property in T33N,R76W, Converse County Wyoming, 21/2 miles west of Glenrock, Wyoming. We strongly oppose the proposed route 1W(a) of The Gateway West Transmission Line Project. We are not sure if the proposed route would go through the middle or outer perimeter of our property, which is only 5.65 acres, or not but we feel that a transmission line of that magnitude would greatly diminish our ability to sell our property at anytime in the future and would severely degrade the value. We hope to retire at some point in the not to distant future and our home and property are part of our retirement. It is our understanding that The Gateway West Transmission Line could be run through the same route the current power lines run through. Along with the aesthetics and worry of property devaluation, we'd like information and documentation on noise and documentation on any studies done on health issues caused by having full time exposure to electrical emissions power lines of this magnitude may cause. Our area isn't populated but we live there and we count. We vehemently oppose this projects proposed route. We thank you for your time.

Sincerely
James D. and Debra L. Schell
Concerned citizens and property owners

jimanddebschell@aol.com
10/29/2011 10:18 AM

To gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Fwd: Gateway West Transmission Line Project

I'm sending this a second and third time. Took the e-mail address off your web site and my comment was sent back as having the
wrong address. I'm trying it again. I sent it the morning of the comment deadline.
Thank you

Deb Schell

Duplicate

-----Original Message-----
From: jimanddebschell <jimanddebschell@aol.com>
To: ""\"Gateway_West_WYMail \"" <"Gateway_West_WYMail ""@blm.gov>
Sent: Fri, Oct 28, 2011 8:50 am
Subject: Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Mr. Walt George, BLM Project Manager,

We own a small piece of property in T33N,R76W, Converse County Wyoming, 21/2 miles west of Glenrock, Wyoming. We strongly oppose the proposed route 1W(a) of The Gateway West Transmission Line Project. We are not sure if the proposed route would go through the middle or outer perimeter of our property, which is only 5.65 acres, or not but we feel that a transmission line of that magnitude would greatly diminish our ability to sell our property at anytime in the future and would severely degrade the value. We hope to retire at some point in the not to distant future and our home and property are part of our retirement. It is our understanding that The Gateway West Transmission Line could be run through the same route the current power lines run through. Along with the aesthetics and worry of property devaluation, we'd like information and documentation on noise and documentation on any studies done on health issues caused by having full time exposure to electrical emissions power lines of this magnitude may cause. Our area isn't populated but we live there and we count. We vehemently oppose this projects proposed route. We thank you for your time.

Sincerely
James D. and Debra L. Schell
Concerned citizens and property owners

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Saturday, October 15, 2011 6:57 PM
To: Gateway BLM
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Dee Darrington

Organization:

Mailing Address:
841 East 300 South

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Declo

State:
ID

Zip:
83323

Daytime Phone:
208-312-2584

E-mail:
dee.darrington@hotmail.com

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
The State Line route is the only route that I could accept. I will oppose any other route than the State Line route.

Donna L. Schneider
Fort Fred Steele Rd.
Rawlins, Wyo. 82301

ENTERED
100403

SARATOGA
OCT 24
2011
82331

B.L.M. Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne
Wyoming 82003

82003#7018

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

ENTERED 100403

2011 OCT 27 AM 10: 00

RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

BLM

Date: Oct 22 2011

First Name: Donna Last Name: Demmerler

Organization or Office Name: Home

Mailing Address: Fort Fred Steele Rt. ~~Rawlins Wyo 82301~~ City: Rawlins State: Wyo Zip: 82301

Daytime Phone: 307-324-6297 Email:

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

Please, find a new route around Fort Fred Steele Wyo for the Gateway West Transmission Line.

After the five proposed lines thru Fort Fred Steele use up the small space of Fort Fred Steele, future powerlines and Pipelines must find a new route.

This should be thought out now, to use a new route around old Fort Fred Steele area. There are many acres of open land between us and Wolcott. Open land South, that Gateway West Transmission Line Can cross the North Platte River more easely.

Please preserve our way of life in Fort Fred Steele.

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

BOISE ID 837

24 OCT 2011 PM 3 T

100494

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

82003$7018

100494

2011 OCT 28 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

7840 Apache Way
Boise, ID 83714
23 October 2011

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

RE: Gateway West Transmission Line Project; Segment 9, South of Hammett, Idaho

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have the following comments regarding the Draft EIS for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

First, we do not feel that the current or projected power demand requires two corridors through Idaho. It makes sense to add a new line in the existing north corridor. However, we are not convinced that a second redundant line is needed to the south and we feel this requires more study.

The south corridor, specifically Segment 9, is riddled with problems. It is near the Snake River and the Birds of Prey area (wildlife impacts), and near the Oregon Trail (historical resource impacts). Running this redundant line makes no sense economically, logistically, or environmentally, considering today's electrical demand and economy.

If you decide to continue with Segment 9 south of Hammett, we ask that all access roads associated with the corridor be gated and locked to limit access to only power maintenance personnel and emergency fire responders. This area (south of the Snake River, south of Hammett) is extremely prone to fires and is an incredible wildlife and historic resource. If special precautions are not taken, temporary construction roads and ways can become popular for off-road vehicles, creating fire hazards and severely impacting wildlife habitat. In addition, wildfires could impact Saylor Creek Bombing Range and its mission.

We also ask that if this portion of Segment 9, south of Hammett, is pursued, no support facilities (e.g., cell towers, secondary power lines, substations, natural gas pump stations) be allowed.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Susie Vader

Dorian Duffin and Susie Vader

From: jmclain@blm.gov
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2011 12:25 PM
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: Gateway route

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 09/12/2011 01:24 PM -----

Douglas T Golightly <GolightlyDT@ldschurch.org> 09/09/2011 09:59 AM		To "Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov" <Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
		cc
		Subject Gateway route

09/09/11

To Whom it may Concern:

I am a homeowner in Melba, Idaho. After reviewing the map of the proposed route from Midpoint to Hemingway, I wish to go on record as stating: I SUPPORT THE PROPOSED ROUTE THROUGH THE BIRDS OF PREY AREA. I am . . .

Grateful for the time you spent in reading this,

Douglas T. Golightly

My address is:
110 Charlotte Drive,
Melba, ID 83641

My e-mail address is: GolightlyDT@ldschurch.org

NOTICE: This email message is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

BOISE ID 837
28 OCT 2011 PM 2 T

100484

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

8200387018

100484

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

DEIS Comments from Douglas Pickett 10/27/11

625 W. 1700 South
OAKLEY, ID 83346

Page	Commenter	Comment	Response
3.2-8	Douglas T. Pickett	**Comment –** This section makes numerous references to the City of Rocks National Reserve CMP 1996, etc., suggesting that portions of private property near Granite Pass may be considered for inclusion in the landmark. You have given absolutely no consideration to the fact that none of the City of Rocks National Reserve CMPs have jurisdiction over lands outside of the Reserve. Not only have you given undue consideration to the CMP, but you have blatantly ignored the fact that Cassia County has designated an energy transmission corridor over and across these private lands. These privately held lands will never be included within the regulating tentacles of the NPS or the City of Rocks. **Requested Action –** Remove reference to any current or supposed future plans by NPS to enlarge the realm of it regulatory influence over and across private lands. Insert language that acknowledges Cassia County's jurisdiction over its private lands	
3.2-11	Douglas T. Pickett	**Comment -** This section would lead the reader to believe that "citizens are interested in implementing all three levels of preservation/management…" and also that "restrictions that protect visual resources will be in place in the near future.." Both of these statements are erroneous. Citizens in the affected areas were and are overwhelming opposed to increased preservation and so called "management". You make no reference to the findings of fact that stipulated Cassia County's designation of an energy transmission corridor through this area. The county found that citizens believed alternative 7I to be the best location for a project of this magnitude in Cassia County. Your statement that "restrictions that protect visual resources will be in place in the near future" is arbitrary and capricious. How can you purport to make such a claim? **Requested Action –** Remove language that indicates citizen support for increased preservation/management and insert language upholding private landowner rights and local land use authority as stipulated in Idaho State Law.	

2011 NOV -1 AM 10:00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

C1160	Douglas T. Pickett	**Comment -** This is a photo that is being used to indicate visual impacts to the City of Rocks Reserve visitor from the 7I alternative. What one really observes from this photo is that there are literally no visual impacts from the 7I alternative from this vantage point. The actual line is plotted on the other side of the small peaks in the background. Any observation of the line to the east or the west would be trivial and insignificant as you have demonstrated in illustration 3.2-16. **Requested Action –** Mention that this photo is taken from outside of the Reserve Boundary and that it demonstrates that visual impacts from the 7I alternative will be insignificant to none.	
C1105	Douglas T. Pickett	**Comment -** This photo appears to have been taken along a gravel county road which dissects private land in Junction Valley. This location is not along the scenic by-way or along the road from the City of Rocks to Almo or Oakley. This road heads from the by-way south into Utah. The inclusion of this photo leads the uneducated observer to believe that there heightened visual impacts to the Reserve visitor, when in fact very few Reserve visitors travel this direction. **Requested Action –** Remove this photo from the analysis and include only those photos and simulations that represent visual impacts from a public lands perspective.	
3.2-16	Douglas T. Pickett	**Comment -** This simulation is helpful in understanding the visual impacts of the power line against varying backgrounds. **Requested Action –** Why haven't you applied this same analysis to the area around Granite Pass, acknowledging that from a distance of over two miles and against a mountain background the visual impacts from this powerline will be insignificant?	

	Douglas T. Pickett	**Comment -** I would like to make an observation from my experience at the Almo open house held last September by BLM. At that meeting I met Mr. Joe Iozzi of Tetra Tech. We discussed Cassia County's economic analysis, among other things, and I was surprised by many of his responses. It became apparent to me that neither BLM or Tetra Tech has anyone qualified to analyze economic impacts to agricultural production. For example, I indicated to Mr. Iozzi that powerlines crossing irrigated farmland will have a tremendous impact on the on-going profitability of that land. As an example, I indicated to him that a farmer would not be able to plant corn on ground that could not be irrigated by center pivots. He completely disagreed with my position and furthermore indicated to me that he had himself seen corn being irrigated by solid set or handlines—and that based on his observation, corn is apparently being grown on a broad-scale in this manner. I replied that in some instances a farmer may set up some handlines or solid-set around the edges of a center pivot, but that nobody would plant a field with corn with the intent of irrigating it solely with handlines or solid-set. He would not accept this point of view. Unfortunately, what we have here is someone who thinks he has the personal knowledge and understanding of ag-related impacts to form his own conclusions irregardless of the data we have provided to the contrary. **Requested Action –** BLM cannot sufficiently analyze ag-related impacts without hiring someone with some actual economic credentials. Mr. Iozzi demonstrated to me an unwillingness to consider my position. His response was indicative of a biased or even contemptuous view of my position. I have first-hand knowledge of these production techniques and have been personally involved in irrigated corn production for over 20 years. He responded to my concern simply by saying, "I just don't buy what you are saying."	

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Raymond Paulk
11657 Harvest Moon Ct.
South Jordan, UT 84095-8006

SALT LAKE CITY UT 841
26 OCT 2011 PM 2 L

ENTERED
100378

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

$2003+701$

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

ENTERED 100378

2011 OCT 31 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

BLM

Date: 10-18-11

First Name: Raymond Last Name: Paulk

Organization or Office Name: —

Mailing Address: 11657 south Harvest Moon Crt. (4038 West) City: South Jordan State: Ut. Zip: 84095

Daytime Phone: (801) 254-0747 Email:

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

To Whom It may Concern;

I Merle June Paulk & Doyle Gene Paulk, are co. owners to a beautiful and pristine piece of property with our Son, Raymond Gene Paulk

According to Gateway West Transmission Line Project there is a third route called the red line route, and the Governor of Wyoming and everyone else we have talk to including B.L.M and Rocky Mountain Power, no one want the third route or red line.

Personally we as property owners and tax payers dont want it.

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Name: Paulk's

These are the reasons why we totaly oppose meaning "are against" it.

#1 - We believe that we will loose property value as tax payers towards the State of Wyoming:

#2 We Cant even take advantage of the power source to our properties, because its to much power without a breakdown sub station even near the area for residential use.

#3 - We enjoy fishing, hunting and camping.

#4 - The whole purpose and reason of our purchase in that area, across from Spring Canyon Ranch near the South Fork of the Fontenell Creek, also with Little Dickey Creek running through our property.

In our thinking its simple, you put the lines were the land has already been spoiled that would be with the other smaller lines that are existing Now, on #1 proposal & #2. stay away #3 red line.

This way the majority will be happy and Progress will continue as needed by demand and future needs.

Our property is #31452 - Please listen

Signed: Raymond Gene Paulk
Mike Gene Paulk
Doyle Gene Paulk

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

From: Earl Shoemaker [mailto:estoy75@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2011 05:59 PM
To: George, Walter E
Subject: Gateway West Transmission Line Comments

With Wyoming's being so rich in a variety of natural resources, understandably it is our responsibility to share them with the nation. It was only a matter of time before the Glenrock area would be called upon to develop and share our plethora of wind.

I have no problem with this, and I realize that no changes can ever be made without problems and criticisms. However, I feel that great care must be taken to see to it that changes result in the least possible disruptions in our own lives here in the immediate vicinity of the source of the resources--wind in the case of Glenrock. I do not feel that a small town should be penalized and suffer economically, health wise, and convenience wise for the benefit of large metropolitan areas hundreds of and even over a thousand miles away.

Therefore I submit that, pertaining to the route of the transmission lines from the Windstar complex, the proposed

route 1E be scraped in favor of the feasible alternative 1E-A route. An even better route might be the one that goes almost due south or southeast from Windstar, eventually circling around to the Aeolus substation. This plan is the purple line that in the legend is referred to as "alternative not studied in deal" on the map labled "Project Overview" figure A-1.

I am opposed to the 1E for several reasons:

1. It crosses an extensive land area immediately south of Glenrock that might well become prime property for residential development.

2. It extends across a section of land that is within the Glenrock town limits. This part of the town has been discussed as an ideal location for a hotel, restaurant, service station complex at the I-25 ramps.

In the case of reasons 1 and 2 it would be quite possible that any plans for such an economic expansion could be dropped by the builders because no one would want to build directly under or near the transmission lines. My own research into the health ramifications of power lines shows that no studies have clearly determined that there are or are not health concerns. Some studies say there are definite problems while others say there are no problems. Yet other studies admit that there is no proof one way or the other. I myself would hesitate to invest in property below or near high tension lines until I knew for certain. Clearly more research needs to be done to clear up the confusion.

3. High tension power lines and their towers, while necessary, are not the most aesthetic structures. Those visitors or tourists coming into town for

whatever reason would not have a positive first impression, being met by these towers within the town limits but before driving into the residential and business sections.

4. While I do not know and have not yet researched the matter, I do wonder what effect high tension lines have on radio, TV, and cell phone communications for those living or doing business underneath or near them. I only know what effect they have on my radio when I drive below them.

In summary, it would seem that either the 1E-A or the "purple" route would result in the fewest disruptions for the citizens of Glenrock, WY, and either one would offer a reasonable compromise.

Earl S. Shoemaker
P.O.Box 806
75 Mesa Verde Dr.
Glenrock, WY 82637-0806

Phone 307-436-2206 and cell 307-262-9398

100162

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

BLM

Date: 9-14-11

First Name: Leo ~~Cloyd~~ Last Name: Cloyd

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: 7208 W. Dickman City: Melb State: ID Zip: 83641

Daytime Phone: 208-495-2621 Email: UNAC60@AOL.COM

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I PREFER you to use PROPOSED ROUTE A - The one SOUTH OF Melba CITY going thru BLM LAND close to The EXISTING Power Lines - ITS seems like Less Expense to PURCHASE LAND FOR STRUCTURES AND A LOT LESS WORRY TO home OWNERS. AS FAR AS DANGER TO The BIRDS OF PREY - The birds LOVE TO USE PLATFORMS built by IPCO And Designed by MORLEY NELSON FOR Their USE.

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

100166

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

BLM

Date: 9-14-11

First Name: Una Last Name: Cloyd

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: 7208 W Dickman Rd City: Melba State: Id Zip: 83641

Daytime Phone: 208-495-2621 Email:

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I think the Transmission line - Route 8 should go through the B.L.M. land. There is another power line there.
The north proposal Route ~~8B~~ 8B would impact many more houses.

Una Cloyd

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

ROCK SPRINGS, WY 82901
1 PM
27 OCT
2011

ENTERED
100242

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

A200357018 B047

ENTERED 100242 1/2

124 Hinkley road
Toledo, Wa.98591
Oct. 21, 2011

2011 OCT 31 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this comment regarding the Gateway West Project proposal of Rocky Mountain Power Company. We are deeply concerned about the Northern Alternative being considered in Segment 4 of the EIS.

We are opposed to the selection of the Proposed Northern Alternative. We will list our objections as follows:

The existing transmission line has already been compromised. It is unnecessary and completely ridiculous to disturb a new corridor. There are few roads, little if any pollution, and minimal disturbance in this proposed area, and it should remain as is. We believe that the transmission line should parallel the existing route.

The proposed line would run through a Sage Grouse Core Area, and this is totally unacceptable. Sage Grouse are under consideration as an endangered species. They need protection, and this line will jeopardize them further. Having them declared as endangered will impact Southwest Wyoming economically.

We are deeply concerned about the possible health risks associated with high voltage transmission lines. Some research has confirmed the presence of chronic lymphocytic cancers and childhood leukemia in human populations associated with ELF-EMF (extremely low frequency-electro magnetic fields). Ongoing recent studies have also identified neurodegenerative and cardiac diseases. The existing transmission corridor has already been compromised—why compromise more?

South of Fontenelle Creek which is part of the proposed line, has been designated as "Critical Big Game Winter Habitat". We are opposed to this designation being disturbed by an electrical transmission line.

The area encompassed by the proposed route is rich in magnificent history. The Sublette Cutoff of the Oregon Trail is nearby and it would be devastating to have a power line running over it. There are other sites of historical significance in this area, such as Native American ruins, camps and hunting areas. The area possesses a long history of ranching, and settling the West. Fontenelle Creek has been homesteaded and developed by hardworking immigrants over 150 years ago. This proposed route will have great impact on the economical, social, environmental, and also emotional well being of the descendants of those settlers.

Barnes Ranch is in the process if placing a Conservation Easement on its holdings. We are working with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and were advised that the proposed northern alternative for the transmission line will prevent the completion of the Easement. This will bring extreme economical hardship on our family and business.

In conclusion, we are opposed to the proposal by Rocky Mountain Power to establish a high voltage transmission line directly south and adjoining Fontenelle Creek. In light of the fact that there is an existing line south of here, and it has already been disturbed, we ask you to authorize the new line to run parallel to it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rudger Barnes

ENTERED 100242 2/2

From: [illegible]
Sent: [illegible]5[illegible]011[illegible]7[illegible]13[illegible]
To: [illegible]
Subject: [illegible]
Attachments: [illegible]

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 10/25/2011 08:12 AM -----

BARNES RANCH <barnesranch@wbaccess.net>
10/21/2011 03:10 PM

To undisclosed-recipients: ;
cc gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov, director@blm.gov, john_ruhs@blm.gov, d.simpson@blm.gov
Subject Emailing: Gateway West Comment

Duplicate

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:
Gateway West Comment

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

(See attached file: Gateway West Comment.doc)

8228 Fontenelle Creek Road
Kemmerer, WY 83101
Oct. 21, 2011

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this comment regarding the Gateway West Project proposal of Rocky Mountain Power Company. We are deeply concerned about the Northern Alternative being considered in Segment 4 of the EIS.

We are opposed to the selection of the Proposed Northern Alternative. We will list our objections as follows:

The existing transmission line has already been compromised. It is unnecessary and completely ridiculous to disturb a new corridor. There are few roads, little if any pollution, and minimal disturbance in this proposed area, and it should remain as is. We believe that the transmission line should parallel the existing route.

The proposed line would run through a Sage Grouse Core Area, and this is totally unacceptable. Sage Grouse are under consideration as an endangered species. They need protection, and this line will jeopardize them further. Having them declared as endangered will impact Southwest Wyoming economically.

We are deeply concerned about the possible health risks associated with high voltage transmission lines. Some research has confirmed the presence of chronic lymphocytic cancers and childhood leukemia in human populations associated with ELF-EMF (extremely low frequency-electro magnetic fields). Ongoing recent studies have also identified neurodegenerative and cardiac diseases. The existing transmission corridor has already been compromised—why compromise more?

South of Fontenelle Creek which is part of the proposed line, has been designated as “Critical Big Game Winter Habitat”. We are opposed to this designation being disturbed by an electrical transmission line.

The area encompassed by the proposed route is rich in magnificent history. The Sublette Cutoff of the Oregon Trail is nearby and it would be devastating to have a power line running over it. There are other sites of historical significance in this area, such as Native American ruins, camps and hunting areas. The area possesses a long history of ranching, and settling the West. Fontenelle Creek has been homesteaded and developed by hardworking immigrants over 150 years ago. This proposed route will have great impact on the economical, social, environmental, and also emotional well being of the descendants of those settlers.

Barnes Ranch is in the process if placing a Conservation Easement on its holdings. We are working with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and were advised that the proposed northern alternative for the transmission line will prevent the completion of the Easement. This will bring extreme economical hardship on our family and business.

Duplicate

In conclusion, we are opposed to the proposal by Rocky Mountain Power to establish a high voltage transmission line directly south and adjoining Fontenelle Creek. In light of the fact that there is an existing line south of here, and it has already been disturbed, we ask you to authorize the new line to run parallel to it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Eric and April Barnes

Duplicate

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

POCATELLO ID 832
26 OCT 2011 PM 1 T

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

ENTERED
100408

A2P0N3+7N1A

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

ENTERED 100408 1/2

2011 OCT 31 AM 10: 00

RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

BLM

Date: 10/18/2011

First Name: Ernest C. Last Name: Barnard

Organization or Office Name: [redacted]

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 305. City: Rockland State: ID Zip: 83271

Daytime Phone: 208-548-2643. Email: barnard_m11@q.com

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

We have been against his coming through our farm ground since it's inception several years ago.

We have farm ground in Segment 7 in Rockland within the indicated "MILE radius".

It's my understanding the line WILL run SOUTH of Rockland with no negotation on this.

In any case, this will cross our land in one place or another.

If the line was to go through, we are supportive of the line going from Poplus to Borah going through the Fort Hall Indian

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Name: Ernest C. Barnard.

2/2

ENTERED 100408

Reservation. This would be the best route anyway. An alternate to that would be using a much more southern route from Rockland called Alternative 7B below Arbon to Elba and Alternative 7H from Elba to Cedar Hill Station.

The last OPEN HOUSE in American Falls was not very helpful as it seemed as we were always having to find another person to get answers, in which we never got all my questions answered.

We do not want to electric towers of any type on our farm ground as it does devalue our ground and makes farm around them more diffi cutt.

Idaho Power/Rocky Mtn Power has a history of not paying private owners what the inconveniences are worth on their ground.

We will not grant any accesses to the power companies on our ground whatsoever. We will continue to stand our "ground" on this because there is a better way to do this as mentioned above. Too bad you will not follow this advice and build this on public lands where this should be.

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Lorna
<lorna.gillette@gmail.com>
10/26/2011 12:02 PM

To Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Gateway West Project

I am a hang gliding & paragliding pilot, certified Teacher in the United States Hang gliding & Paragliding Association. I am a past President of the Region 5 Hang gliding & Paragliding which covers the flyers in Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. I have been flying for the past 40 years.

In the 70's I purchased a building lot on, what we call, Test Hill, in the Water Canyon at 903 E 500S. I did this because I had been flying and training people to fly on the hills in the Water Canyon. I have flown all over the United States either for training or for recreation so I am familiar with many sites. This site on Water Canyon is one of the best in the United States to train, practice and fly for beginners to intermediate flying. I have taught 100's of pilots to fly here in the past years. this year I have been training 6 more people to fly.

Twenty years ago I built a home at the base of the Test Hill where we land and train. For the past 15 years I have hosted a Fly Inn for the pilots and their families. We have had 75 to 100 pilots come to fly here for 3 days. We fly from Mt Harrison and land in front of my house which is a 10 mile horizontal and 5000 vertical flight.

If a power line is put across the top the the Test Hill it would eliminate all flying in this area. I would like to have the line go south to the Nevada State line. I do not want it across these mountains where we have been flying for the past 40 years.

Every year Goshawks build a nest in the cedar trees above my house on Test Hill. Sage Hens, also, nest in the Water Canyon.

Frank Gillette
903 E 500S
Declo, Idaho 83323

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

ROCK SPRINGS, WY 82
PM
05 OCT
2011

ENTERED
100453

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

82003$701A B047

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

ENTERED 100453 1/2

BLM

2011 OCT 11 AM 10 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Date: 10-4-2011

First Name: GARY Last Name: BAILIFF

Organization or Office Name: Lincoln County Landowner / Sweetwater County Commissioner

Mailing Address: 720 YATES City: Green River State: WY Zip: 82935

Daytime Phone: 307-875-4002 Email: bailiffg@sweet.wy.us

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I AM a property owner on the Commissary Ranch Subdivision. I hunt AND Recreate on Commissary Ridge. This is exactly the location of the proposed Route, Section #4. WE ARE STRONGLY opposed to disrupting ANY of the lands south of the forest boundary. Especially when AN existing CORRIDOR is only A few miles South of this Section (#4). I NOTICED That the Bureau of Fish AND Wildlife had no problem in moving the proposal South of SEEDSKADEE Refuge. Please give us, the land owners AND Sportsmen, the same CONSIDERation. There Are also several PRIME Ranching operations

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Name: GARY BAILIFF

ENTERED 100453

2/2

ON THIS ROUTE, SECTION #4, THAT WILL BE FOREVER HAMPERED IN USING THEIR GRAZING LANDS FOR THIS TRANSMISSION LINE. THE TWO ALTERNATIVE ROUTES WOULD BE LESS DISTANCE TO TRAVEL AND MUCH LESS DISRUPTIVE.

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT MANY RESIDENTS OF KEMMERER, COMMISSARY SUBDIVISIONS, RESIDENTS, SPORTSMEN FROM A VARIETY OF OTHER AREAS, AND THE GOVERNORS OF WYOMING (PAST & PRESENT) PREFER USING THE EXISTING CORRIDOR. CERTAINLY NOT THE PROPOSED CORRIDOR (SECTION #4)

PLEASE LISTEN TO YOUR CONSTITUENTS, I DO! I AM A COUNTY COMMISSIONER IN SWEETWATER COUNTY. THERE IS A GROUP CALLED THE COALITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. (LINCOLN - SUBLETTE - SWEETWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS) COMBINED, WE REPRESENT MANY PEOPLE WITH AN INTEREST IN POMEROY BASIN, COMMISSARY RIDGE, AND THE HAMS FORK DRAINAGE.

YOUR CONSIDERATION IS STRONGLY SOLICITED AND WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. Gary Bailiff

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

From: [illegible]
Sent: [illegible] 011 10 50 [illegible]
To: [illegible]
Subject: [illegible]

Name:
Gaylen Smyer

Organization:

Mailing Address:
1137 E. Six S Ranch Road

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Declo

State:
Idaho

Zip:
83323

Daytime Phone:
208-654-2895

E-mail:

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pertaining to the Gateway West Transmission Line Project. My family and I live in southern Idaho within the preferred corridor of Segment 7 as submitted by Idaho Power. The Draft EIS addresses the perceived need for additional electrical transmission capacity to serve areas of greater electrical power consumption in the western U.S. Even though Idahoans would benefit only minimally, much of the transmission line would be located within Idaho. I question the appropriateness of building a huge transmission line through one state to serve the interests of consumers in other states when, in my opinion, there are viable alternatives.

One aspect of the EIS is devoted to establishing the need for the transmission line. The proposed line is one of many being discussed to enhance and expand the power grid. The Gateway West project will eventually connect with a line being built from Las Vegas to Ely, Nevada near Cedar Hill. It occurs to me that it would be easier and cheaper to transport coal on existing railways from the coal fields in Wyoming to the power plant in Delta, Utah.

Delta is just east of Ely and a connecting transmission line could be built across less populated portions of both states.

There appears to be a bias toward placing the majority of the transmission line on private property rather than utilizing public lands. I would hope there is no aversion to placing a transmission line intended for public benefit primarily on public land. To the extent possible public power transmission lines should be placed on public land.

The EIS provides extensive and heavily weighted consideration for fish and wildlife. It appears the corresponding consideration for impacts to humans is under reported and under estimated. It is my position that estimated impacts to the public in general, and to the private landowners in particular, are incomplete. The presence of one or more transmission lines will limit a landowner’s use of private property and restrict public access to ensure public safety.

If this power line is to be constructed the state line route is only slightly longer than the route proposed by Idaho Power. The segment lengths are virtually the same if a Rogerson station is constructed rather than insisting upon Cedar Hill. The state line route would impact would directly impact fewer people and avoid prime agricultural areas. It would be impossible to quantify the impacts to private property along with the safety considerations for local inhabitants.

In summary, I do not believe this project would even be considered were it not for the federal incentives currently being offered through the federal government. I am opposed to the construction of the Gateway West transmission line. I am opposed to the construction of a power line that will negatively impact the farmers and ranchers who are capable stewards of the land. I am opposed to the restrictions that will be imposed area residents as they encounter towers and transmission lines in the area.

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

BOISE ID 837
25 OCT 2011 PM 3 L

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

100373

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

100373
2011 OCT 31 AM 10:00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

BLM

Date: 10-22-11

First Name: George JoAnn Last Name: Kelley

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: Box 25 City: albion State: ID Zip: 83311

Daytime Phone: 208-673-5364 Email:

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

Our ground has already been permitted for a rock Quary. It consists of eight to nine hundred acres of the proposed power line going across this acreages.

We also have numerous places that have been tested and drilled for future rock. We do not want this power line to interfere with our rock business, were already had a problem blasting with an existing power line. Some of the rock hit it and they had to put up new wire. We do not want this can of worms repeated.

JoAnn Kelley

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Schneider
ST Steele
Wyo 82301

ENTERED
100470

USA FIRST-CLASS FOREVER

USPS

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P.O. BOX 20879
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003

82003$7018

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

ENTERED 100470 1/2

BLM

Date: Oct 18, 2011

First Name: George Last Name: Schneider

Organization or Office Name: LANDOWNER

Mailing Address: RT 1 City: FT. STEELE State: WYO Zip: 82301

Daytime Phone: 307-324-6297 Email:

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

B.L.M. — Cheyenne, Wyoming —

Well, here we go again! Another comment period, guess the others got lost.

Repeating earlier comments at meetings and on your website, I and others in Fort Steele, do not want the power lines any where near our homes.

The last meeting I attended showed the proposed route to the south of Ft. Steele.

This is good.

Just one mile north or south of Ft. Steele is vacant land suitable for

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Name: George Schneider

ENTERED 100470 2/2

power lines, as the river is narrower, making less flood plane to cross, also less wildlife to contend with

I realize the jury is still out about electro magnetic fields – they are dangerous or not, depending on which study you use. I for one want nothing to do with them.

We have enjoyed our 36 years in St Steele, the view of the river, ridges & Elk Mountain are super, don't want to look thru or over towers and power lines.

Am not against any power line projects, just don't want them near our homes.

Nuff Said

Very sincerely

George Schneider

RECEIVED 2011 OCT 24 AM 10:00 BLM CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

ENTERED
100457

82003+701

ENTERED 100457

1/1

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

2011 OCT 11 AM 10: 00

RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

BLM

Date: October 5, 2011

First Name: Gordon

Last Name: Smith

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 96

City: Fielding

State: UT

Zip: 84311

Daytime Phone: 435-458-3278

Email: loghousecs@frontiernet.net

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:
Looking at the Route Detail Map 29 & 30 and using the Feasible Alternative Route going to the South of the Proposed Route from mile post 99 (which crosses an existing power line) to the Caribou-Targhee National Forrest Boundary at mile post 168. This Alterative Route would have less impact on the home owner residents of the Bear Lake Ranches by having the Gateway West Transmission Line to the south of the existing power lines. With this route there is also less transmission line that needs to be constructed which will cut down on the cost of this transmission line section (in the proposed route, there is a huge jog in the transmission line from mile post 100 to mile post 149 that goes north). Another benefit of having this transmission line running south of the existing line is that there is a lot less of tall vegetation (trees) that will have to be controlled in the future thus lowering the maintenance cost of this section. I hope that the Gateway West Transmission Line Project will check into this proposed alternative route and inform us of this proposed route.

To mail this comment form please send to:
Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | PO. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway-West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway-west

Greg Pope
<greg@popeconstruction.com
>

10/26/2011 04:10 PM

To "gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov"
<gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Gateway West Transmission Line Comment

To whom it may concern:

My name is Greg Pope and I am a property owner and also a lessee of State and BLM grounds in the SW corner of R76WT29N. I have been a resident of Wyoming for 60 years and I fear for the deteriorating quality of life in my state! I am writing to strongly oppose segment 1E of this project, specifically that segment between reference points 1Ef and 1Eg on the map entitled "Segment 1E/1W Windstar to Aeolus" figure A-2. Those of us who own land along the face of these mountains purchased our properties in large part because of the remoteness, lack of any commercial features and the unobstructed views, as well as the unique mix of wildlife, vegetation, and geologic features.

Part of the allure of the northern Laramie Range country is the lack of roads in large blocks of public/private lands. This reality has lead to various road-less and wilderness study areas over the years. The area is an important recreational area that is unique in that it is very close to the second largest population center in the State of Wyoming, Casper but is not totally criss-crossed with roads. This allows a quality experience for hikers, hunters, fishermen, photographers, and other outdoor recreationists alike. Construction of a power line with the associated roads created will critically impact the value of this recreational country. It may be argued that any roads created during construction will be eliminated after completion, but the reality is that once a road is established in this country someone always finds a way to use it in spite of gates, fences, water bars, etc. The Little Medicine Falls is a unique feature in Section 31 that appears to be right in the path of the Segment 1E. This beautiful waterfall area is presently accessible with a short hike which helps preserve its appeal and beauty. A road right to it, history has taught us, will lead to trash and abuse. Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Species of Greatest Conservation Need such as sage grouse, lynx, swift fox, burrowing owl, and goshawk (all of which I have personally seen near this area) could be impacted by any construction in this area. Large elk herds, deer, antelope, blue grouse and other flora/fauna could also be impacted by any construction and access activities that occur in the vicinity. Please focus any impacts for new lines within existing corridors where most of the impact has already occurred. Don't spread it out further!

The clear viewscape looking to the south and west from this elevated face of the Laramie Range across Shirley Basin and onto the Shirley Mountains, Elk Mountain, the Snowy Range, Ferris Mountain, etc is all part of the allure of the area. Clear, open space views of over 75 miles are becoming increasingly rare in Wyoming. This particular viewscape will be severely impacted with installation of a large quantity of power line towers in close proximity to the mountains where no power lines exist now. Towers located at a lower elevation within Shirley Basin itself where many towers already exist will cause a much less drastic impact on the overall viewscape.

It appears that part of the reason for segment 1E between 1Ef and 1Eg is to provide transmission capacity for future wind generators to be located in the foothills. If this is indeed the case the future impact will be immense and totally destroy the character and value of this entire section of the northern Laramie Range. I do not think the public has been made completely aware of what is being considered as far as future development. I certainly would think it would make more economic sense to connect

any future wind generation within Shirley Basin with spur lines from Aeolus or Heward when and if needed, rather than constructing the entire, high-impact 1E section including points 1E(f), 1E(g),1E(i), 1E(k) in advance. If the tax subsidies for wind power are eliminated in the near future, the whole need for this line would probably disappear, and if it were constructed now the cost and impact would be a total waste of resources.

Wyoming needs to preserve its quality of life. That quality of life includes unobstructed views for long distances. It includes blocks of land that can be explored afoot without the roar of ATVs on roads and trails. It includes mountain foothills that contain a lot of wildlife, trees, and plant communities that can be appreciated without having roads and towers infringing on the view and experience. There is something too "civilized" about a new power pole encountered in a hike through the mountains and foothills. We need the "uncivilized" areas to keep Wyoming's character alive for future generations. Don't build a power line through any areas where none exists now!

Segment 1E to Heward and Segments 1W(a) and 1W(c) from Heward to Aeolus follow existing power lines where the road, resource, and view damage has already been done. It certainly makes sense to keep any additional impacts within existing locations instead of spreading them out over previously unimpacted lands. Keep all new lines within existing corridors (1E-C, 1W(a),1W(c)) which are already the shortest distance to be traveled and will allow for the least overall environmental impact.

Greg L. Pope
16485 State Highway 220
Casper, WY 82604
307-266-6768
greg@popeconstruction.com

From: [illegible]
Sent: [illegible] 011 [illegible] 7 [illegible]
To: [illegible]
Subject: [illegible]

Name:
Merrilan Simper

Organization:

Mailing Address:
24128 Twenty Mile Road

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Grand View

State:
ID

Zip:
83624

Daytime Phone:
208-834-2498

E-mail:

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
The proposed route, Segment 9, runs less than 200 feet from our home. The alternative route 9D makes more sense. There are less homes on alternative route 9 D and there is a road along that route. Birds of prey make their home on and near our farm. I would hope that people are more important than birds of prey. We have lived in this home for 29 years.

From: [illegible]
Sent: [illegible] 011 [illegible] 53 [illegible]
To: [illegible]
Subject: [illegible]

Name:
Harold Simper

Organization:

Mailing Address:
24128 Twenty Mile Road

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Grand View

State:
Id

Zip:
83624

Daytime Phone:
208-834-2498

E-mail:

Confidential:
No

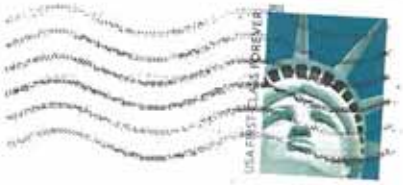
DEIS Location:

Comment:
My first concern is the closeness to the residence. The second concern is I don't want the Transmisson lines towers to limit the possibility of a pivot on my farm land next to route segment 9.

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

POCATELLO ID 832

28 OCT 2011 PM 1 T



Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

#200347018

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

100313

RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING
2011 NOV -1 AM 10: 00

BLM

Date: 10-28-11

First Name: Henry Last Name: Hornbacher

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: 3075 Hornbacher Rd City: Am Falls State: Id Zip: 83211

Daytime Phone: 208-226-2188 Email: Henry.Hornbacher@msn.com

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

Please read before discarding into garbage container.

My comments pertain to Idaho Power's power line across my irrigated farm in Power County, Segment 5.

A transmission line across my farm will have a huge negative impact on our operation.

(1) Aerial applicators cannot operate around power lines

(2) GPS systems on our equipment and pivot electronics will malfunction.

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

1/1

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Name: Henry Hornbacher

(3) Market value of the whole farm will be negatively impacted.

(4) Farm ground underneath the power line will be permanently out of production.

Is Idaho Power willing to compensate us and make us whole on all these issues?

The best solution for all these issues is to cross elsewhere besides on our irrigation farm.

Thanks,

Henry Hornbacher

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Hollis & Faye
105 Mike Miller Lane
Clinton, TN 37716

KNOXVILLE TN 379
27 SEP 2011 PM 3 L

ENTERED
100418

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

82003+7018

ENTERED 100418 1/1

2011 OCT -3 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

105 Mike Miller Lane
Clinton, TN 37716

September 27, 2011

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

I am a landowner in the Fontenelle Creek area and on the Commissary Ridge of Lincoln County. The possibility of a major power transmission line referred to as the northern alternative for Segment 4 of the Gateway West Project paralleling Fontenelle Creek and crossing Commissary Ridge is very disturbing. Not only does this area abound in wildlife, it is in extremely close proximity to the historic Sublette Cutoff of the Oregon Trail. Please consider a less disrupting route for this power line instead of across this pristine, scenic, historic terrain that will be forever changed.

Sincerely,

Hollis Large

Hollis R. Large

100529

September 25, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

The alternative routes of 5 & 7 are probably the best routs to take for any future growth, as they will be setting precedence for future lines coming through this area. Power lines are for the public and therefore should be put on public land!

Private landowners should have say as to where these lines go as they are the ones who pay the taxes to the county, state and federal government. We are the landowners—your wages come from the taxes we pay. There is not a fair compensation down the road for the abuse the landowners are caused by working and living around the power lines and towers. The utility companies reap the profits and benefits, while the landowners are just supposed to deal with the hindrances that are caused by towers and power lines on their farm ground. If the power lines must come through, fair compensations to the land owners need to be made and not only a onetime payment. The power companies are reaping the profits yearly and so should the landowners. If the utility companies are making a profit each year the landowner should be receiving just compensation yearly. If landowners are dealt with properly, they would not be so opposed to having the towers on their land.

Your impact statement tries to compare these towers to existing lines, but the existing lines are much smaller. The new towers will be huge in comparison. Since when is animal life held in higher regard than human life.

It is typical government to take more than a year to compile this statement and the large number of people to do this, and only gives the public 90 days.

Ivan & Joan Permann

Box 386

American Falls, Idaho 83211

208-221-2026

208-221-2025

From: wgeorge@blm.gov 100110
To: blm@gwcomment.com;
Subject: Fw: Public comment
Date: Thursday, August 11, 2011 1:37:57 PM

----- Forwarded by Walt George/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 08/11/2011 02:36 PM -----

Pam Murdock/RFO/WY/BLM/DOI 08/10/2011 10:19 AM

To Walt George/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI@BLM

cc

Subject Fw: Public comment

I believe this one should have gone to you.

Pamela M. Murdock
Project Manager
BLM Rawlins Field Office
1300 N. 3rd Street
P.O. Box 2407
Rawlins, WY 82301
307.328.4215 (direct)
307-320-5240 (cell)

"The trouble with quotes on the internet is that you never know if they are genuine."
- Abraham Lincoln

----- Forwarded by Pam Murdock/RFO/WY/BLM/DOI on 08/10/2011 10:19 AM -----

"Jack Walts"
<jackwalts@wyomin
g.com>
08/09/2011 09:13
AM

To
<WYMail_PCW_Windfarm@blm.gov>
cc

Subject
Public comment

I would first of all like to thank you for soliciting
public comment on the proposed 1,100 mile high voltage
power line.
As an engineer of 39 years experience, I've made a cursory
examination of your DEIS and believe it to be sufficient
for continuance of the project.

(Embedded image moved to file: pic20328.jpg)

Please add my name and qualifications to the list of those
who support this endeavor.
You have my permission to use my name also.

Jack Walts
Civil Engineer
10903 Ridgeview Road
Evansville, Wy
82636

(Embedded image moved to file: pic22646.gif)FREE Animations for your email
- by IncrediMail! Click Here!

From: [illegible]
Sent: [illegible] 011 1 5 [illegible]
To: [illegible]
Subject: [illegible]

Name:
Jack Walts

Organization:
Retired civil Engineer

Mailing Address:
10903 RIDGEVIEW ROAD,

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Evansville

State:
Wy

Zip:
82636

Daytime Phone:
307-234-8209

E-mail:
jackwalts@wyoming.com

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
I am strongly in favor of Wyoming developing it's extremely high potential wind resources not only for sale to other states but for our own use as well. Wyoming has the best wind resource in the nation. with vast open areas of federal lands and huge opportunity for revenues from the sale of green energy it is an obvious win-win situation for not only Wyoming but California as well.

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

100514

BLM

Date: 15 Sept 2011

First Name: James Last Name: Hinton

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: 12473 Cinnabar City: Murphy State: ID Zip: 83651

Daytime Phone: 208-351-9167 Email:

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

On section 8, The line between towers 124 and ~~125~~ 123 runs through a very narrow gap between two sections of private property. Is there a possibility to instead reroute between towers 121 and 120 to connect over with route 9 (or in parrallel with)? The junction where the route 9 alternates link up near Murphy seems ideal for that.

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

1/1

continued on back

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

CASPER WY 826
PM
21 OCT
2011

ENTERED
100445

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

82003$701& B047

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

ENTERED 100445 1/2

BLM

Date: 10/21/2011

First Name: James Last Name: Collins

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1627 City Glenrock State WY Zip 82637

Daytime Phone: 307-436-8501 Email: jimcollins1965@q.com

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

As a concerned citizen and resident of Glenrock, WY, I have an issue with the proposed route from the Windstar Substation near Dave Johnston Power Plant through the annexed city land between I-25 and the Town of Glenrock. At the meeting in Douglas Oct. 6, 2011 the BLM representative said they were unaware of this land being annexed by Glenrock. This route would impact future growth and development of the Southern portion of our town. Our (residents of Glenrock) proposed choice would be one of the

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Name: James Collins

ENTERED 100445

2/2

alternative routes along or near an existing southwesterly power line from Dave Johnston Power Plant and bypassing Glenrock.
I apologize for not addressing these routes by number, but the cd obtained from the meeting doesn't play and I couldn't find a map on-line with enough detail.

Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Jim Collins

2011 OCT 24 AM 10:00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

JTyler4291@aol.com
10/27/2011 10:03 AM

To Gateway_West_WYmail@blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject high power transmission lines

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]1[illegible]5[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]15[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]37

[illegible]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2011 7:10 AM
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: comment from land owner

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 08/26/2011 08:10 AM -----

Janet Mecca
<jangaylme@hotmai
l.com>
08/24/2011 10:49
AM

To
<gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov>
cc
Subject
comment from land owner

Dear Sirs
I own only a few acres in Lincoln Co. Wyo. near the South Fork area. I have looked at the maps and read what i can on line. I do not understand why you are not following the already transmission line. The beauty of Wyoming has already been disturbed on this line of power giants. Why would make more lines in other areas?
If the line followed the proposed number 4 , or 4F as I see them this will spoil more of the rare Wyo. beauty further. I am unable to access the exact line of these proposed lines. I do feel that they may go near or even over my small bit of acreage which would be very disturbing to my feelings of peace and the aesthetic beauty we experience when we stay in Wyo. My land is part of an original Wyoming homestead and I have tried to preserve it for over 20 years as much as possible.
Please, spare my land and views. Please follow the existing line of power lines or go south of Kemmerer.
As I get more information you may hear from us again.

Sincerely,

Janet Gayle Mecca
P.O. Boc 93846
Albuquerque, NM 87199

De Williams
<de@arbonvalley.com>
10/28/2011 03:18 PM

To Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Gateway West Transmission Line comment

To whom it may concern,
I am writing in regards to the West Transmission Line Project. I am opposed to the line cutting through Arbon Valley and the Deep Creek Mountains. Specifically on section 5 of the project I am opposed to route "5" and route "5A". Both of these routes cut through the heart of the Deep Creek Mountain Range. First of all it seems hard to believe it is feasible to run a transmission line over those large, steep mountains. The mountains are steep and have no natural canyons or cuts through the mountains within routes 5 and 5A. Access to the lines in the winter would be very difficult because blowing and drifting snow and the steepness of the terrain.

The proposed route 5 and 5A have the following negative consequences:

- The Deep Creek Mountains are very steep and rugged
- Arbon Elementary School is located in route 5
- The Arbon Church and Cemetery are located in route 5A
- The Deep Creek Mountains are important habitat to many big game animals and other wildlife
- Many people frequent the Deep Creek Mountains for recreation including citizens of nearby Pocatello

The proposed route that runs through the Fort Hall Reservation "5C" has several advantages.

- The route already has three transmission lines in place
- The route follows terrain that is far less steep and rugged
- There are only three houses close the the lines in route 5C
- Disruption to wildlife and view sheds would be minimal since lines already exist
- This route has the support of the Power County Zoning Board

Route 5B which runs just north of Buist and through Bull Canyon currently has existing roads leading into Bull Canyon. This route would still have to pass over a steep mountain. For these reasons we strongly recommend route 5C.

I hope you will consider our comments when making the decision on where to run the routes for the project.

Sincerely,

Jason and Dejanet Williams

From: □mclain@blm.go□
Sent: □uesday, □ctober 0□, 2011 12:12 □M
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: □ower lines

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 10/04/2011 01:12 PM -----

Jesse Gillard <shedsoldierakitas@yahoo.com> 10/03/2011 05:14 PM		To "Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov" <Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov> cc
		Subject Power lines
Please respond to Jesse Gillard <shedsoldierakitas@yahoo.com>		

I DO NOT want the power lines going over Commissary Ridge! They need to go along the existing rout.
Thank you, Jesse Gillard

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

ROCK SPRINGS, WY 82
PM
27 OCT
2011

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

10034 9

82003$701.8 B047

100 349

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

BLM

2011 OCT 31 AM 10:00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Date: 10-15-11

First Name: JoAnn Last Name: Wyant

Organization or Office Name: Owner of Spring Canyon Ranch

Mailing Address: 396 Firehole PL City: Green River State: Wy Zip: 82935

Daytime Phone: 307-875-4573 Email:

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I am an owner of a cabin at Spring Canyon Ranch. We already have a corridor of wires close to our place. We really don't need new ones up there on Commissary. It will happen if we let "Gateway West Transmission Line Project" go through. Its bad for all our animals that are there and go through there. You can put it next to the one that is there Now. A concerned owner. — I know you or anyone would want this on your properties or close to it

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

1/1

continued on back

Mr. John Dehler
PO Box 2217
Glenrock, WY 82637

CASPER WY 826
PM
12 OCT
2011

ENTERED
100354

West Gate
Transmission

Donald Simpson, State Director
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, WY 82002-1828

82002182B

ENTERED 100354 1|3

Draft EIS Comment Form
Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Date: October 10, 2011
Name: John and Doris Dehler
Organization or Office Name: Citizens of Glenrock
P.O. Box 2217, Glenrock, WY 82637
307-436-2388 johndehler@yahoo.com

2011 OCT 14 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Attn: Mr. Walt George, Project Manager

Comments:

Chapter 3 – Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences 3.2-88

Segment 1E – Windstar to Aeolus

"Alternative 1E-A is a 16.1 mile alternative along the north end of Segment of 1E, which was the Proponents' initial proposal before moving the Proposed Route at the suggestion of local landowners to avoid the more settled area around Glenrock"

Argument: This is very unclear. If 1E-A was the Proponents' (Rocky Mountain Power) initial proposal, this route would have avoided the settled area of Glenrock in the first place. Now, the Preferred Route of 1E runs through Mile Marker 162 – 169 on the North side of I-25 through the Exit 165 into Glenrock and destroying any views of the landscape to the South. This severely limits any potential future development between Glenrock and I-25, which is the only direction available due to wind turbines to the North.

Chapter 3 – 3.2-96

Segment 1E Conclusion

"The comparison portion of the Proposed Route would have more evenly distributed visual impacts than Alternative 1E-A due to the Proposed Route being located 2.0 miles closer to Glenrock, creating a new visible disturbance from the many views of the residents with the town, and Alternate 1E-A being located closer to sensitive viewers mainly along Deer Creek".

Argument: How can you say that the Proposed Route 1E would have more evenly distributed visual impact and in the same sentence say that the Proposed Route will be located 2.0 miles closer to Glenrock, creating a new visible disturbance from the many views of the residents within the town.

Chapter 3 – 2.2-97

Segment 1W (Segments 1W(a) and 1W(c) – Windstar to Aeolus

"Alternative 1W-A is a 16.2 mile alternative located near the town of Glenrock, which was the Proponents' (Rocky Mountain Power) initial proposal before moving the Proposed Route at the suggestion of local landowners in order to avoid the more settled area around Glenrock."

ENTERED 100354

Argument: If Alternative 1W-A was the Proponents' initial proposal, which is clearly more consistent with the wishes of local landowners and Glenrock residents. Also, this was initially the only route that was presented to Glenrock residents.

Chapter 2 – Alternatives 2-173

2.8.1 Alternatives 1EA, 1E-B, and 1E-C compared to the Proposed Route

Paragraph 2:

"Alternative 1E-A was developed as an alternative to the northern segment of the Proposed Route in response to visual and land use impact concerns expressed by local citizens along the Proposed Route. This alternative would minimize the effect of separate transmission lines on private lands located along the existing Dave-Johnston-Rock Springs transmission line corridor. Alternate 1E-A is shorter than the comparison portion of the Proposed Route (16.1 miles vs. 17.6) but would have more impacts on visual resources as seen from residences in the Glenrock area".

Argument: Which is it? Alternative 1E-A was developed an alternative to visual and land use impact concerns expressed by local citizens along the Proposed Route or Alternative 1E-A would have more impact on visual resources as seen from residences in the Glenrock area.

The Proponent' (Rocky Mountain Electric) first proposed 1E-A as the Proposed Route and then the report says that it was changed in response to Glenrock citizens. The report would make you believe that the Proponent's made the change to 1E to satisfy the concerns of Glenrock citizens. Your report again says that 1E-A would have more impact on visual resources. According to the very vague map this is not correct.

Chapter 3 – Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences, etc. 3.2-96

Alternative 1E-A – Alternative 1E-A would not cross BLM administered or NFS lands.

Chapter 2 – Alternatives 2.203

Paragraph 2 - "The BLM has typically identified preferred alternatives in most of the Draft EISs it has prepared. The BLM portion of the Project approval covers only the federal lands it administers, between 40 and 50 percent of the total length. It does not extend to state-managed or private lands. "The BLM recognizes that any route it proposes to approve influences that route's location on adjacent private lands. Faced with this multiple use management situation, it is prudent for the BLM to reserve its identification of a preferred alternative until it has received input on the routes from all sectors of the public. Therefore, the BLM will defer identification of its preferred alternative until the Final EIS for the above reasons. Following the public comment period on the Draft EIS, the BLM pledges to work collaboratively with cooperating agencies and the public to reach a consensus on the preferred route for the Gateway West Project. In the absence of a consensus, the BLM will identify in the Final EIS its preferred alternative based on its multiple-use mandate in the FLPMA. In consideration of the potential changes to the environmental analysis between the draft and final document, the BLM will hold a sufficient public comment period on the Final EIS."

ENTERED 100354

Question: What cooperating agencies and public will you be working with in an attempt to reach a consensus? Will the City of Glenrock Mayor and County Commissioners be involved in this decision making process?

Public Meetings:

March 16, 2009 – Glenrock

April 20, 2009 – Douglas (unaware of the meeting)

September 17, 2009 – Douglas (unaware of the meeting)

October 6, 2011 - Douglas

When the map of the Gateway West Transmission Line routes appeared in the Independent Newspaper in September, 2011, there was much concern in our community of having no knowledge of the new routes and Proposed Route E1 encroaching on our town.

I am requesting that a meeting be held in Glenrock for the citizens of Glenrock with a presentation of Proposed Route E1 and where exactly it will run between Mile Marker 162 – 169 and photographs of the land these power lines and towers would be located. Also, discussion and photographs of where Alternative E1-A would run in conjunction to Glenrock and I-25. What is the likelihood that Alternative E1- would be acceptable alternative? Discussion of other factors and other agencies/groups that have an impact on the decision. If the decision is to locate the line near Glenrock, this would have a detrimental impact on our community for future economic expansion and growth. The citizens of Glenrock need clarification to Proposed E1 and we need your help in understanding where this line will run, to clear up any misunderstandings or interpretation of this report.

John Dehler

Doris Dehler

Cc: Senator John Burrasso
Senator Mike Enzi
Governor Matt Mead
Councilwoman Cynthia Lummis
Senator Jim Anderson
Rep. Richard Cannady
County Commissioner Tony Lehner
County Commissioner Mike Colling
Mayor Michael McQueary
Donald A. Simpson, BLM State Director

Mr. John Dehler
PO Box 2217
Glenrock, WY 82637

100354

CASPER WY 826
PM
12 OCT
2011

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

82003570 18

Duplicate

100354

2011 OCT 27 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Draft EIS Comment Form
Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Date: October 10, 2011
Name: John and Doris Dehler
Organization or Office Name: Citizens of Glenrock
P.O. Box 2217, Glenrock, WY 82637
307-436-2388 johndehler@yahoo.com

Attn: Mr. Walt George, Project Manager

Comments:

Chapter 3 – Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences 3.2-88

Segment 1E – Windstar to Aeolus

"Alternative 1E-A is a 16.1 mile alternative along the north end of Segment of 1E, which was the Proponents' initial proposal before moving the Proposed Route at the suggestion of local landowners to avoid the more settled area around Glenrock"

Argument: This is very unclear. If 1E-A was the Proponents' (Rocky Mountain Power) initial proposal, this route would have avoided the settled area of Glenrock in the first place. Now, the Preferred Route of 1E runs through Mile Marker 162 – 169 on the North side of I-25 through the Exit 165 into Glenrock and destroying any views of the landscape to the South. This severely limits any potential future development between Glenrock and I-25, which is the only direction available due to wind turbines to the North.

Chapter 3 – 3.2-96

Segment 1E Conclusion

"The comparison portion of the Proposed Route would have more evenly distributed visual impacts than Alternative 1E-A due to the Proposed Route being located 2.0 miles closer to Glenrock, creating a new visible disturbance from the many views of the residents with the town, and Alternate 1E-A being located closer to sensitive viewers mainly along Deer Creek".

Argument: How can you say that the Proposed Route 1E would have more evenly distributed visual impact and in the same sentence say that the Proposed Route will be located 2.0 miles closer to Glenrock, creating a new visible disturbance from the many views of the residents within the town.

Chapter 3 – 2.2-97

Segment 1W (Segments 1W(a) and 1W(c) – Windstar to Aeolus

"Alternative 1W-A is a 16.2 mile alternative located near the town of Glenrock, which was the Proponents' (Rocky Mountain Power) initial proposal before moving the Proposed Route at the suggestion of local landowners in order to avoid the more settled area around Glenrock."

Duplicate

Argument: If Alternative 1W-A was the Proponents' initial proposal, which is clearly more consistent with the wishes of local landowners and Glenrock residents. Also, this was initially the only route that was presented to Glenrock residents.

Chapter 2 – Alternatives 2-173

2.8.1 Alternatives 1EA, 1E-B, and 1E-C compared to the Proposed Route

Paragraph 2:

"Alternative 1E-A was developed as an alternative to the northern segment of the Proposed Route in response to visual and land use impact concerns expressed by local citizens along the Proposed Route. This alternative would minimize the effect of separate transmission lines on private lands located along the existing Dave-Johnston-Rock Springs transmission line corridor. Alternate 1E-A is shorter than the comparison portion of the Proposed Route (16.1 miles vs. 17.6) but would have more impacts on visual resources as seen from residences in the Glenrock area".

Argument: Which is it? Alternative 1E-A was developed an alternative to visual and land use impact concerns expressed by local citizens along the Proposed Route or Alternative 1E-A would have more impact on visual resources as seen from residences in the Glenrock area.

The Proponent' (Rocky Mountain Electric) first proposed 1E-A as the Proposed Route and then the report says that it was changed in response to Glenrock citizens. The report would make you believe that the Proponent's made the change to 1E to satisfy the concerns of Glenrock citizens. Your report again says that 1E-A would have more impact on visual resources. According to the very vague map this is not correct.

Chapter 3 – Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences, etc. 3.2-96

Alternative 1E-A – Alternative 1E-A would not cross BLM administered or NFS lands.

Chapter 2 – Alternatives 2.203

Paragraph 2 - "The BLM has typically identified preferred alternatives in most of the Draft EISs it has prepared. The BLM portion of the Project approval covers only the federal lands it administers, between 40 and 50 percent of the total length. It does not extend to state-managed or private lands. "The BLM recognizes that any route it proposes to approve influences that route's location on adjacent private lands. Faced with this multiple use management situation, it is prudent for the BLM to reserve its identification of a preferred alternative until it has received input on the routes from all sectors of the public. Therefore, the BLM will defer identification of its preferred alternative until the Final EIS for the above reasons. Following the public comment period on the Draft EIS, the BLM pledges to work collaboratively with cooperating agencies and the public to reach a consensus on the preferred route for the Gateway West Project. In the absence of a consensus, the BLM will identify in the Final EIS its preferred alternative based on its multiple-use mandate in the FLPMA. In consideration of the potential changes to the environmental analysis between the draft and final document, the BLM will hold a sufficient public comment period on the Final EIS."

Duplicate

Question: What cooperating agencies and public will you be working with in an attempt to reach a consensus? Will the City of Glenrock Mayor and County Commissioners be involved in this decision making process?

Public Meetings:

March 16, 2009 – Glenrock

April 20, 2009 – Douglas (unaware of the meeting)

September 17, 2009 – Douglas (unaware of the meeting)

October 6, 2011 - Douglas

When the map of the Gateway West Transmission Line routes appeared in the Independent Newspaper in September, 2011, there was much concern in our community of having no knowledge of the new routes and Proposed Route E1 encroaching on our town.

I am requesting that a meeting be held in Glenrock for the citizens of Glenrock with a presentation of Proposed Route E1 and where exactly it will run between Mile Marker 162 – 169 and photographs of the land these power lines and towers would be located. Also, discussion and photographs of where Alternative E1-A would run in conjunction to Glenrock and I-25. What is the likelihood that Alternative E1- would be acceptable alternative? Discussion of other factors and other agencies/groups that have an impact on the decision. If the decision is to locate the line near Glenrock, this would have a detrimental impact on our community for future economic expansion and growth. The citizens of Glenrock need clarification to Proposed E1 and we need your help in understanding where this line will run, to clear up any misunderstandings or interpretation of this report.

Duplicate

John Dehler Doris Dehler

Cc: Senator John Burrasso
Senator Mike Enzi
Governor Matt Mead
Councilwoman Cynthia Lummis
Senator Jim Anderson
Rep. Richard Cannady
County Commissioner Tony Lehner
County Commissioner Mike Colling
Mayor Michael McQueary
Donald A. Simpson, BLM State Director

From: mclain@blm.go
Sent: uesday, ctober 0, 2011 12:12 M
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: ateway est oute Meeting

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 10/04/2011 01:11 PM -----

Lynn Dampman <ldampman@live.com>
10/02/2011 04:56 PM

To <gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov>
cc Bonita Hunt <bumptuousbonita@yahoo.com>, Doris Dehler <dorisdehler@yahoo.com>, John Dehler <doebagger@yahoo.com>, Palmer & Sharon Aust <psaust@wyoming.com>, Tina Harper <tinaharper@aol.com>
Subject Gateway West Route & Meeting

Walter E. George
National Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
P. O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 822001-1828

Dear Mr. George,

I was shocked to see the proposed route for the Gateway West Project in the Glenrock Independent's September 22nd issue. Many of my neighbors would agree that it's unconscionable to place industrial-scale, high voltage power lines and towers between I-25 and the town of Glenrock. This would not only destroy residents' view of the mountain but would also serve as a disgustingly unattractive landscape fixture for the main entrance into our little town. Our city officials have an entirely different idea of how to develop that area to welcome would-be visitors.

Also, I can't imagine why the BLM would schedule the meeting for public comments in Douglas rather than Glenrock. Douglas residents will not be affected by these monstrosities at all. The meeting should be held in Glenrock, no question. Glenrock residents will find it easier

to attend the meeting to voice their opinion, which I assume the BLM wants, if the meeting scheduled for this Thursday, 10/6, is held in Glenrock.

Thank you kindly for your consideration, Lynn & John Dampman
825 Grove
P.O. Box 2137
Glenrock, WY 82637

.

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

PM
26 OCT
2011

USA FIRST-CLASS FOREVER

ENTERED
100391

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

82003$701$ B047

1/1

2011 OCT 28 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

ENTERED
100391

October 25, 2011

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

RE: Transmission Line Project Comment

We would like to encourage the management team for the Gateway West Project to use an alternate route for the line near Glenrock, Wyoming. Moving the line further south, Route 1E-A, along existing high power routes, would affect fewer people for this portion of the project.

The proposed route between the town of Glenrock and I-25 will definitely be visible from homes in Glenrock. This is also the main road for the residents and visitors coming into and leaving Glenrock which commands a picture of pride. The town of Glenrock has planned development of that area for future growth and we're pretty sure a high powered transmission line isn't in their beautification concept. The visual impact alone will be enormous for the residents of Glenrock and visitors alike with the current route.

We appreciate all the work you've done to provide power to the masses but we would not appreciate having a high power transmission line as a part of our view of the mountains on a daily basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

John Dampman
Lynn Dampman

John & Lynn Dampman
825 Grove
P.O. Box 2137
Glenrock, WY 82637

John E. Nunemaker
22863 County Road 40
Goshen, IN 46526

SOUTH BEND IN 465
20 SEP 2011 PM 1 L

USA FIRST-CLASS FOREVER

Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, Wy.
82003

Scanned

ENTERED
100465

82003$7018

ENTERED 100465

1/2

Mon - Sept 19, 2011

To Gateway West. Project
mn, Walt George.
(B.L.M. mgr.)
Please send the (Draft
environmental impact State
ment)
To John Nunemaker
22863-C.R. 40-Goshen
In. 46526-7258.
We have 1,280 Acre Land
That may be One of
Corriders, For Transmission
Line.

Sincerly
John Nunemaker

M 1/2

ENTERED
100465
2/2

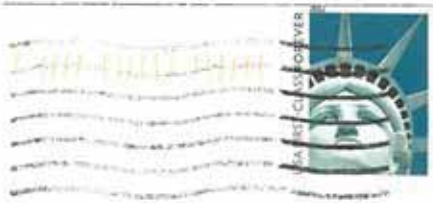
ENTERED
100465

2011 SEP 26 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

2/2

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

ROCK SPRINGS, WY
05 OCT
2011



Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

ENTERED
100456

82003$701& B047

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

ENTERED 100456 1/1

RECEIVED DOI-BLM CHEYENNE, WYOMING 2011 OCT 11 AM 10: 00

BLM

Date: 10/5/11

First Name: John L. Last Name: Freeman

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: 2340 No Carolina Way City: Green River State: WY Zip: 82935

Daytime Phone: 875-7378 Email: freeman@wyoming.com

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I believe that the prefered route should remain in established power corridors.

John L Freeman

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Kristy Pigeon
109 Greenhorn Road
Hailey, Idaho 83333

BOISE ID 837

25 OCT 2011 PM 2 T

Walt George, Project Manager
Gateway West Transmission Line Project EIS
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

100588

B200337018

1/2

ENTERED
100566

2011 OCT 31 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

KRISTY PIGEON
JOHN PRUDDEN
109 Greenhorn Road
Hailey, Idaho 83333

October 25, 2011

Walt George, Project Manager
Gateway West Transmission Line Project EIS
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Dear Mr. George:

Please accept the following comments in reference to the Gateway West Transmission Line project.

The July 2011 Draft EIS states that the project is for the greater good of the public. An Owyhee County Task force was developed in the spring of 2009 to represent the citizens of Owyhee County. The task force has recommended two alternative routes, 9D and 9E, over the Proposed route 9. The residents and county commissioners of Owyhee County feel that the transmission line should not impact private lands and should be routed on public lands to the greatest possible extent. If the transmission line is for the "greater good of the public" then it needs to be routed on public land. **Therefore route 9D and 9E should be the preferred route.**

In review of the draft EIS please note the following flaws in reference to the comparative analysis of the proposed route 9 to the alternatives:

- There were few KOP's performed in sensitive areas along proposed Segment 9 compared to the greater number of KOP's performed on the alternative routes. For example: **The highly visually sensitive area where the proposed route 9 crosses the Bruneau River Valley was not studied**.
- The comparative numbers of raptor nests impacted by the proposed route versus the alternative routes is not accurate. Regular counts are performed in the SRBOP (Snake River Birds of Prey), however, there is no accurate data for nest counts along proposed route 9 or alternative routes that are outside of the SRBOP boundries. For example: Raptor nest counts were not performed along the area where the proposed route 9 crosses the Bruneau River Valley. This area supports considerably higher raptor densities than were noted in the majority of the SRBOP.

ENTERED 100388

- Table 3:10 erroneously states that proposed segment 9 does not cross mule deer fawning areas. This past spring I noted one mule deer and one whitetail deer fawning areas within 200 yards of the centerline of this segment near the Bruneau River. Since this is a relatively small area that I happen to know well, I would surmise that the EIS data is completely inaccurate. In addition, **there are no bighorn sheep herds near alternative route 9D.**
- Table 3.9-9 states that the amount of construction impact to wetlands for the total length of proposed Segment 9 is .8 acres. **This figure is not accurate because the damage to wetlands at the Bruneau River crossing point alone is considerably greater than .8 acres.** In addition, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have completed wildlife restoration projects that would be negatively impacted and are located immediately under the path of proposed Segment 9 in this area.

The EIS does not address the impacts of the transmission line traversing the Burneau River Valley. Much of this area is held in private land ownership. The result of a power line through this environmentally sensitive area would cause a plummet in land value and a negative tax consequence to Owyhee County. In addition, the negative impact to wildlife and recreationalists who frequent the area would be dramatic. **Segment 9D is clearly the logical route for the Gateway West Transmission Project.**

Cordially,

Kristy Pigeon

John Prudden

From: mclain@blm.go
Sent: ursday, e tember 0, 2011 1:1 M
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: ateway est comment

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 09/08/2011 02:13 PM -----

John W <js_weber@hotmail .com>		To
	<gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov>	
09/06/2011 09:19 AM		cc
		Subject
	Gateway West comment	

Dear BLM,

I would have liked to attend a public meeting but it seems the only public meeting in Boise is during the work day. I think this was poor judgement having the biggest population city not have a meeting after normal work hours. I hope to see future meetings in Boise in the evening.

In Chapter 1, I don't believe a need has been proven. The proposed transmission lines go in the area of coal fired power plants. The trend is to not build any new coal power plants and in the future it is likely coal power plants will be shut down in favor of on site solar power generation.
Many are predicting that solar pv will be less expensive than coal by 2015 thus eliminating any need for new transmission lines.

Thank you,
John Weber
Boise, Idaho

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Friday, □ctober 2□, 2011 7:17 □M
To: □ateway □□M
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Julie Byers

Organization:

Mailing Address:
1478 Hemlock St.

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Salem

State:
OR

Zip:
97304

Daytime Phone:

E-mail:

Confidential:
No

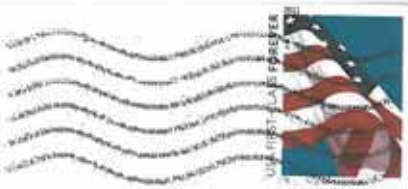
DEIS Location:

Comment:
I am against the proposed rout segment 9. I have close family that this would affect, and I don't want to be exposed to this when I come to visit. I would like to see alternative 9D be used.
Thank you!
Julie

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

POCATELLO ID 832

27 OCT 2011 PM 1 L



Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

100361

20034701

100351

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

2011 OCT 31 AM 10:00

RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Date: 25 OCT 11

First Name: Kade Last Name: Lusk

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: 4355 Arbon Hwy City: Arbon State: ID Zip: 83212

Daytime Phone: 208-251-8402 Email: luskkade@isu.edu

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

In your Environmental impact statement you fail to recognize a sage grouse lek in segment five in the Arbon Valley. This lek is in the proposed route of the transmission line. The Idaho Fish and Game have declared this lek active. Studies have shown that these transmission lines pose dangerous threats to the population of nearby sage grouse. This is a developing lek. Please consult the Idaho Fish and Game on this issue and consider using an alternate route. The current route goes right by this lek and right through the center of population for the community of Arbon Valley. Thank you.

1/1

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Karen Buck-Rennells
<wyogrammaof2@yahoo.com>

10/28/2011 11:46 AM

Please respond to
Karen Buck-Rennells
<wyogrammaof2@yahoo.com>

To "Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov"
<Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Draft EIS Comment form

I see the need for the Gateway Transmission Line, but do not want the alternative 4g.1 that will be crossing my property. This would totally destroy the beauty of the valley, cross the river in prime hunting and fishing areas, be a hinderance to the wild birds in the area, noise created from the lines, as well as being to close to the living quarters on my property.
My perfered route would be to keep it in the corridor with the other three already in place which has already shown little impact and to which the animals are used to, or to follow the proposed route 4 D,E south of Kemmerer.

Sincerely
Karen Buck

From: Ara Swanson 100099
To: blm@gwcomment.com;
Subject: FW: BLM-Gateway mailing list
Date: Tuesday, August 09, 2011 8:17:44 AM

-----Original Message-----
From: Iozzi, Joe [mailto:Joe.Iozzi@tetratech.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 09, 2011 7:59 AM
To: Ara Swanson
Subject: FW: BLM-Gateway mailing list

Can you tell me if this person is on the mailing list. See below.

"Karen" <steenhof@hughes.net> To <mary_j_byrne@blm.gov>
08/08/2011 03:07 PM cc
Subject BLM-Gateway mailing list

Hi MJ-

I'm wondering if there is something wrong with the BLM mailing list. I have been on the Gateway West Mailing list since Day 1, and I have been getting periodic updates. But I have still never been notified (either by email/snail mail) about the release of the Gateway West DEIS. I only know about it because an acquaintance forwarded the email that she received from the BLM Wyoming Office. I finally received a CD from Tetra Tech after my second request. I wonder if I was the only one who got dropped off the list. It might be worth checking.

Karen Steenhof
18109 Briar Creek Road

Murphy, Idaho 83650

208-495-2364
steenhof@hughes.net

"Karen"
<steenhof@hughes.net>
10/28/2011 07:50 AM

To <gateway_west_wymail@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Comments on the DEIS

Attac□ed are my comments on t□e □raft □□□ for t□e □ateway □ransmission □ine □ro□ect. □lease feel free to contact me if you □a□e any □uestions.

□aren □teen□of
1□10□ □riar □ree□ □oad
Mur□□y, □da□o □□6□0

steen□of@□ug□es.net

DEISComments.docx

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Gateway West Transmission Line Project. As a wildlife research biologist, I have studied the effects of transmission lines on raptors and ravens (Engel et al. 1992, Steenhof et al. 1993). Based on my experience, I have general comments about the analysis as well as specific comments about the proposed routes through southwestern Idaho, the area with which I am most familiar.

The overriding question is whether Idaho Power has adequately justified the need for this project. The Gateway transmission line was not identified in Idaho Power's 10-year plan. The need for the line appears to be based on projections that are outdated. Proponents should include a clear "statement of purpose and need" for the project, and they should clearly identify the specific sources of power to be carried on the line. Especially close scrutiny is warranted if the proposed lines will carry power generated primarily by fossil fuels. The FEIS should analyze whether the Gateway West Project will facilitate access to clean domestic energy that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and whether there are simpler, alternatives to meet this goal with fewer environmental impacts.

The analysis of impacts on wildlife is flawed and inadequate, particularly with respect to raptors, ravens, and Greater Sage-grouse. The DEIS fails to recognize beneficial effects of transmission lines on raptors. It also fails to document how increased opportunities for raptor and raven perching and nesting on new transmission lines will likely affect sage-grouse adversely.

<u>Impacts on Raptors and Ravens</u>

Although the section of the DEIS on black-footed ferrets (page 3.11-57) cites our finding (Steenhof et al. 1993) that transmission lines can attract raptors and ravens, the EIS fails to cite our research findings that transmission lines can be beneficial to many species of raptors. Our research showed that transmission line towers provided both new and alternative nesting substrate for raptors and ravens. A 500-kV line provided raptors and ravens an opportunity to nest in areas where nest sites were previously unavailable, and in some cases, raptor pairs shifted from existing natural substrate nests and began nesting on towers. We found that productivity of hawks and eagles nesting on transmission towers was as good as and sometimes better than that of those nesting in the Snake River Canyon. In some cases, transmission towers provided more secure nesting substrate than natural nesting sites. Towers offered protection from mammalian predators and wildfires—a benefit especially for Ferruginous Hawks that often nest on the ground or in low shrubs. Some Golden Eagles (e.g., Little Canyon Creek) shifted from their traditional cliff-nesting sites to nest on transmission line towers, and others (e.g., Hardtrigger) continued to nest successfully on cliffs in close proximity to the transmission line. The bottom line is that properly designed transmission lines can be compatible with raptors. The DEIS makes no mention of providing artificial nesting platforms on towers as a mitigation tool. This was a highly effective practice on Pacificorp's Malin to Midpoint 500-kV line (Nelson 1976, Nelson and Nelson 1982, Steenhof et al. 1993).

Table 3.10-1 refers to both “known” nests and “active” nests, but neither term is defined anywhere in the DEIS. The term “active”(which is used extensively throughout the DEIS but in different contexts) is an ambiguous and inappropriate term (see Steenhof and Newton 2007) that usually but not always refers to a nest with eggs or young during a particular breeding season (Postupalsky 1974). Technically, a nest cannot be “active” outside a breeding season. Thus, it is likely that the data reported in Appendix D.10-2 actually represent historical nests that contained eggs or young at least once over an unspecified time period. The FEIS should report the time period (beginning and ending years) represented by the databases used for the analysis. The BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game conducted extensive raptor inventories within the Project Area during 2011, so the FEIS will need to incorporate this new information.

Any analysis of impacts on raptors should be based on “nesting territories” rather than individual nests because any impacts will be on nesting pairs occupying territories rather than nest structures. A nesting territory is an area that contains, or historically contained, one or more nests (or scrapes) within the home range of a mated pair: a confined locality where nests are found, usually in successive years, and where no more than one pair is known to have bred at one time (Steenhof and Newton 2007). Eagles and most other raptors typically use more than one nest within a nesting territory. It is unclear whether the counts of “nests” reported throughout the DEIS included multiple nests within individual territories. If they did, the tally is erroneous and misleading.

Some raptor species in the Project area are highly nomadic and show little fidelity to nesting sites from one year to the next. It is absurd and misleading to state, for example (p. 3.10-89), that “the selection of 8A would avoid one burrowing owl nest.” By the time the line is constructed there could be several owls or no owls nesting at that particular location. It is naïve to think that a full survey of Burrowing Owls has ever been conducted within the analysis area. Statements that imply that all historical nesting territories have been identified should be revised in the FEIS. “Active burrows” (page 3.11-89) are almost impossible to detect and confirm until after young have hatched: a fact that should be taken into account when scheduling pre-construction surveys.

The analysis of impacts on raptors in the DEIS is based mainly on the number of “active” nests within 1 mile of proposed routes, and the DEIS implies that impacts on raptors will be negative. Using 1 mile as a metric to evaluate effects is arbitrary and meaningless. Whether a transmission line will adversely affect a nesting raptor depends on the species of raptor and the topography surrounding the nest. The concluding paragraphs on raptors in Section 3.10.2.3 are very misleading in comparing the number of raptor “nests” that would be “impacted” by the various alternative routes. For example, the wording on pages 3.10-89 and 3.10-95 states that all known nests near alternatives for Segments 8 and 9 will be “impacted.” The implication is that any “impacts” will be negative is also misleading. The wording about Segments 8 and 9 in Tables 3.10-37 and 3.10-42 is more accurate in that it merely reports the number of “currently documented raptor nests” within one mile of each alternative and does not imply any impacts (or that surveys were complete).

The DEIS correctly recognizes that "construction activities could cause [raptor] nest failure or abandonment (page 3.10-34)." Timing restrictions on construction near raptor nests should apply to the complete nesting season (courtship through post-fledging). The post-fledging period is one of the most critical for raptors. It would be inappropriate to lift protection as soon as young fledge. Guidelines PRC-13 and PRC-19 (page 3.10-35) should be modified to include the post-fledging season (page 3.10-35). It is also important to avoid construction in occupied territories just prior to egg-laying, when raptors are especially sensitive to disturbance. Technically it will be impossible to find an "active" nest before eggs are laid. PRC-14 and PRC-20 need to be clarified: pre-construction surveys prior to the nesting season may not be conclusive depending on their timing. References to "appropriate nesting time periods" (p. 3.10-36) in the DEIS are ambiguous. The FEIS should include information on the nesting chronology (earliest nest initiation dates and latest fledging dates) of all raptor species throughout the project area to ensure that adequate protection occurs.

Impacts on Greater Sage-Grouse

Page 3.11-57 cites research by Coates and Delehanty that increased raven numbers could result in increased predation on prey species of black-footed ferrets, but the DEIS fails to cite findings (Coates et al. 2008) that documented ravens as the most common nest predator of Greater sage-grouse in northeastern Nevada. Coates et al. (2008) found that ravens appear to cue in on the movements of grouse to and from nests. Female sage-grouse are able to escape direct predation but are unable to defend nests successfully, especially when confronted with more than one raven. The presence of ravens may inhibit female grouse from leaving their nests to forage. Nest failure is thought to be an important factor in sage-grouse population declines, and nest predation appears to be the primary cause of nest failure for Greater Sage-grouse. The FEIS should incorporate these data in the analysis.

The DEIS notes concerns about "consolidation" of raptors and ravens, but it does not address the fact that populations associated with transmission lines will not only concentrate on transmission line towers but will increase over time, as offspring of productive pairs colonize transmission towers (see Table 1 and Figure 3 in Steenhof et al. 1993). Increases will be associated not only with an increase in potential perch sites (page 3.11-68) but also an increase in nesting opportunities.

Pages 3.11-57 and 3.11-69 cite secondary literature (Boarman and Heinrich 1999—misspelled as Heinrick on both pages) on distances moved by ravens. The DEIS should report the primary sources of these data: Bruggers 1988 for Minnesota, Mahringer 1970 for Michigan, Linz et al. 1992 for California, and most importantly Engel and Young 1992 for southwestern Idaho. Engel and Young's radio telemetry studies revealed that ravens moved an average of 7 km (about 4 and a half miles) and as far as 65 km (about 40 miles) from transmission line roosts in each day. Given that ravens forage several miles from their nests and roosts, sage-grouse nests within 15 miles of new transmission lines will be vulnerable to ravens that roost on transmission lines. Small buffers around leks will be inadequate to protect sage-grouse.

Page 3.11-58 mentions that anti-perch devices will be used on some structures to reduce raven and raptor use. Most perch deterrents tried to date have had limited effectiveness. The FEIS should specify the types of devices that will be used, and it should provide evidence for how effective they will be.

Alternatives in Southwestern Idaho

The DEIS has not provided convincing evidence that two separated transmission lines are needed in southwestern Idaho. The DEIS should have considered an alternative with a single route in southwestern Idaho. Furthermore, the process of developing alternatives in southwestern Idaho during the scoping process was flawed. Local planning for Segments 8 and 9 was carried out separately with little coordination between the two groups. I was a member of the Owyhee Task Force, which worked diligently to identify routes for Segment 9 that would minimize conflicts with landowners and resources in Owyhee County. At several stages, portions of the route we selected were "co-opted" by new alternative routes for Segment 8. The BLM insisted that our task force develop an alternative south of Highway 78 (now 9E), despite the fact that task force members did not support that route. In 2009, we were informed that we could not use the section between nodes 8r.5 and node 11 for 9D because Segment 8 was going to use that portion of our route. We were forced to propose an inferior route between nodes 9r.5 and 9p. The DEIS did not accurately show the route between Node 9P and Node 9w that was proposed by the Owyhee Task Force and submitted by the Owyhee County Commissioners at the end of the scoping period in 2009. This portion of 9D should have been at least a half mile east of the private homes in Eagle View Estates. However, my preference is to have 9D follow the Task Force's original proposed route from node 9r5, through nodes 8r5, 9t, and 9v to node 11 (now shown in the DEIS as part of Alternative 8). In 2010, the BLM developed additional alternatives for Segment 8 that overlapped other portions of Route 9D. This occurred after the scoping process and after we had been told there had to be a different route for each alternative. During the process of developing Alternative 9D, the BLM never informed us about serious conflicts with the non-motorized area near the Cove Recreation site. I support the Owyhee Task Force's new proposed modifications to 9D that will avoid that non-motorized area.

Alternative 9E, which runs south of Highway 78, is unacceptable. Alternative 9E runs near dozens of known leks that are currently occupied by sage-grouse in the Owyhee Foothills and would adversely affect Greater Sage-grouse populations. I support the Owyhee County Sage-grouse Local Working Group and the Owyhee County Commissioners, who have opposed this route. From a biological standpoint, Alternative 9E is the least desirable route of the Segment 9 alternatives because the transmission line will likely attract avian predators, especially Common Ravens. As noted above, raptors and ravens use transmission lines for nesting, perching and roosting. Studies have shown that ravens are important nest predators of sage-grouse and that ravens forage an average of 4.5 miles and as far as 40 miles from transmission line roosts each day. In addition, new roads required for this alternative would create extensive shrub loss and habitat fragmentation in previously undisturbed areas. Recent research from eastern Idaho suggests that increases in raven populations are associated with increases in the amount of "edge" in shrubsteppe habitats.

Alternative 9 is unacceptable because it will affect landowners in and near the communities of Bruneau, Grand View, Oreana, and Murphy adversely.

Alternative 9G which crosses the Snake River at the Mouth of Sinker Creek is unacceptable because the confluence of Sinker Creek and the Snake River is an environmentally sensitive and exceptionally scenic area. The proposed route is within a few meters of recently used Golden Eagle nests in the San Sebastian nesting territory. In addition, the mouth of Sinker Creek has some of the most important riparian habitat within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA). There are high densities of nesting Long-eared Owls, and there has been at least one sighting of Bighorn Sheep near the mouth of Sinker Creek in recent years.

Alternative 9D is the best alternative, but modifications are needed at the eastern and western ends of the Owyhee County portion of the route (see above). Alternative 9D, which runs through the NCA, would not affect Greater Sage-grouse because sage-grouse do not occur within the NCA. It also will avoid most private land in Owyhee County. Alternative 9D will follow an existing 138-kV transmission line in habitat that has already been disturbed by fire. Some of this habitat might actually be restored as part of mitigation for line construction. Raptors and ravens have nested on this 138-kV line for many years. Because there is already a transmission line, additional visual impacts of a new line would be minimal. And because the existing line is a smaller 138-kV line, the new 500-kV line could be constructed immediately adjacent to the existing line. There is an existing road that could be used for construction and maintenance of the new line. So the footprint would be small, and there would be no new habitat fragmentation. The proposed route for Alternative 9D crosses the canyon at its narrowest point, just upstream from Swan Falls and immediately adjacent to an existing 138-kV line that already crosses the canyon. As with the existing line, no towers would be constructed within the canyon; the wires would span the canyon above the nesting cliffs. Because there is already a transmission line crossing the canyon at this point, adverse impacts on raptors should be minimal.

Alternative 9D could be a win/win situation for raptors, grouse, landowners, and utility customers. The rationale for disallowing all new transmission lines in the Birds of Prey Resource Management Plan (RMP) was unclear and was not based on the data we had collected for BLM. It is important to remember that the NCA was never intended to be managed as a wilderness area. Legislation that established the NCA identified the main goal as enhancing raptor nesting populations. A properly routed transmission line would be consistent with that goal, particularly when it averts an alternative that could have devastating effects on another wildlife resource. I support amending the Birds of Prey RMP to allow new transmission lines <u>as long as they follow existing roads and power line rights of ways</u>.

Unfortunately the proposed alternatives for Segment 8 that run through the NCA do <u>not</u> follow existing roads or power line rights of way. Parts of Alternative 8 and 8E run parallel to the existing 500-kV transmission line, but we have been told that there must be a 1500-foot

separation between 500-kV lines. This would require construction of a new road approximately 0.25 miles from the existing road. The DEIS recognizes (page 3.10-41) that "the transmission line and Project roads (8 feet wide during operations) would fragment habitat." As stated on pages 3.10-36-37 of the DEIS, "Edge effects brought about by vegetation removal could lead to a change in plant species composition, potentially lowering the quality of habitat for raptors or their prey." Additional habitat fragmentation in a Conservation Area that has suffered from extensive fragmentation over the last 30 years cannot be allowed. Fragmentation will affect more nesting raptors than those that nest within a mile of the transmission line. Telemetry research has shown that Prairie Falcons forage up to 15 miles north of their canyon nesting sites (Marzluff et al. 1997). The DEIS failed to incorporate important published and unpublished data about raptors, habitat, and prey species in the NCA. The raptor analysis in the DEIS refers to specific areas in Wyoming (page 3.10-48), but references to the Morley Nelson NCA are conspicuously absent. Chapter 3.10 even fails to mention the two most important prey species of raptors in the Morley Nelson NCA: Piute ground squirrels (*Spermophilus mollis*) and black-tailed jackrabbits (*Lepus californicus*). The DEIS mentions the possibility of revegetation on page 3.10-22, but it does not acknowledge the difficulties that have been experienced in revegetating areas in a very low precipitation zone where the NCA occurs.

An even bigger concern about routing Segment 8 through the NCA is the proposed crossing near Halverson Bar. The transmission line would cross the Snake River at a wide spot in the canyon; towers would be constructed within the canyon itself, and wires would run between the canyon walls instead of above them. The crossing, in my opinion, would be incompatible with scenic, historical, archaeological, and recreation values in that part of the canyon. The stretch of canyon where the crossing is proposed is the heart of the non-motorized "natural" area and gets extensive recreation use for fishing, hiking, horseback riding, and nature appreciation. The scenic impacts would be huge for people who come to come to see and photograph the historical cabins and ancient petroglyphs in this stretch of canyon. More importantly, this crossing bisects a section of the canyon with one of the highest Prairie Falcon densities in the NCA. Although collision with wires has not been a problem for raptors on the NCA benchlands, it could be a bigger threat when wires are close to cliff-nesting sites. Young birds learning to fly and adults engaged in territorial defense and courtship could be far more susceptible to collision—especially when wires are below the cliff face.

In summary, the alternative routes for Segment 8 in the DEIS are not compatible with nesting raptors, and they are inconsistent with the legislation that established the NCA. The only alternative identified in the DEIS for Segment 8 that is compatible with the legislation is the original one that runs outside the NCA (Alternative 8B). I support Alternative 9D with minor modifications, as proposed by the Owyhee Task Force.

<u>Miscellaneous Problems</u>

Page 3.10-34. "Brooding" is a nesting behavior not a life history stage.

Page 3.10-35. The term "occupied" nest appears here for the first time; it is not clear how this differs from an "active" nest.

Pages 3.11-54 through 3.11-58. It is unclear why “impacts that would occur to all species” are under the Black-Footed Ferret heading.
Pages 3.11-57 and 3.11-69. No reference is provided for the Golden Eagle hunting ranges reported.
Page 7-12. The citation for Engel et al. 1992 is listed twice.
Page 7-40. The link for the reference TetraTech 2009a appears to be broken.

References

Bruggers, D. J. 1988. The behavior and ecology of the Common Raven in northeastern Minnesota. Phd Thesis. Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Coates, P.S., J. W. Connelly, and D. J. Delehanty. 2008. Predators of Greater Sage-Grouse nests identified by video monitoring. Journal of Field Ornithology. 79:421–428.

Engel, K.A. and L.S. Young. 1992. Movements and habitat use by common ravens from roost sites in southwestern Idaho. Journal of Wildlife Management 56: 596-602.

Engel, K.A., L.S. Young, K. Steenhof, J.A. Roppe and M.N. Kochert. 1992. Communal roosting of common ravens in southwestern Idaho. Wilson Bulletin 104: 105-121.

Mahringer, E. B. 1970. The population dynamics of the Common Raven (*Corvus corax principalis* Ridgway) on the Baraga Plains L'Anse, Michigan. Master's Thesis. Michigan Tech. Univ. Houghton.

Marzluff, J.M., B.A. Kimsey, L.S. Schueck, M.E. McFadzen, M.S. Vekasy and J.C. Bednarz. 1997. The influence of habitat, prey abundance, sex, and breeding success on the ranging behavior of prairie falcons. Condor 99: 567-584.

Nelson, M.W. 1982. Human impacts on golden eagles: a positive outlook for the 1980’s and 1990’s. Raptor Research 16:97-103.

Nelson, M.W., and P. Nelson. 1976. Power lines and birds of prey. Idaho Wildlife Review 28:3-7.

Postupalsky, S. 1974. Raptor reproductive success: Some problems with methods, criteria, and terminology: Proceedings of the conf. on raptor conservation techniques, Fort Collins, CO. March 22-24, 1973 (Part 4). pp. 21-31 *In* F.N. Hamerstrom Jr., B.E. Harrell and R.R. Olendorff [eds.]. Management of raptors. Raptor Research Report No. 2. Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., Vermillion, South Dakota.

Steenhof, K., M.N. Kochert and J.A. Roppe. 1993. Nesting by raptors and common ravens on electrical transmission line towers. Journal of Wildlife Management 57: 271-281.

Steenhof, K. and I. Newton. 2007. Assessing raptor nesting success and productivity. pp.181-192 *In* D.M. Bird and K.L.Bildstein [eds.]. Raptor research and management Techniques. Hancock House, Surrey, British Columbia; Blaine, WA.

Karen Steenhof
18109 Briar Creek Road
Murphy, Idaho 83650
steenhof@hughes.net

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: □uesday, □ctober 2□, 2011 □:2□ □M
To: □ateway □□M
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Kathleen Patceg

Organization:

Mailing Address:
PO Box 2067

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Glenrock

State:
WY

Zip:
82637

Daytime Phone:
307-262-3326

E-mail:
jazz82637@gmail.com

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
I am very concerned about the transmission line being constructed between Glenrock and I-25. I would like to see it moved to a different location. Thank you.

From: info@gatewayeis.com
To: Gateway BLM;
Subject: 16604: A comment from gatewayeis.com
Date: Friday, October 28, 2011 4:00:54 PM

Name:
Kathy McKenzie

Organization:
Concerned Citizen

Mailing Address:
P.O.Box 109

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Hagerman

State:
ID

Zip:
83332

Daytime Phone:
208-837-4875

E-mail:
knbmac@q.com

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:
page 16,19,30

Comment:
I'm encouraging BLM and Gateway to take into account the results of their draft. The consideration of Alternate Route 8A clearly has "compliance" issues. According to the VRM the route is not in conformance. The interference and negative impact with many Historical sites(National Fossil Beds), Historical Trails (Oregon Trail & Toana Road) and Wildlife Management Areas(Billingsley Creek & State Park) has been defined in the draft. The impact to the number of

residences(46 compared to the 14 on the Proposed route) also clearly defines another predominate reason to DISREGARD ALTERNATE ROUTE 8A as a consideration. Thank You

K. McKenzie
P.O Box 109
Hagerman, ID
83332

BOISE ID 837

28 OCT 2011 PM 2 T

Gateway West Project
Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Walt George
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY. 82003

100274

Duplicate

100274

To Whom It May Concern:

As a concerned citizen of Hagerman Valley I'm encouraging the BLM and GateWay to take into account the results of their draft. The consideration of Alternate Route 8A clearly has "Compliance" issues. According to the VRM the route **is not in conformance.** The interference and negative impact with the many Historical Sites (The National Fossil Beds), Historical Trails (Oregon Trail and Toana Road) and Wildlife Management Areas (Billingsley Creek and State Park) has been defined in the draft. The impact to the number of residences (46 on route 8A compared to 14 on Proposed route) also clearly defines another predominate reason to disregard Alternate Route 8A as a consideration. Sincerely, Kathy McKenzie

Kathy McKenzie

Duplicate

2011 NOV -1 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

From: jmclain@blm.gov
To: blm@gwcomment.com;
Subject: 16505: SPAM-LOW: Fw: Gateway West DEIS Comment
Date: Thursday, September 22, 2011 7:26:51 AM
Attachments: From.docx

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 09/22/2011 08:25 AM -----

"Cooper, Natalie M" <ncooper@blm.gov>
09/21/2011 09:54 AM

To
"George, Walter E" <wgeorge@blm.gov>
cc
"Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov" <Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
Subject
Gateway West DEIS Comment

Walt,
Looks like someone sent Gateway West DEIS Comments to the general WY email portal. I am forwarding these to you and the Gateway West email address for the Administrative Record.

Natalie
-----Original Message-----
From: Murphy, David H
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2011 9:49 AM
To: Cooper, Natalie M
Subject: FW: From

Please take the lead on this.

-----Original Message-----

From: rlester@blm.gov [mailto:rlester@blm.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2011 9:46 AM
To: Murphy, David H
Subject: Fw: From

These comments were received in our Wy Mail Inbox. Regi
----- Forwarded by Regina A Lester/PFO/WY/BLM/DOI on 09/21/2011 09:40 AM

"Kelly A Murphey"
<kelmurf@filertel
.com>
09/19/2011 08:09
PM

To
"'Gateway West'" <WyMail@blm.gov>
cc
Subject
From

Please find enclosed my comments on Gateway west-Segment 9(See attached file: From.docx)
(See attached file: From.docx)

From: KELLY A Murphey

698E; 3400 ,Castleford ,ID, 83321

kelmurf@filertel.com

Re: Gateway West-Segment #9

I am a lifelong resident of the Castleford vicinity and the State of Idaho. The comments I am making in relation to Gateway West stem from earlier involvement during (1) the Idaho Power-Rocky Mountain scoping process,(2) during the Jarbidge Draft EIS process ,and, (3) the Twin Falls Co. Commissioners work to develop the proposed route for Segment 9 (the one that crosses the Salmon Falls Creek WSA above Lilly Grade).All of this seems to have been a waste of time as the route choices have been carefully narrowed to the one originally proposed by the Power companies. The original route has simply been disguised as Alternate 9c, a new option (although it's not). The following offers comment on certain private lands located between Lilly Grade and Balanced Rock Crossing. These properties will be seriously impacted by the path of Route 9c.

.. Alternative 9c is designed to follow the existing power line as closely as possible (Gateway, ES-14). The term " closely "apparently does not refer to a tight, side by side placement of the two lines as among the agricultural impacts mentioned in the EIS are a hefty 500 ft. swath of land extending out from each side of the power line, and since a drop away from the current line would be the atypical approach for placing a line of this size, that drop away should add even more private property to what is a 1000 ft. wide swath of land (Gateway3.18-1). So it is assumed that closely must refer to a roughly parallel course for the two routes. With this interpretation in mind there is still an opportunity for common sense and cost effectiveness to prevail. Put the new line just to the south of the old one! …….The damage to pristine sage-grass ecology, several miles of costly land condemnations that will serve to damage private historic farms beyond repair, and the endangerment of at least five homes can be reduced, and reduced by a dramatic degree (see Gateway (Gateway ES-14,paragraph #2) .The impacted lands would then be mostly BLM grazing lands that have been cleared and reseeded three times since the 1960's. There are apparently no known future projects or actions planned that would constrain the exact placement of the new line to the south of the old one (Gateway, 4-59, paragraph #1).

.. The Jarbidge EIS and the current Gateway document make clear that wilderness considerations stop at the east rim of Salmon Falls Creek .Hence using the area in between the east rim and the existing power line should not be precluded by any current land policy. This would also preclude purchasing private land that is judged extremely valuable by a number of measures, including being unique property that is in immediate proximity, supplemental, and often directly tied to the character of Wild and/or Wilderness property. One of the largest ranches in this area was purchased with a mountain of

funds obtained from the government doing just this type of a buyout. Preservation of land as Wilderness and maintaining the private lifestyles of citizenry should be of equal consideration if there is a logical way to accomplish both. In addition, all of the potentially involved farm ground is in the counties Ag Preservation Zone, and while other uses are not impossible, the permission of the County Commissioners is required to break the agreements that lead to this hard earned classification for the lands in question. The 9C route would involve many small farms but in an effort to be specific, I will use my place as an example.

.. The physical impact to my small family farm would probably be catastrophic, if not fatal. The 9c route, if it goes below the current power line, will diagonally cut 4-5 of my carefully designed (rectangular) fields of 15 and 20 acres. This creates a pattern of tiny fields with unequal row lengths and it will break my federally approved pattern of year–to-year crop rotation by the making the fields illogical if not impossible to farm by the current method. Some fields and/or parts of fields on the south side of the right of way may also have to be abandoned as they would become isolated from flood irrigation. With that much total acreage of a small farm taken out of production, the future of our entire farm would be in doubt. Certain parts of this (rotation) acreage must provide the winter hay that sustains cattle that are being summer grazed on poorer ground established in pasture on the other side of the farm , so this sub-operation may also be over. A small Wind Power project under consideration may also be in jeopardy because its linear extent has become too limited to allow a minimum number of towers. The potential to split the area in to 40's for our grandchildren, each with a house site, some farm acreage and some native desert, per our last will and testament is also no longer possible.

.. There is absolutely no consideration given for the ecological value of the private land located immediately below the current power line. These lands are far more critical for supporting wilderness characteristics than the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern that are being emphasized on the other side of the Salmon Falls Creek canyon. The very few local farms that are still gravity irrigated, such as ours', recharge the springs found along the adjacent stretch of Salmon Falls Creek. The Murphey and Hoagland farms are also ringed by native stands of Big Sage, and these strips have been deliberately left undisturbed (except for the power line) from at least the day when these farms were first established in the early 1900's. In particular, it is precisely because the Clover and Murphy Complex Fires ravaged the other side of the canyon, that the Murphey and Hoagland farms have been helpful in sustaining a great deal of the native wildlife remaining in the vicinity. The Murphey farm has been posted and managed as a private sanctuary for local birds and animals for over 20 years. Seed available in the Sage-Grass strip remains of considerable value for reseeding efforts to the west, and we are in the early stages of certifying the entire Murphey farm operation as organic so as to emphasize the pristine character of our setting and its' related management. The power line will be a visual and even a spiritual degradation of our home site, responsible land and wildlife stewardship, magnificent views of the mountains, and alter lifestyle well beyond the time of development.

.. For those of us who are intimately familiar with the greater area, the only logical route is the one currently listed as the proposed route thru Section 9, but, as a reasonable option, the land

above the present power line could work .Gateway West and the BLM seem to value nothing about the local farm families nor about their important role as stewards in the greater ecosystem. As it seems predetermined to turn out, the only resources that will be considered expendable are private lands and the farm families who live along Alternate 9c, near the east rim of Salmon Falls Creek. There is no common sense and certainly no constitutional foundation involved in the heavy handed appropriation of the private property comprising Route 9c.

.. Thank you for your time and consideration.

100331

October 28, 2011

476 East 600 South
Burley, Idaho 83318 (208) 312-2464

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

RE: Comments on Gateway West Draft EIS

I attended two of the public open houses. I am also on the Cassia County Task Force. I have read some of the draft EIS.

I believe Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power are not taking serious the concerns that we have expressed. One example, I noticed the administrative draft map failed to show a landing strip on our property for crop dusters. I advised the BLM that it was missing. It is now on the map included in the draft EIS, however, the proposed route continues directly over the landing strip. Why was the route not altered to avoid the landing strip or some other type of mitigation offered? The Cassia County Task force held numerous meetings in 2009 to discuss serious concerns with the proposed route. Those concerns have either been ignored or the response is with data that is not on point. One example is the electrical shocks that are experienced when sprinkler equipment is near high voltage transmission lines. The fact is several technicians who work on the sprinkler equipment near these lines repeatedly told of serious shocks. Idaho Power's response is unacceptable as they offer studies that are not on point and have not been able to explain the shocks the technicians receive. I am aware that the recordings of those public meetings in Cassia County are being submitted for the record and should be carefully reviewed.

Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power are not showing good faith as they failed to fairly and adequately address the many concerns with the proposed route. I am hopeful that several newly proposed alternate routes that were discovered during the public open houses and sent with Cassia County's response would carefully be considered. The best results as these alternate routes are considered will occur when Cassia County and the people directly affected are actively involved in the evaluation.

Sincerely,

Kent R. Searle

Kent R. Searle

2011 NOV -1 AM 10:00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

1/1

100147

KENT SEARLE
476 EAST 600 SOUTH
BURLEY, ID 83318

BOISE ID 837
28 OCT 2011 PM 3 L

BLM
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

8200337018

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: □□ursday, August 2□, 2011 11:2□ AM
To: □ateway □□M
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Kim Brackett

Organization:

Mailing Address:
p.o. 111

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Rogerson

State:
Idaho

Zip:
83302

Daytime Phone:
208-731-1037

E-mail:
chetbrack@gmail.com

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:
chapter 2 page 2-91

Comment:
I feel very strongly that alternative 7j needs to accepted as the viable alternative for this segment (segment 7) of the proposed project. When it is stated in the DEIS the local landowners opposed the proposed route between Populus and Cedar Hill, perhaps very strongly opposed would be a more accurate characterization. In July, 2010, a meeting was held at the Hollister, Idaho school in the which the proposed gateway west project was discussed. Walt George and other Bureau of land management project participants along with Gateway west officials were present. There were 161 people signed in at that meeting. Opposition was fairly intense. It was made clear that the residents of this area who would be affected by the fruition of this project as proposed, were concerned about the effects to their quality of life. Folks that live in the Kimberly, Hansen area who already have their homes and lively hoods incumbered by the existing power lines, strongly opposed yet another line being in close proximity to them.
That was the reason that they wished for the route to travel on the southernly route avoiding their homes.

As the original proposed route travels west it affected home owners less but begins to impact major agriculture operations. As stated in the draft EIS "much of the land is currently used for agricultural purposes". In fact that is true but the scope of that agricultural use is a key ingredient. A livestock grazing agricultural use differs vastly from that of a crop growing, agricultural use. also a Confined livestock feeding agricultural operation differs from the others not only in potential impact to cattle but in monetary investment that also would be impacted.

The original proposed segment 7 would run right through the middle of a confined livestock feeding operation either that or over the top of homes, then through another Confined livestock operation a few miles to the west then slicing another farming operation the has a Confined Livestock feeding operation permit in place. The latter of these operations cited belongs to my family and we developed this livestock operation, planning to sell it. I would agree that there are operations that have a power line crossing them but for a buyer to actively go out to buy an operation with the hazard of a major power line traversing it would substantially weaken my prospects thus creating further harm to my overall business operation. The project proponents state that there is no adverse impact to cattle or people living near a major power line but I know of at least on major law suit that Idaho power lost because stray voltage adversely impacting cattle.

If it could be that cattle are adversly affected what does that do to people?

My reason for pointing this all out is that if the power line were to be constructed as proposed and indicated by the red line, in segment 7 many lives would be affected. Alternative 7j offers the ability for the power line to go forth but lessens substantially the impact on human life. The private ground that the project would cross in alternative 7j would be mostly agricultural ground but the use of the ground in livestock grazing which would be substantially less impact. There are no homes that would be affected and as we worked to develop the 7j alternative, we also looked at the blm maps attempting to avoid sensitive sage grouse leks. Perhaps you can look at your map from an office in wyoming and say that a line coming through the outskirts of Twin Falls won't have much impact, but i can tell you that it impacts me and my neighbors.

I would like to see this project go through however, it needs to be shaped taking into account the humanity of the people who have to live with it. That is where alternative 7j comes in. it would with minimum impact allow the power line to proceed forth and lessen the impact on the residents of the area.

Truly, if in fact this power line is being built to serve the needs of the public, it should be built on public land. But because that is not written as a viable alternative this alternative 7j would be the next best option.

Sincerely,
Kim Brackett

100122

From: info@gatewayeis.com
To: Gateway BLM;
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com
Date: Saturday, August 20, 2011 7:59:11 PM

Name:
Kris Kalanges

Organization:

Mailing Address:
1455 NW 5th Ct.

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Gresham

State:
OR

Zip:
97030

Daytime Phone:
503-666-3467

E-mail:
kakalanges@covad.net

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:
section 1268 page 68

Comment:
I own parcel S2014417200, map 68, GIS ID# 1268. Having read the draft EIS I continue to support using alternative (originally the proposed route) route 8B. I share the concerns of the Idaho ANG about placing high tension power lines and their towers in an area where they would propose hazards to our military personnel in flight. I also have concerns about building the Gateway Project through the Snake River Birds of Prey Conservation Area and feel it should not

be done. Additionally, the GB-BB Archaelogical District is another natural treasure that we should not be disturbing with such a major construction project. I continue to believe that the original route (now 8B) was and is the best all around choice.

I strongly support the development of additional energy capacity for the Treasure Valley. Route 8B is the only route that avoids the three sensitive areas mentioned above. I understand community concerns. It seems a beneficial compromise should be able to be achieved. For example, regarding the concerns of Kuna and Melba over having a power line go through areas of planned future development, perhaps consideration could be given to landscaping those areas in such a way as to create a thriving green space conducive to natural hiking trails and encouraging the attraction of wildlife. It may involve additional one time cost to the utility companies to compensate the city for lost development revenue. But it seems the communities affected should be able to see and accept other value uses of the land that include the presence of the power transmission lines. Do we really need to put our military, rare birds and important archaeological sites at risk for the sake of building a few more houses? Isn't there plenty of room West, North and East of these communities to accomodate future growth and development.

Route B remains the most cost effective (when taking into consideration ALL costs, not just monetary) of the routes proposed, especially given the fact of a utility corridor already in existence.

I strongly urge the selection of Alternative Route 8 and its related Alternative Routes (B, C, D, E). The Treasure Valley will need the power in the future. The choice of routes cannot exclude consideration of the most efficient construction costs. The corridor which includes Alternative Route 8 is economically the most efficient cost to construct, again, considering all costs, not just monetary. The Alternative Route 8 (and its segments) balances the interests of all parties and preserves the future of all important assets while allowing for continuing economic development in the effected communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kris Kalanges

LanaDRich@aol.com
10/27/2011 11:34 AM

To Gateway_West_WYmail@blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject transmission lines

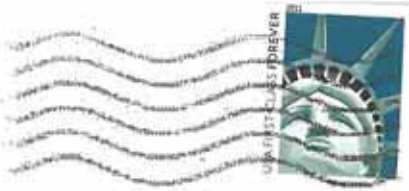
□ust a □uic□ note to let you □now t□at □am not in fa□or of t□e □ig□ □ower transmission lines going in □ust sout□ of □lenroc□. □ot only are t□ey unsig□tly, but t□ey also □ose a □ealt□ □roblem. □lenroc□ □as □lans for de□elo□ing t□at □art of our town and wit□ t□e two abo□e concerns your com□any is com□letely negating any □ossibility of □utting in □omes and businesses in t□at area in t□e future. □lease don□t ma□e your com□any anot□er one of t□ose cor□orations t□at is more interested in money t□an t□e welfare of our □lenroc□ □eo□le.

□incerely,

□ana □ic□ardson

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

POCATELLO ID 832
11 OCT 2011 PM 1 L



Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

ENTERED
100458

82003+701A

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

ENTERED 100458

1/1

2011 OCT 17 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

BLM

Date: Oct. 5. 2011

First Name: Larry Last Name: Fitch

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: 4147 Mink Cr Rd City: Arbon State: ID Zip: 83212

Daytime Phone: 208. 335-2150 Email: fitch@dcdi.net

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I understand that no landowners want the lines. We cannot stop them so since we already have 3 lines running thru our property, I don't think we should have to have any more. They do devalue your property, a pain to farm around and if we were to end up with 2 more they would be over the top of our home.

I think it only fair that other landowners should have to put up with them.

Thank you,
Larry and Nancy Fitch

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gw...

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: □ ednesday, □e□tember 07, 2011 □:□□ □M
To: □ateway □□M
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Laurie Darrington

Organization:
Concerned Elba Citizen

Mailing Address:
1191 E 2000 S

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Elba

State:
ID

Zip:
83342

Daytime Phone:

E-mail:

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
To Whom It May Concern:

Actually this concerns all of us. I have not read the Draft EIS and I really have not been following all that has been going on, but I can't think things have changed much since this whole thing started. It seems to me that what this comes down to is, it is easier to put this power line through on private land rather than public because of all the red tape and because of the eviromentalists who say the sage grouse and a senic view from the City of Rocks must be protected. I know there are other things in there as well but come on people. What is more important? the health of some birds, or the health of the people who will have to live with those lines in their back yard. Do any of you live near one of these big lines? Would you if you had a choice? I really highly dought it! I live in Elba, one of the places they are talking of putting the line through. We have a beautiful peaceful valley. We would like it to stay that way! PUBLIC POWER SHOULD BE ON PUBLIC LAND.
I hope I do not have to have read the 3000 page DEIS to be heard. Than you!

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

100295

BOISE ID 837
21 OCT 2015 PM 3 L

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

8200357018

100295

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

No 8 ~~B~~ B
West Proposed

BLM

Date: Oct 17

First Name: Lavar Last Name: Thorn Tom

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: 2800 S. 10 Mile Rd City: Kuna State: Id Zip: 83634

Daytime Phone: 922-5779 Email:

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I am in favor of segment 8 because it has less impact on farmland and the city of Kuna Property. It is shorter and therefore less expensive.

In the event alternative segment 8B is chosen I strongly oppose the proposed route in mile 21.3 to 23.5. This is an unnessary jog into my field. A tower would be in a forty acre field I farm and has wheel lines used for irrigation.

1/2

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Name: _____

2011 OCT 24 AM 10:00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: □uesday, □ctober 0□, 2011 □:0□ AM
To: □ateway □□M
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Sharon Brainard

Organization:

Mailing Address:
3841 East 15th Street Apt 202

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Casper

State:
Wy

Zip:
82609

Daytime Phone:
307-259-2419

E-mail:

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
Being a land owner in Converse county that will be effected by these transmission lines , I would like to let you know that we feel that the existing corridor for transmission lines needs to be used and another corridor should not be created.
The beauty and the hunting in this area needs to be preserved at all cost and another corridor is not in the best interest of land use in area. Alternative 1E-C should uses the exsisting corridor and that has the least impact on recreation and multiple use of area. I currently have to look at wind turbines in the distance from my cabin porch, and do not want to see transmission lines also. These lines would greatly effect the scenic beauty of the area. Please keep these lines in the existing area and let the beauty of this area not be alerted by transmission lines.
Thank you Sharon Brainard

100515

I am a residence of Oreana, Owyhee County, Idaho. I am concerned about the Gateway Powerline and its current plan 9 to build a monstrous power line. This plan interferes with the properties of well over one hundred farmers, ranchers, and residences along its route in Bruneau, Grandview, Oreana, and Murphy. An alternate route has been mapped out by local citizens that is much less invasive to the private sector 9d. It runs along the north side of the Snake River which has a far less population than the Bruneau, Oreana Valleys. This huge power line would be a giant scar running through our farms, ranches, properties and the view that we hold dear. Why should we, private landowners, take such a hit and loss when this line could mainly run on public lands?

Leena Lewis
20735 Oreana Loop Rd
Oreana Id

If the line were to be put on the north side of the river, they raptors could perch on them and the sage grouse would not be affted by them. If it were to be built south of Oreana - the south proposal is not a good one for that reason.

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: □□ursday, □ctober 27, 2011 6:12 □M
To: □ateway □□M
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
LeRoy Jons

Organization:

Mailing Address:
87 Antelope Gap Rd

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Wheatland

State:
WY

Zip:
82201

Daytime Phone:

E-mail:

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
The proposed transmission project will be of value to the state and nation as the development of renewable energy moves forward. The additional transmission will be needed to meet the growing energy demand in addition will provide an opportunity and provide optional routing of the nations power in the event of a natural disaster. Currently our grid is aging and has not had significant upgrads in over 30 years. It is important that renewable energy be an important portion of the energy being developed thus reducing the reliance on fossel fuels which will eventually in the not to distant future be gone.

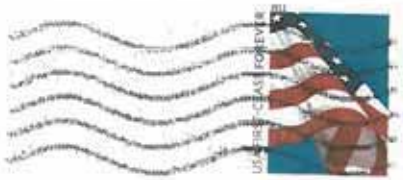
It is important that individauls and communities affected by the proposed projects be able to be adequately compensated for the land being utilized in the development of the projects preferrably on an annual basis as opposed to a one time damage payment.

Transmission development is critical to economic development and diversification of our economy.

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

POCATELLO ID 832

13 OCT 2011 PM 1 L



Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

ENTERED
100437

82003+701

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

ENTERED 100437 1/4

BLM

2011 OCT 17 AM 10:00

RECEIVED BLM CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Date: 13 October 2011

First Name: Lindle Last Name: Offenbacher

Organization or Office Name: Big Desert Sage Grouse Working Group member

Mailing Address: 340 McKinley St. City: American Falls State: Idaho Zip: 83211-1540

Daytime Phone: 208-226-7838 home 208-226-2177 ext. 111 work Email:

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I did not find anything in the EIS concerning raptors roosting on the transmission line towers. Therefore, I am suggesting a method of keeping raptors from roosting on the towers where the power line crosses sage grouse and sharp-tailed grouse habitat for your consideration.

The method is to use sheet metal so raptors' claws can not dig into the surface. On top of vertical parts of the tower a cone (Figure 1) can be welded to the top of the vertical part. The cone should be very steep sided and pointed so raptors can not balance on the cone.

On cross beams (Figure 2) a tall triangle of sheet metal can be welded to any horizontal beam or part of the tower where raptors might roost for long periods searching the ground for sage grouse or sharptailed grouse.

I request you strongly consider this method of keeping raptor predation on

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Name: Lindle Offenbacker

ENTERED 100437 2/4

sage grouse and sharp-tailed grouse. This method may be the most economical method of reducing raptor predation on grouse if used where the transmission line crosses grouse habitat.

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

ENTERED 100437

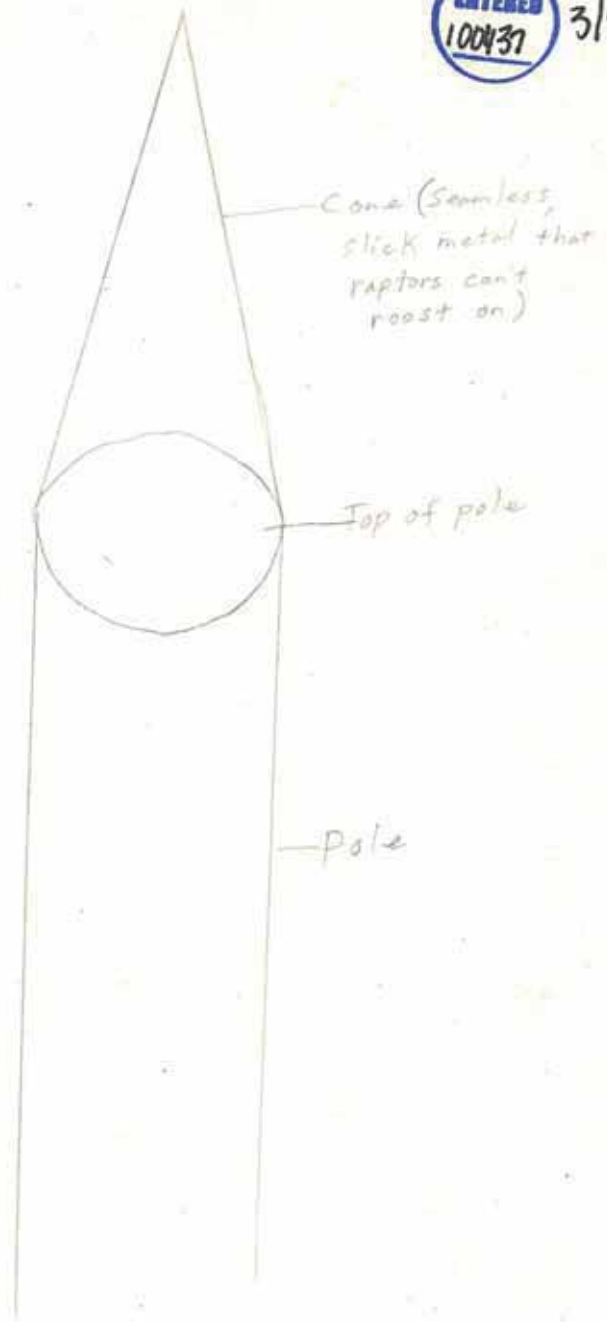


Figure 1. Metal cone on top of vertical pole. Slick metal is welded full length to make a cone that raptors can not get a claw in to hold on.

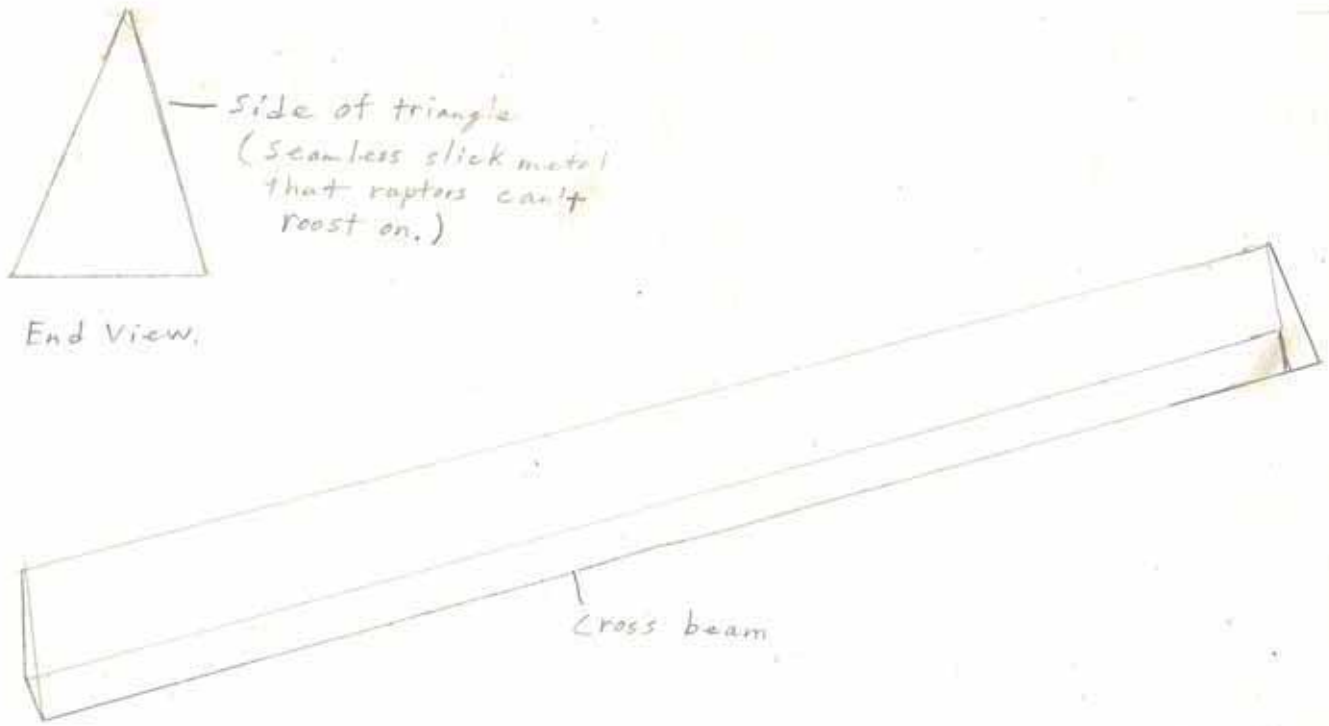


Figure 2. Slick metal triangle on top of cross beam.

BERKLEE 100457

FAWLINS WY 82301
PM
27 OCT
2011

ENTERED
100376

BLM
Gateway West Project
Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

82003#7018

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

100376

RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING
2011 OCT 31 AM 10: 00

BLM

Date: 10/26

First Name: Lori Last Name: Eggleston

Organization or Office Name: Concerned citizen

Mailing Address: 1104 12th St City: Rawlins State: WY Zip: 82301

Daytime Phone: Email:

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I am not in favor of the 2A + 2B proposed alternative route through Fort Steele, Wy.

I would like to see the route detour around Fort Steele and the community there. Therefore I am in favor of the "red route" proposed on the project overview Figure A-1 Map.

Sincerely, Lori Eggleston

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Lynn Findlaly
403 Vallely View Dr.
Richfield, Utah 84701

SALT LAKE CITY UT 841
01 OCT 2011 PM 2 T

ENTERED
100419

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

8200347018

ENTERED 100419 1|1

September 30, 2011

2011 OCT -5 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Re: GATEWAY WEST TRANSMISSION PROJECT

To Whom It May Concern:

Following are our concerns and our reasons why we do not support this Project and are Adamantly Opposing It:

> Opposed to how this project would impact the Fontenelle Creek ranch lands. It would make an adverse impact on the livelihood of those who are dependent upon those lands.

> There would be a decrease in the production of livestock feed, therefore causing a decrease in cattle production.

> The Fontenelle Basin land, being prime range land, would be disturbed and again cause a decrease in feed and cattle production, again effecting those who depend on this land for their livelihood.

> There would also be the problem of maintaining the transmission lines and how that would effect private property.

> It also would DECREASE THE VALUE OF THE PRIVATE PROPERTY.

> Impact on feed for wildlife and the migration of wildlife.

> The existing power lines have already made a visual impact on the land. To add more lines would only increase the visual impact. Keep the impact in the present place.

> Surely there was a credible analysis made on the original project that took into account the landowners, wildlife, and the environment. Has anything come up to discredit the analysis for the existing corridor?

> It does not seem logical to throw all that out and start anew. Add to the original analysis, do not throw it out.

> It only seems logical to STAY WITH THE EXISTING CORRIDOR. The last thing we need are more corridors ripping up more land.

Sincerely,
Lynn & Dayle Findlay

Lynn and Dayle Findlay
403 Valley View Dr.
Richfield, Utah 84701

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Friday, □ctober 2□, 2011 1:0□ □M
To: □ateway □□M
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Mark McKinney

Organization:

Mailing Address:
2225 highway 46

Mailing Address 2:

City:
gooding

State:
iD

Zip:
83330

Daytime Phone:
208 934-4622

E-mail:
lemhilieut@yahoo.com

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
I am a homeowner who lives just north of the proposed powerline where it crosses highway 46. For obvious reasons, I prefer the alternate southern crossing proposal of highway 46, or at the very least locating the new line on the south of the existing line location. However after your presentation in Twin Falls, I noticed a few other reasons for the southern alternate route in Gooding county.

1. There seems to be a lot less development in my area of expertise (highway 46) on the southern alternative.
2. There seemed to be less wildlife conflicts on the southern alternative.
3. There is already a west wide energy corridor set up on the southern route. To have it and not use it for what it was created for is not right in my opinion. Homeowners like myself could and have made decisions on where to live and invest based on the location of energy corridors and to not locate new construction along them is unfair to people who planned their

lives accordingly and makes a mockery of the whole idea of having energy corridors in the first place.
Thank you, Mark McKinney.

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

POCATELLO ID 832

27 OCT 2011 PM 1 T

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

10372

$2003+701$

Draft EIS Comment Form

100342

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

BLM

Date: 10/26/2011

2011 OCT 31 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

First Name: Marlon L. Last Name: Barnard

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 305 City: Rockland State: ID Zip: 83271

Daytime Phone: 208-548-2643 Email: barnard-m11@q.com.

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I've lived in Rockland my entire life and do not want to see the huge power lines come into our community from the East Fork area and destory the view and farming in the Rockland Valley. The East Fork Camp Grounds have been a beautiful place for many, many years and would hate to see large, towering power lines coming over that area. Plus, the sometimes HUMMING that comes from them could make it a place no one wants to frequent anymore.

Our farm exists in SEGMENT 7 within the MILE RADIUS. We will be affected either

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

1/2

continued on back

Name: Marlon L. Barnard

way. We, in no way, want any of these electric line towers on our farm ground. Besides being an eyesore on anyones property, it also harder to farm around and is usually not worth what is paid for by the power company; if any compensation is given at all.

This GateWay West Project is a big project coming through this little valley and will have a big impact on us. Plus, our valley will not recieve any benefits from this project at all.

Why would we let our valley have all this work come through here if we would not get any benefit from this???

We believe that you will find this opinion through most of the people in Rockland Valley.

This is a farming valley and this project does nothing to support this. In reality, it hampers it by putting towers in our fields and de-valuing our land.

We will not support this project ~~and~~ or any one coming on our land with any one to do with the power companies. We want to keep this land as pure and clean as possible and this project is not the way to do that.

Privacy Note: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review after the close of the official comment period. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information with your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

POCATELLO ID 832
27 OCT 2023 PM 1 T

ENTERED
100377

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

82003+701E

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

ENTERED 100377

BLM

2011 OCT 31 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED DOI-BLM CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Date: Oct 26 2011

First Name: MARTIN Last Name: Munk

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: PO Box 112 City: Rockland State: Id Zip: 83271

Daytime Phone: 208-548-2240 Email: mmunk@dcdi.net

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I am strongly opposed to the "proposed" route in segment 5 (Populus - Borah). This route will traverse the senic East Fork Canyon area of Deep Creek mountains. It would destroy the recreational value of The East Fork of Rock Creek area. This area has a potential for land value increases due to senic nature. The proposed route would forever destroy future land value increase. Land I am personally involved with in my farming operation that would be traversed ~~y~~ by the proposed route is scheduled to enter CRP & SAFE programs this fall and next year. Powerlines & Sharptailed grouse do not mix well. Eminent Domain would be the Power Companies only option with me.

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

Mary Martin
P.O. Box 1707
Glenrock, Wy 82637

ENTERED
100402

CASPER WY 826
1 PM
24 OCT
2011

USA FOREVER

MR. Walt George, BLM Project Manager
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, Wy 82003

*200357018

1/1

ENTERED
100402

October 22, 2011

Mr. Walt George, BLM Project Manager
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Dear Mr. George,

This letter is to express my OPPOSITION to Segment 1W(a) of the proposed Gateway West transmission line project. I own land in Converse County and have strong concerns about how this project will negatively impact my property, the adjacent lands, and the quality of life in the area.

A major new overhead transmission line will decrease the value of my land, as well as limit land use in the future. There is no way to hide or disguise the towers and lines – they will be visible for miles and miles, year after year.

The disruptive nature of this project and the lasting implications of a permanent change to lands currently unspoiled by this type of development could be avoided by using the existing utility corridor. It is not valid for Rocky Mountain Power to create a new corridor when the existing one will work.

Sincerely,

Mary Martin

Mary Martin

Address:
P.O. Box 1707
357 Monkey Rd
Glenrock, Wy 82637

2011 OCT 27 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

100520

September 21, 2011

RE: Gateway Transmission Project

We have great concern regarding the Gateway Transmission Power project involving Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power. As we reflect upon our community involvement and lifestyles, we realize the negative impact of this Gateway project in our community. Present and past generations of County property owners have worked hard to build a safe and friendly environment for our business and residential areas.

The current route of this project will pass right over our home and feedlot property. As we think of the disruption these big power lines will bring into the life of our young family, creates great concern for our safety.

We petition your support in backing the negative effect this project brings to our community, family business and our young growing family.

Who are you going to protect?

Please consider us at this time of decision.

A concerned community family,

Matt and Roxanne Beck

Matt and Roxanne Beck

1/1

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: □ ednesday, □ctober 12, 2011 □:11 □M
To: □ateway □□M
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Matt Darrington

Organization:

Mailing Address:
2609 Fairmont Dr.

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Burley

State:
ID

Zip:
83318

Daytime Phone:

E-mail:

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:
chapter 1 page 1-2

Comment:
I am opposed to the proposed route through Cassia County, Idaho. The proposed route calls for the line to run through large swaths of private property, which in many instances is prime farmland. Furthermore, the proposed route places the line in close proximity to many residences and towns in Cassia County. This large transmission line will not only diminish the view shed but will also likely interfere with radio signals. If the project is approved, the alternative state line route should be followed as it is in a more remote part of the state, does not involve so much private property, and will not have such a great impact on as many people.

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Monday, □ctober 2□, 2011 10:□□AM
To: □ateway □□M
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
MICHAEL SMITH

Organization:
CITIZEN

Mailing Address:
2750 N 9TH ST

Mailing Address 2:

City:
LARAMIE

State:
WY

Zip:
82072

Daytime Phone:
307-766-2337

E-mail:
pearl@uwyo.edu

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
I am generally very much in favor of the development of this powerline. It is undeniable that more transmission capability is needed to even effectively use the available power resource. In addition much of the wind energy development that is potential will be served by this powerline. I would strongly support all efforts to site this powerline along existing transportation corridors and other power transmission corridors to minimize viewshed issues along the pathway.

From: □mclain@blm.go□
Sent: Monday, □e□tember 12, 2011 12:27 □M
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: □ateway □ est □ro□osed route of □egment □, Mid□oint to □emingway

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 09/12/2011 01:26 PM -----

Mike Stukel <stukel123@yahoo.com> 09/09/2011 11:26 AM	"Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov" <Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>	To cc Subject
Please respond to Mike Stukel <stukel123@yahoo.com>	Gateway West Proposed route of Segment 8, Midpoint to Hemingway	

To Whom It May Concen:

I am a property owner in the Melba/Kuna area and would like to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Gateway West Project.

I am strongly in favor of the proposed route of Segment 8, Midpoint to Hemingway.

Regards,
Mike Stukel
(c) 208-761-1918

From: □mclain@blm.go□
Sent: □uesday, □ctober 2□, 2011 □:0□ AM
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: □ateway □ est □ro□ect □raft □□□ □omment
Attachments: □ateway □ est □raft □□□ □omment.□df

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 10/25/2011 10:04 AM -----

"Mike and Stephanie Welsh" <welshmw@sweetwaterhsa.com> 10/24/2011 04:43 AM		To "Walt George" <Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
		cc
		Subject Gateway West Project Draft EIS Comment

Please accept and process the attached comment pertaining to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Gateway West Project.

Thank you,

Michael Welsh.(See attached file: Gateway West Draft EIS Comment.pdf)

Michael Welsh
1003 Willamette Drive
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
October 24, 2011

Mr. Walt George
Bureau of Land Management
5353 Yellowstone Road
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828

Dear Mr. George:

I am a lifetime resident of Wyoming. My family has had the privilege of living in this state for five generations. I am writing to express my concern about the Northern Alternative being considered for Segment 4 of the Gateway West Transmission Project. I own property in the path being considered and I am adamantly opposed to its selection. There are many public and private resources that will be negatively impacted by routing the line through this pristine area. Some of the impacts will include reduced property values, lower quality of life, reduced tourism, wildlife habitat fragmentation, lower quality recreational opportunities, loss of Native American cultural resources, impact to pristing areas of the Sublette Cuttoff of the Oregon Trail, and an increase in negative health effects. The largest impact, and one that could cripple the state economy, is the impact to sage grouse. It is incomprehensible that pristine sage grouse habitat could needlessly be sacrificed by running the line through undisturbed sage grouse habitat to preserve a view from the Oregon trail that has already been affected by existing transmission lines. Establishing a line through this unaffected habitat will be one more nail in the coffin of the birds becoming listed as endangered species which will have the effect of crippling our state economy. The transmission line should be routed parallel to existing transmission line corridors or highway right of ways to avoid industrializing the unspoiled regions of our state and to avoid establishing new sage grouse perceived raptor perches in key sage grouse habitat which will undoubtedly negatively impact the sage grouse. These regions have been protected, cherished, and shared from generation to generation by the people that live and recreate in them. Routing the new transmission line along pre existing corridors will ensure that these rare places of our state will continue to exist for our children and grandchildren to enjoy and that those of us that live here will continue to have jobs to continue to live here and to enjoy it.

Following is a discussion of resources that will be negatively affected by selection of the Northern Alternative in Segment 4. Also included are five preferable solutions to the problem that will have far less negative impacts to Lincoln County, to the State of Wyoming, and to the residents Wyoming, while still enabling the company to meet its objectives in a reasonable manner:

Commissary Ridge forms the spine of the Wyoming Range in the southwestern part of the state. The area is renowned for its uncluttered landscapes, clear mountain streams, and grand vistas. It is an area where small cabins blend into their surroundings and are strategically placed so that

their picture windows frame in the unspoiled views of the Wyoming Range mountains. These views, and the serenity that accompanies them, are the main draw to the people of the area. It was here that people invested their hard earned money in property, feeling that their investments were sound and feeling in their hearts that a treasure this great would be protected and not be sacrificed for short term gain. Many of the people have come from eastern parts of the nation and from the west coast to invest in the same treasure, with images fresh in their minds of what we in Wyoming stand to lose. They came here to escape the mistakes that were made in their own states, mistakes that robbed them of their natural treasures and pristine environments.

If allowed to happen, the Northern Alternative will destroy the pristine, non-industrialized views and serenity of Commissary Ridge, the Hams Fork, and the Tunp Range. Surrounding land values will diminish by 50%-80% when a transmission line with 150-198' towers becomes the predominant feature of the landscape and when the sounds of nature are replaced by the incessant buzzing of electricity on its way to distant customers. Transmission lines of this magnitude adversely affect future land use and land development potential. In and along the Northern Alternative, there is an existing 168 lot (285 Acre) Subdivision called Spring Canyon Ranch. The average home and property value in this area is $250K. At 50% real estate devaluation, the resultant loss of investment will total $21 million for the property owners in this subdivision. An additional 640 acre subdivision is planned for the near future on Cameron Properties and Lott Partnership lands falling directly within the corridor being considered. One of the main roads for this planned subdivision has already been completed. Considering land in the neighboring Spring Canyon subdivision markets for $21K per acre, subdivided land in the new subdivision is expected to sell for $21K per acre as well. The total anticipated land value in this upcoming subdivision is $13.44 million. With an expected 50% property devaluation, the total loss of investment for this owner will be upwards of $6.72 million. The 55.3 acres that my family and I own is surrounded by the property that Cameron Properties and Lott Partnership intend to subdivide. Similarly, the value of my property will be $21K per acre with a total property value of $1.6 million. The value of my property will drop by $750,000 if the transmission line is routed along the northern alternative. Similar socio-economic impacts will be felt by most of the 550 property owners in the surrounding area and in the town of Cokeville.

The negative visual effects of this alternative will also be felt at a broader, more sweeping level. Commissary Ridge is the highest point of elevation in the area. It is visible from up to 70 miles to the east. It is visible from Highway 191 from most spots between Rock Springs and Boulder. If routed over Commissary Ridge, this transmission line will dominate the mountain vistas of those traveling on the east side of the Wyoming Range. The visual impact will be realized by those experiencing the Oregon Trail from most locations between South Pass to Kemmerer. The biggest impact will be to some of the most pristine areas of the trail along Fontenelle Creek and Pine Grove. It is here that the view from the trail is most like it was when the pioneers travelled it. The eyesore will portray a negative image of Lincoln County and will negatively influence tourism.

South Fork Mountain on Commissary Ridge has been documented as a major raptor migration corridor. The proposed transmission line will bisect this corridor leading to raptor perching related electrocutions and higher predation on the sage-grouse that reside in the area. There are numerous flocks of sage grouse that reside at the base of Commissary Ridge and throughout the foothills to the east, contrary to what is reflected by the constraint map. The sage grouse in this area are just as in need of protection here as they area in other areas of the state. Routing the

transmission line along the Northern Alternative will provide new raptor perches that will adversely impact the sage-grouse in the area. The mid and upper elevations of South Fork Mountain are also home to a large number of ruffed grouse that will also suffer a similar fate. The controversial pygmy rabbit also inhabits the area of route conceptualization and will suffer from increased predation and habitat fragmentation as well.

The area is home to a large resident elk herd that relies on the non-fragmented expanses to provide forage and cover throughout the spring, summer, fall, and winter. The elk herd will be adversely impacted by the increased traffic, forest fragmentation, and by noise of power transmission. This portion of Commissary Ridge is a prolific elk calving ground that needs to be protected from this type of industrialization. The area is also critical mule deer summer and winter range that is one of the last non-fragmented winter ranges for the dwindling Wyoming Range Mule deer herd.

Black bears and mountain lions are frequently spotted in the area of the northern route. The maps show that the lynx habitat stops at the forest boundary one mile to the north of the proposed route. In reality, the forest extends to the southern end of South Fork Mountain, ten miles to the south of the actual forest boundary. Lynx do not recognize the line our Forest Service drew on a map. They inhabit the forest on South Fork Mountain just as they do the forest north of the USFS boundary. These animals will also suffer from the associated loss of habitat and from the increased raptor predation on snowshoe hare, which are a staple of the lynx's diet.

Locals and non-locals alike enjoy many recreational activities in the area and are opposed to the loss of view-shed, to the increase in noise, and to the industrialization of our wild lands. Some of the activities enjoyed in the area are hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, photography, hiking, camping, bird-watching, and wildlife watching. Routing along the Northern Alternative will be in direct view of the county's only ski resort. The visual impact will create an undue economic hardship for this business.

There have been a large number of Native American artifacts found on BLM and private land in the area. The riparian areas this route crosses were well used by our Native Americans ancestors. Routing the line through this area will impact and destroy much of this rich cultural resource.

There are negative health effects of residing near transmission lines of this size. Transmission lines double the risk of leukemia in children. The electromagnetic forces (EMF) generated can slow heart rates of people living near the lines. EMF from a 500KV line is dangerous to people with pacemakers and heart arrhythmias. I have a heart arrhythmia and am opposed to having the transmission line routed in close proximity to my property. The 610 page BioInitiative Report was compiled by 14 scientists, public health experts, and public policy experts to document the scientific evidence on electromagnetic fields. The study suggests that worldwide, standards regulating safe levels of electromagnetic fields in nearly every country look to be "thousands of times too lenient" (http://www.bioinitiative.org). In an article published in the Salt Lake City Tribune, Cindy Sage, an EMF expert reported, "EMF is a documented cancer-causing agent in the US." It has been documented since 1998. It was also documented as a carcinogen by the World Health Organization International Agency for Cancer Research in 2001. For health reasons, the line needs to be routed along pre-existing corridors and away from these existing and future subdivisions.

EMF from 500KV lines will interfere with GPS, computers, TVs, cell phones, and other electric devices. Many outdoorsmen and county search and rescue personnel rely on GPS in the backcountry to navigate safely, especially in stormy weather. Because of the absence of land lines, cell phone use is the main method of communication in the area. Its hindrance will give rise to safety and socially related impacts.

Routing the transmission line through the northern route will cause significant erosion of the steep slopes in the area. There are many slopes in this considered route that are greater than 15% grade. The soil on these slopes is unstable, resulting from a recent forest fire that destroyed plant root systems that tie the soil together. Many hillsides can be seen sloughing as a result. Routing the transmission line through this sensitive terrain will do irreparable damage to the environment.

Worst of all, routing the transmission line in the northern alternative will have a cumulative effect, opening the door to many more utility corridors to follow. The entire area will go from being one of the most beautiful and serene places in Wyoming, set aside for all people to enjoy, to one industrialized ruin, reserved for big industry. If this alternative is selected, the south end of the Wyoming Range will become a stark, long term reminder of what goes wrong when a state loses sight of the qualities that make it unique and sacrifices those qualities for short term cost savings.

Following are five options that enable the project objectives to be met in a reasonable manner without compromising the quality of life and the resources that make Wyoming a great place to live.

I prefer the following routing solutions instead of the northern alternative in Segment 4:

A. I prefer that the company run the new 500KV line parallel the existing 345KV Bridger line as initially preferred by Rocky Mountain Power, the Governor's Office, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

- **(Option A 1) Parallel the Existing 345KV**
  - The damage by development along this route has already been done. The "view-shed" has already been impacted with the three previously installed lines in this established corridor. Please pay attention to the concerns of the local residents and landowners in this issue. We live and recreate in this county and are able to discern the areas in most need of protection. Why tear up more pristine country in an effort to keep one more line from going in a corridor that already exists?

- **(Option A2) Upgrade the existing 345 KV Bridger Line in the Preferred and Proposed Route to a higher capacity line. (Use the same ROW.)**

- **(Option A3) Bury the 500 KV line parallel to the 345KV line in areas close to the trail**.
  - This practice is done in many major cities in the US.
  - It is common place in Europe, Asia, Australia, and Canada
  - Overhead lines are subject to damage from lightning, wind, ice, forest fire, avalanches, and airplanes. Underground lines are not affected by any of these.
  - While the cost is 6 times the price of overhead lines in congested cities, the cost is far less to bury the line in rural areas. Once installed, maintenance costs for the buried line are lower. The "view-shed" in debate from the trail observation points is not a great length. Therefore, the required length of underground transmission is minimal. Any increased cost in underground installation would be offset by lower maintenance costs, better access, and shorter routing. Burying a small portion of the line will be comparable in costs to those created by crossing steep, forested, undeveloped mountain terrain.
  - Underground utilities can be put in narrower corridors than overhead utilities. This would allow the new line to be installed more closely to the existing transmission lines. In future routing, more lines will be able to be installed in the same corridor.
  - The adverse health effects associated with a buried transmission line are far less than those associated with an overhead line.
  - A buried transmission line would be far more aesthetically pleasing.
  - A buried transmission line would be less detrimental to wildlife by not providing perches for raptors. With the proper surface reclamation, the right of way will be hardly noticeable and will even provide forage for ungulates.

B. If the constraints in Option A prove insurmountable, I am also in favor of the BLM Kemmerer FO suggest alternative that runs near Highway 30 at the southern edge of the routes being analyzed for Segment 4. Again, this option uses previously established corridors. Impacts to sage-grouse have already been realized. The perches through the areas have already been established.

- Your maps show this to contain active FMC Trona mining leases in the area southwest of Kemmerer. Please check this information as there are no established Trona mines in this immediate area.

C. The most encompassing solution to protect the areas pertaining to sage grouse and historic trails is to skirt the controversial Kemmerer region to the south. The first option is to re-enter the West Wide Energy Corridor (Record

of Decision) after the Bridger substation. Route the new line through the WWEC to an area near Evanston. Near Evanston, parallel the existing transmission line North along Wyoming Highway 89 to Highway 16. Parallel the existing transmission line north along Highway 16 to Sage Junction. From Sage Junction, bear north to reference point 4b.8, 4b.12, 4b.13, 4j, and then 4k. (Please see Exhibits 1A, and 1B)

- While slightly longer in length, this solution would make use of the West Wide Energy Corridor that was developed for this very purpose. In doing so, it would route the new line through an area already disturbed by utilities routing, wind farms, and Interstate-80. (This added length of approximately 28 miles, is less than the length added in segment 1 to avoid similar constraints in the Laramie Range. Residents of Kemmerer should be afforded the same consideration as the residents of the Laramie Range with regard to preserving this pristine area. At the public meeting in Kemmerer, we were informed that each additional mile adds $1 million and that the cost of the overall project is estimated to be $6 billion. Using these estimates, the percentage increase in project cost to skirt the areas of controversial constraint near Kemmerer is 0.47%. This is less than one half of one percent. If a project doesn't have enough contingency built in to handle an overrun of one half of one percent, I question its overall feasibility and its justification.)
- This solution would parallel existing corridors, completely around the core sage-grouse habitat and mule deer winter range southwest of Kemmerer.
- This route would avoid the trail concerns of the Kemmerer Field Office.
- This route would avoid ruining the pristine environmental areas of Commissary Ridge, the Hams Fork, and the Tunp Range.
- Since the EIS has been completed and approved for the ROD, use of the WWEC will save money, time, and resources.
- This route will draw the least amount of public opposition since it is through areas already impacted by industrialization.
- There will be less impact to the environment in this option. This route will cross far less Greenfield designation.
- The topography of this route is considerably less steep and rough than the Northern Alternative. It is also very accessible and would require minimal road development. It is much better suited for utility routing.
- Because of the better access and proximity to larger communities, construction costs would be much cheaper. Concrete availability, crane access, and material supply logistics would be greatly simplified.

- While wind farm development in the Kemmerer area may be an argument for running the new 500KV through the Kemmerer area, the 345KV line already exists to accommodate this future load. The load could be balanced at the Jim Bridger plant to transfer more transmission from the eastern part of the state through the 500KV line along I-80, freeing up the capacity of the 345KV to carry the added load of wind farms near Kemmerer.
- This option was half heartedly looked at in your draft EIS but your solution ran the line through the metropolitan area of Ogden. Try going north from Evanston so the option doesn't look so bad on paper.

The next page shows a map of the core sage grouse areas in question as determined by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Exhibit 1A follows, detailing the proposed route around the areas of controversy surrounding Kemmerer. The proposed route makes use of the designated West Wide Energy Corridor along I-80. Exhibit 1B shows the West Wide Energy Corridor as defined in the Record of Decision.

Gateway West Alternatives and Sage Grouse Core Areas

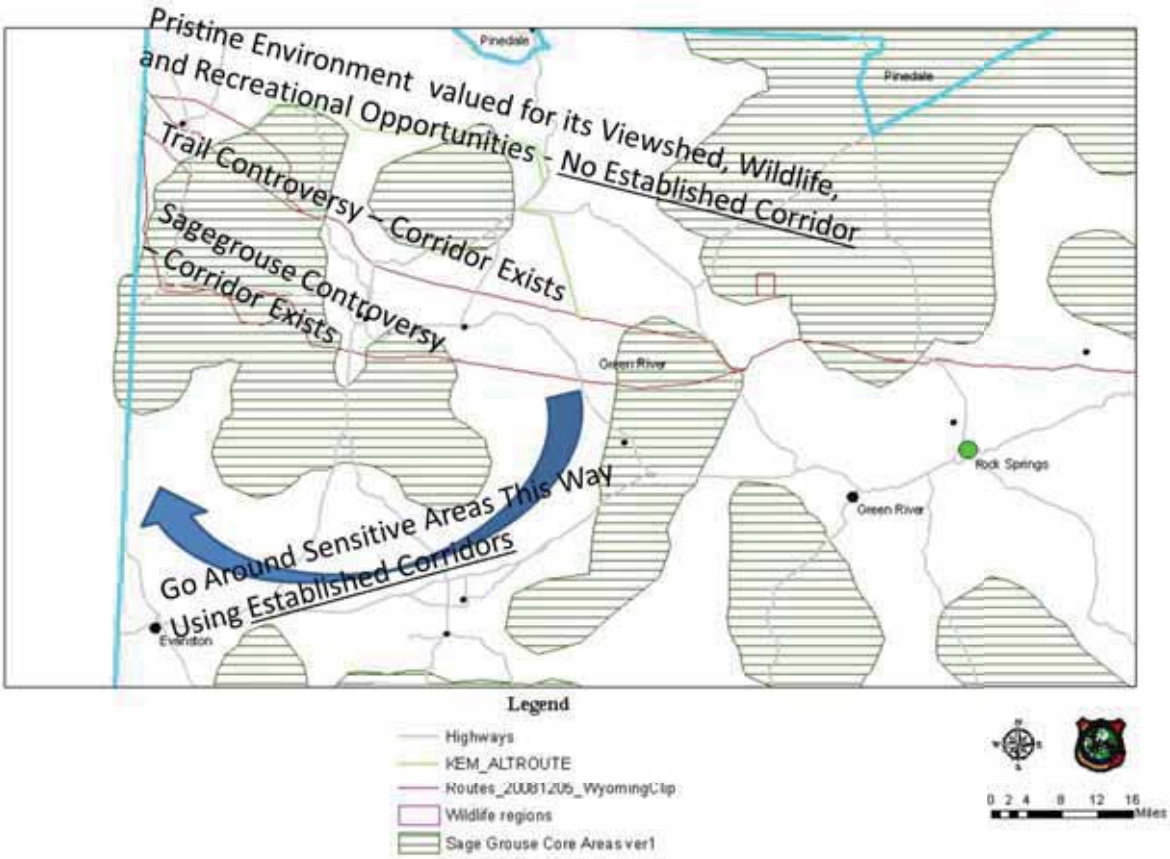


Exhibit 1A – Option C – Route Gateway West around Kemmerer Constraint Conflicts by re-entering WWEC (This option avoids sensitive areas and eliminates conflicts)

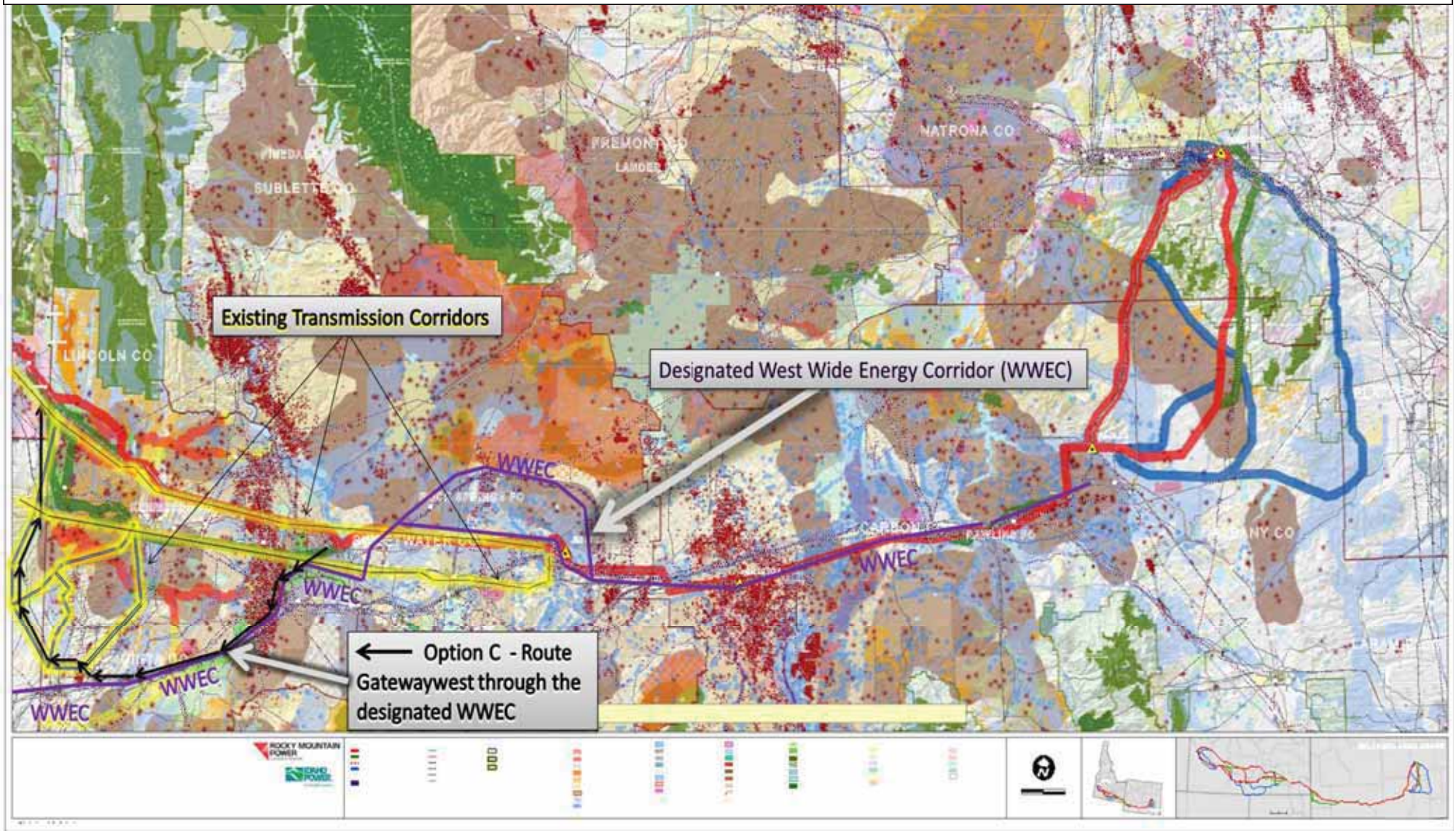
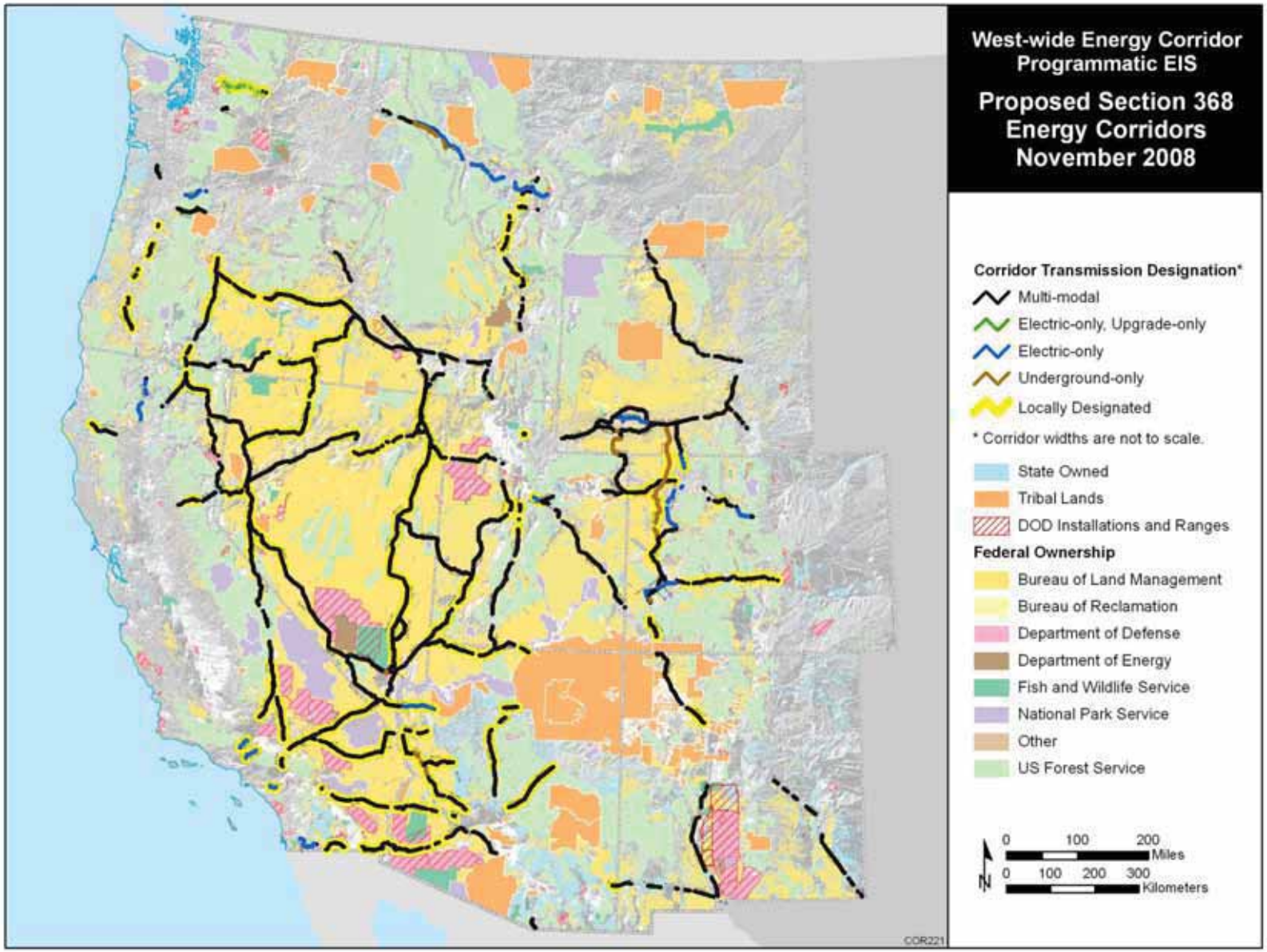


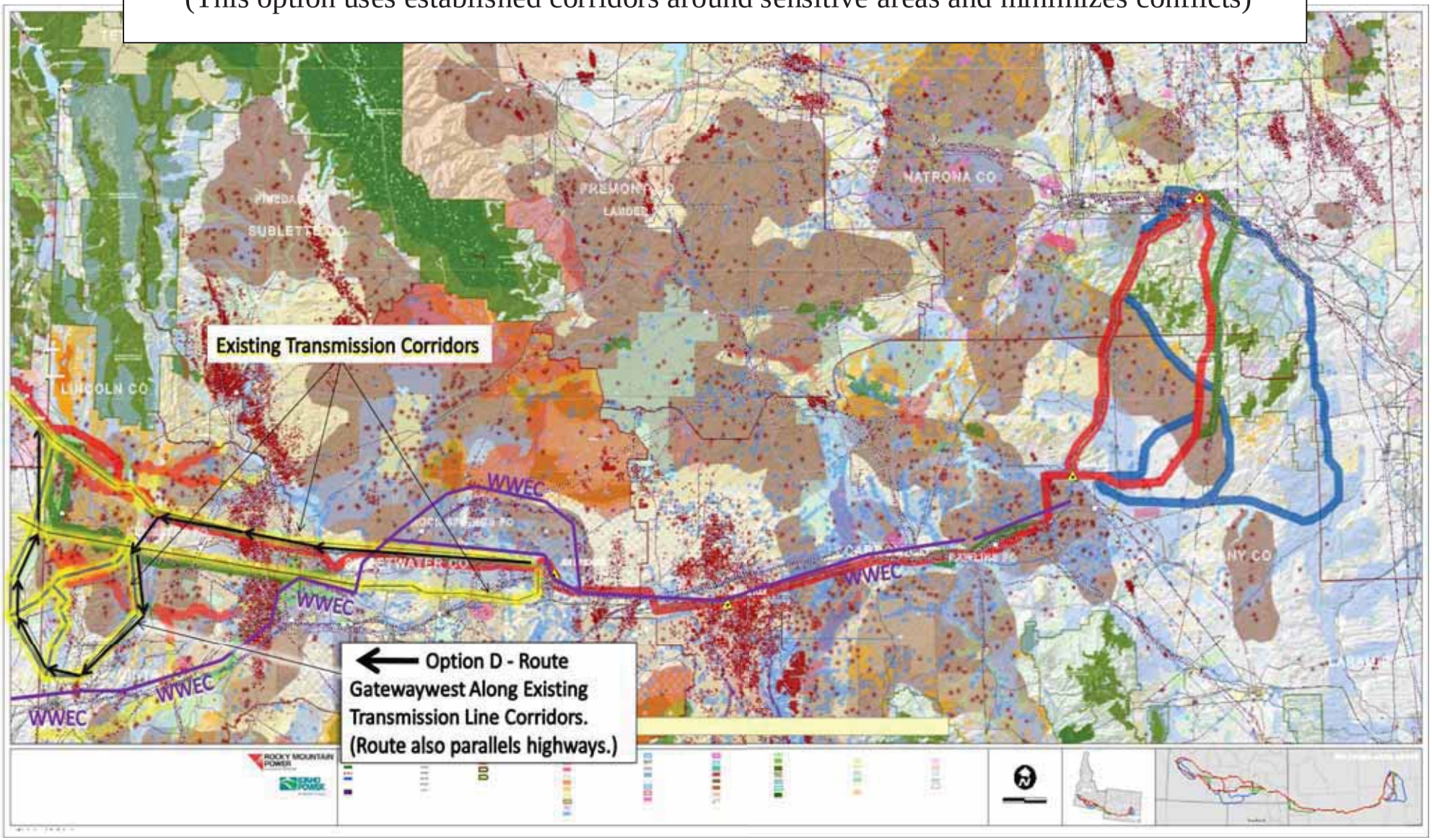
Exhibit 1B – West Wide Energy Corridor (WWEC)



D. From the proposed route (red route) or the southern feasible alternative route (green route) on the Segment 4 map, route the new transmission line south from Kemmerer along an established transmission corridor paralleling Highway 189. Parallel this existing line around the core wildlife areas and back up along the west side of the core wildlife areas to an area southwest of Cokeville meadows. Rejoin the green feasible alternative on the west side of Cokeville meadows and proceed up the Wyoming/Idaho border to the intersection of the 345KV line north of Cokeville. (Please see Exhibit 2.)

- This solution would follow existing corridors around the core sage-grouse habitat and mule deer winter range southwest of Kemmerer.
- This route would avoid the trail concerns of the Kemmerer Field Office.
- This route would avoid ruining the pristine environmental areas of Commissary Ridge
- This route will draw a lesser amount of public opposition.
- Less environmental impact. This route will cross far less Greenfield designation.
- The topography of this route is considerably less steep and rough. It is better suited for utility routing.
- There are one or more existing transmission lines along this route that can be paralleled for almost the entire route.

Exhibit 2 – Option D – Route Gateway West around Kemmerer Constraint Conflicts
Follows existing transmission lines and parallels US-189, I-80, and US-16
(This option uses established corridors around sensitive areas and minimizes conflicts)



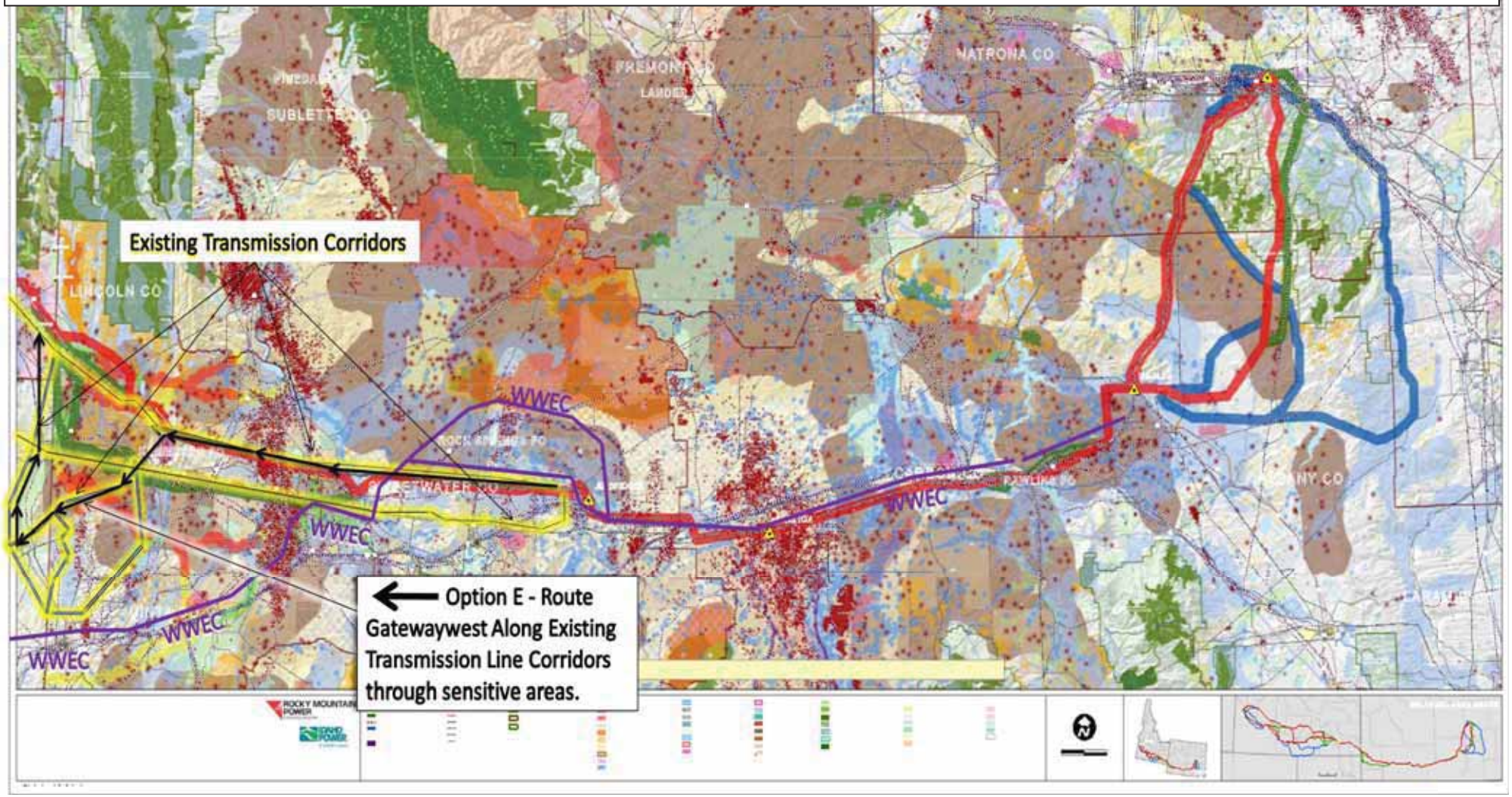
E. From the proposed route (red route) or the southern feasible alternative route (green route) on the Segment 4 map, route the new transmission line southwest from Kemmerer along an established transmission corridor leaving Viva Naughton power plant. Parallel this existing line past Elkol, Scull Point, over the Bear River Divide to a point where the line intersects with an existing transmission line running north along highway 16. Parallel the existing line north along Highway 16 to an area southwest of Cokeville Meadows. Rejoin the green feasible alternative on the west side of Cokeville Meadows and proceed up the Wyoming/Idaho border to the intersection of the 345KV line north of Cokeville. (Please see Exhibit 3.)

- This solution would follow existing corridors. While it would cross some wildlife habitat, the impact to the sage-grouse would be minimal since any raptor perches in the area have already been established with the existing transmission line. Impact of the overhead power line on big game should not be an issue if activity and construction is limited during the winter months.
- This route would avoid the trail concerns of the Kemmerer Field Office.
- This route would avoid ruining the pristine environmental areas of Commissary Ridge, the Hams Fork, and the Tunp Range.
- This route will draw a lesser amount of public opposition since there is already a major transmission line in the area.
- Less environmental impact. This route will cross far less Greenfield designation than the northern Kemmerer consideration.
- The topography of this route is considerably less steep and rough. It is better suited for utility routing.
- There are one or more existing transmission lines along this route that can be paralleled for almost the entire route. The area has previously been disturbed.
- This option adds a minimal distance while delicately traversing core sage grouse habitat.

Exhibit 3 – Option E – Route Gateway West around Kemmerer Constraint Conflicts.

Follows existing transmission lines through controversial sagegrouse habitat and then parallels existing transmission lines north along Highway 16.

(This option uses established corridors through sensitive areas and minimizes conflicts)



Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Gateway Transmission Project. I realize the need to increase the energy supply to customers in the western US and believe the job can be accomplished without sacrificing the most pristine, highly sought after parts of our county along the way.

It is estimated that 500,000 people traveled through Wyoming via the Oregon Trail in the 1800's. Most of them were destined for California, Oregon, and Utah. They picked the easiest route they could manage through the God forsaken country known as the Rocky Mountains. They did so with wanton disregard for the sagebrush their wagons churned up along the way. In fact, they often traveled side by side in a broad line, up to a mile wide, in order to avoid each other's dust. Some of them tried to hasten their route through Wyoming by taking shortcuts or "cutoffs". The Sublette Cutoff is one such shortcut in the vicinity of Kemmerer that cut about 70 miles off the trip. While many passed through the state, very few chose to settle in Wyoming.

Many years later, the descendants of those that passed through to California, Oregon, and Utah requested energy from our state. As a result, the Bridger Transmission line was constructed to supply Wyoming's coal fired power to the west coast. The corridor was established following the path of least resistance which, at one point, placed it across a portion of the Sublette Cutoff trail. As was the Sublette cutoff itself, the corridor was established with little regard for the country it destroyed. Similar corridors were also established in the swath of land spanning from the Sublette cutoff south to Interstate 80.

It seems that, to this day, this area of Wyoming is still being used as a cutoff for the benefit of the populations to the west of us. This time, the proposal is to broaden the cutoff so far to the north that it severely impacts the areas that the residents of Wyoming chose to inhabit above all other states. If the Northern Alternative of Segment 4 is selected, the short term cost savings that the company will see and will pass on to their 1.7 million ratepayers, will come at the devastating loss and overwhelming expense of a small group of people in the path of the new cutoff. The time has come to be responsible in Wyoming and to limit the damage to those areas already affected by previously established transmission corridors. If the timeless beauty of our state is sacrificed to industry for minor short term costs savings to be realized by distant populations, those that have chosen to live in this state will no longer have a state worth living in.

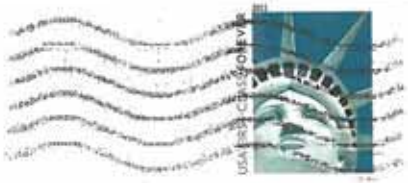
Sincerely,

Michael W. Welsh

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

BOISE ID 837

26 OCT 2011 PM 2 L



Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

100341

82003$7018

Draft EIS Comment Form

100341

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

RECEIVED DOI-BLM CHEYENNE, WYOMING 2011 OCT 31 AM 10: 00

BLM

Date: 10-25-2011

First Name: MITCHELL Last Name: SEARLE

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: 522 E 600 S City: BURLEY State: ID Zip: 83318

Daytime Phone: 208-678-1599 Email:

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I THINK THAT THE GATEWAY WEST TRANSMISSION LINE SHOULD BE CONSTRUCTED ALONG THE MOST SOUTHERN PROPOSED ROUTE. THAT ROUTE WOULD DISRUPT THE ECONOMY OF AREA THE LEAST. THE PROPOSED NORTHERN ROUTE WOULD FORCE LANDOWNERS TO MAKE COSTLY CHANGES TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO LIVE AND FARM AROUND AND UNDER THE LINES.

I THINK GATEWAY SHOULD PUT MORE CONSIDERATION ON HUMAN IMPACT THAN HOW THIS CONSTRUCTION WILL AFFECT THE GROUSE. THE SOUTHERN PROPOSED ROUTE IS THE BEST CHOICE.

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

1/1

continued on back

From: jmclain@blm.gov
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2011 12:29 PM
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: In FAVOR of Segment 8, Midpoint to Hemingway.

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 09/12/2011 01:29 PM -----

"Monica Smith" <monica@speedyquick.net>
09/10/2011 09:55 AM
Please respond to "Monica Smith" <monica@speedyquick.net>

To <Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
cc
Subject In FAVOR of Segment 8, Midpoint to Hemingway.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a property owner in the Melba area and will be impacted by the decisions made on the Gateway West Transmission Line. I have reviewed the draft of the Environmental Impact Statement and would like to give my support for the proposed route of Segment 8, Midpoint to Hemingway.

I am strongly in favor of that proposed route.

Thank you,
Monica Smith
2587c Southside Blvd
Melba, ID 83641
208-941-5988

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2011 8:28 PM
To: Gateway BLM
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Nate Good

Organization:

Mailing Address:
27121 Good Rd.

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Grand View

State:
ID

Zip:
83624

Daytime Phone:

E-mail:

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
Please put the blame stinking lectric poles on the alternate route 9D stead of route 9. Them things is ugly and we don't want to have to look at them every day.

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

CASPER WY 820
4 PM
25 OCT

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

ENTERED
100389

$200337018 B047

1/1

ENTERED
100389

2011 OCT 27 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

October 24, 2011

Mr. Walter E. George
National Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P. O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Dear Mr. George

We are residents of Glenrock and are very concerned about the negative impact that the Gateway West 1E transmission line will have on our community. This proposed preferred routing of the line traverses between the town and Interstate 25.

This "preferred" route is too close for several reasons:

- The value of residential real estate in the immediate vicinity would be drastically reduced.
- The visual blight when approaching town from the freeway would be very detrimental to the community.
- Our beautiful view of the Laramie Mountains would be adversely affected.
- It dissects land that the Town of Glenrock plans for development.

We strongly urge the Bureau of Land Management use the optional route 1E-A. This route would be far less impact on the Town of Glenrock.

Sincerely

O Palmer Aust

Sharon J. Aust

O. Palmer Aust
615 Grove St./P. O. Box 1826
Glenrock, WY 82637
307-436-3440
psaust@wyoming.com

Sharon J. Aust

CERTIFIED MAIL™

NICOLAYSEN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
P.O. Box 0007
CASPER, WYOMING 82602-0007

7010 1060 0000 2142 3838

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

1000

82003

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CASPER, WY
82601
OCT 26, 11
AMOUNT
$5.59
00055164-04

RETURN RECEIPT
REQUESTED

Mr. Walt George, BLM Project Manager
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

1028

ENTERED
100482

820037018 B047

October 26, 2011

Mr. Walter E. George
National Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P. O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

ENTERED
100492 1/1

Dear Mr. George

We have been in the process of planning a residence on a 40 acre parcel along the 1W(a) route, west of Glenrock on the river. This appears to be directly in the path of the proposed line. We strongly believe this 1W(a) route would destroy the value of our land and our ability to build. We are opposed to 1W(a) and strongly urge the Bureau of Land Management and Rocky Mountain Power use the existing corridor and routes parallel to it.

Sincerely

Pam Brondos

Pam Brondos
PO Box 7
Casper, WY 82602

2011 OCT 31 AM 10: 00
RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

From: jmclain@blm.gov
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2011 9:43 AM
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: Gateway West transmission line

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 09/14/2011 10:42 AM -----

Paul Berggreen
<pberggreen@cox.net>
09/13/2011 10:48 PM

To
<Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
cc
Subject
Gateway West transmission line

Comments on Gateway West Transmission line.

To whom it may concern,

I am a property owner in the Melbourne Kuna area and would like to voice my strong support for the proposed route of segment 8, Midpoint to Hemingway.

Sincerely,

Paul Berggreen

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 10:23 AM
To: Gateway BLM
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Paul Waldon

Organization:

Mailing Address:
9452 Knottingham Dr

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Boise

State:
ID

Zip:
83704

Daytime Phone:

E-mail:
pwaldon@msn.com

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:

Comment:
I'm requesting that you follow the Owyhee County Commissioners reccomendation for Alternative 9D for the corridor as developed by the Owyhee County Task Force. It minimizes the impact to private property as well as Sage Grouse habitat.

From: info@gatewayeis.com
Sent: Friday, September 02, 2011 9:01 PM
To: Gateway BLM
Subject: A comment from gatewayeis.com

Name:
Paxton Robinson

Organization:

Mailing Address:
1496 S 550 W

Mailing Address 2:

City:
Oakley

State:
ID

Zip:
83346

Daytime Phone:

E-mail:

Confidential:
No

DEIS Location:
chapter 2 section 2 page 2-90

Comment:
I would like you to use the alternative route along the state line (7I). On the proposed route, my family farm would be severely and adversely impacted. Because this line is for public good, i feel very strongly as do many others, that it should stay on public grounds, and off our private domains!!!

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

BOISE ID 837

25 OCT 2011 PM 2 L

ENTERED
100393

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
PO Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

B200337018

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

INTAKE 100383
RECEIVED DOI-BLM CHEYENNE, WYOMING 2011 OCT 31 AM 10: 00

1/1

BLM

Date: Oct. 26, 2011

First Name: Peggy Johnston Last Name: Robinson

Organization or Office Name:

Mailing Address: 16975 Shortcut Rd City: Oreana State: ID Zip: 83650

Daytime Phone: (208) 834-2852 Email:

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I am 85 yrs old. I was born in Oreana, Owyhee County, IDAHO — The County of Owyhee is unique - Our homes and ranches are our heritage and our life. Please leave the private ground without wires - poles - pipe lines and other entrapments -

It states plainly in SEC. 368 ENERGY RIGHT-OF-WAY CORRIDORS ON FEDERAL LAND - that the Corridor is to be on FEDERAL LAND

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

continued on back

From: jmclain@blm.gov
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 7:29 AM
To: blm@gwcomment.com
Subject: Fw: gateway west transmissionline project

----- Forwarded by Joy Mclain/WYSO/WY/BLM/DOI on 10/17/2011 08:28 AM -----

ParkerR@aol.com

10/05/2011 01:09 PM

To Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov

cc

Subject gateway west transmissionline project

Alternative 1E-C is preferable to the other alternatives. However I am against this project and the construction of new power lines for political purposes.

Randell Parker
Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Trustee
3820 Herring Rd.
Arvin, Ca 93203
661-854-1503

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

1000

82003

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AMERICAN FALLS.ID
83211
OCT 28.11
AMOUNT
$0.00
00022507-02

POSTAGE
PAID
N FALLS.ID
83211
28.11
AMOUNT
$1.28
00022507-02

Bureau of Land Management
Gateway West Project
P.O. Box 20879
Cheyenne, WY 82003

100302

Draft EIS Comment Form

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
Draft EIS comment period: July 29, 2011 - October 28, 2011

2011 NOV -1 AM 10: 00

RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Date: 10/28/2011

First Name: Rayma Last Name: Cates

Organization or Office Name: Power County Task Force Member

Mailing Address: 2948 Little Creek Road City: Am. Falls State: ID Zip: 83211

Daytime Phone: 208-226-2614 Email: rayma cates@gmail.com

☐ Please check here if you wish for your personal information to remain confidential*

*If you wish for your contact information to remain confidential, BLM will protect the personal information that you submit to the extent allowed by law. However, the information may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (U.S.C. etc.). See privacy note on reverse.

Please submit your comments by October 28, 2011. Information submitted on this form is being voluntarily provided solely for the purpose of commenting on the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Comment:

I have submitted my thoughts on segments 5 + 7 on the first two pages.

I have been submitting comments to the Power County Task Force + Doug Balfour. Some of my comments will thus be similar to the counties. I could not get a legible scan of the enclosed Grouse Lek map so I decided to send via U.S. postal Service. I will also email a copy of the GRP Deed.

Sincerely,
Rayma Cates

To mail this comment form please send to:

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Project | P.O. Box 20879 | Cheyenne, WY 82003

Comments may also be submitted via email to: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov or online at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west

1/11

continued on back

I am in agreement with Power County that the proponents anticipated need for the Gateway West transmission line was based on predictions that have not come true and that this transmission line is thus likely not needed at this time.

If Gateway West does proceed, pristine mountain views and wildlife habitat will be destroyed, no matter what route is taken. I urge careful consideration of the need for this project at this time.

Segment 5

If the project does continue, I endorse the alternatives endorsed by Power and Cassia Counties as I believe they will have the least negative impact. This would include:

Segment 5E to Borah. This route will have the least negative impact because it is shorter than the proposed route and there are currently transmission lines already in this area. I agree with Power County that Segement 5E should be the preferred route.

I am in favor of alternative 5C. This route would have the least negative impact because it is shorter than the proposed route 5 and the other alternatives. There is less grouse and mule deer habitat that would be crossed with 5C, there are fewer homes that would have their view impacted by 5C, there is less farmed land that would be crossed by 5C and there are currently transmission lines already in this area.

All the alternatives to 5C either cross over the Deep Creek Mountains or pass the Deep Creek Mountains to the South and then follow the foothills of the Deep Creek Mountains all the way back to American Falls on their northern end. Either way, the Deep Creek Mountains are severely impacted.

> I am very concerned about the Proposed route 5. Segment 5g to 5b goes too close to the Arbon Valley School, is located where it will dominate the view of most if not all of the people who live in the populated area near the Arbon School and goes past many newly documented grouse leks. Segment 5b to 5i travels over the Deep Creek Mountains in a very steep area, it comes down the popular recreation area of East Fork Canyon and right over the top of likely the most popular campground and stream (the East Fork of Rock Creek) in Power County. Segment 5i to 5l turns north and follows the unspoiled scenic foothills of the Deep Creek Mountains to American Falls. There is an Eagle Roost in Bowen Canyon and the eagles travel between the canyon and the Snake River. The eagle flyway will cross this section between mile 44 and mile 45. This route is not acceptable for all of the above reasons.
>
> I am also very concerned about alternative 5D. Segment 5i to 5d follow the East Fork of Rock Creek. This is a very scenic and popular stream. It is also a 303D listed stream. There are many homes in the area with scenic views of this stream. This is also a well known home for mule deer. The mule deer utilize this area year around. Because of the beauty of this area, and the availability of irrigation water from the creek, land values along the East Fork of Rock Creek are going to be much higher and will be more negatively affected by transmission lines than areas where streams are not located. Putting transmission lines along this stream will impact the scenic value of one of the prettiest places in the Rockland Valley. Segment 5d to 5h follows the unspoiled scenic foothills of the Deep Creek Mountains to American Falls. Since this segment is further west, more farm ground and residents will be impacted than with segment 5i to 5l. It is also more likely to impact irrigated farm ground. There is an Eagle Roost in Bowen Canyon and

the eagles travel between this canyon and the Snake River, roughly following Cold Creek. This segment appears to follow the eagle flyway between mile 10 and mile 17. Indian Springs hot springs and numerous homes are also located close to this route. Because of the eagle flyway, Indian Springs, the number of homes in the Cold Creek area, and the impact on the scenery and agriculture of the Rockland Valley, segment 5d to 5h is not acceptable.

I am concerned about Alternative 5A because it is much longer than Alternative 5C. I am also concerned that segment 5x to 5c crosses over the mountains east of Arbon and also over the Deep Creek Mountains west of Arbon. Another concern is from 5c to 5j this route crosses the East Fork of Rock Creek very close to the East Fork Campground. This is likely the most popular campground and stream in Power County. After Alternative 5A reaches the East Fork it still needs to travel north to American Falls over either the Proposed Segment 5 route or Segment 5d which I have previously described as unacceptable.

I am concerned about Alternative 5B because it is the longest route of all. I am also concerned because although 5x to 5f travels around the Deep Creek Mountains, it still crosses over the mountains east of Arbon. After 5c it follows the same route to 5j that Alternative 5A follows. This route crosses the East Fork of Rock Creek very close to the East Fork Campground. This is likely the most popular campground and stream in Power County. After Alternative 5B reaches the East Fork it still needs to travel north to American Falls over either the Proposed Segment 5 route or Segment 5d which I have previously described as unacceptable.

Segment 7

I endorse the Power and Cassia Counties preferred "Stateline Route" for Segment 7. I prefer Alternative 7B to Alternative 7A and the Proposed Segment 7 because Alternative 7B goes south of the Deep Creek Mountains.

I am very concerned about the Proposed route 7 for the same reasons I am very concerned about the Proposed route 5. Segment 7b.0 to 7c goes too close to the Arbon Valley School, is located where it will dominate the view of most if not all of the people who live in the populated area near the Arbon School and goes past many newly documented grouse leks. Segment 7b.0 to 7c travels over the Deep Creek Mountains in a very steep area, it comes down the popular recreation area of East Fork Canyon and will likely dominate the view from the most popular campground and stream (the East Fork of Rock Creek) in Power County. This segment travels to the south of the many houses located along the East Fork of Rock Creek and will likely dominate the view from these houses and decrease property values in the area. The proximity of this line to the City of Rockland and the other residences surrounding the City of Rockland is unacceptable. If the City of Rockland experiences any growth it must be to the south, due to the topography of the area. Segment 7b.0 to 7c would cut off all possible future growth of the town.

I am concerned about the effect Alternative 7A would have on the Deep Creek Mountains. Segment 7b.1 to 7b travels over the Deep Creek Mountains. It seems irresponsible to travel over these mountains when they can be avoided, without making the route longer, by using Alternative 7B.

This comment concerns the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) being erroneously grouped together as CRP in 3.18-4 as follows:

Gateway West Transmission Line Draft EIS

Chapter 3 – Affected Environment and 3.18-4 Agriculture

Environmental Consequences

USDA Conservation Programs – The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is authorized to provide monetary and technical support to private landowners who reserve agricultural lands for protection of wildlife, wildlife habitat, and wetlands. Contracts are made with landowners to set aside acreage for the reserve programs. The set-asides consist of leases that limit land use to the conservation purposes established within the programs. These programs include the CRP, the Grassland Reserve Program, and the Wetlands Reserve Program; these program acreages are combined and treated as agricultural land for the purposes of analysis and referred to as "CRP" lands for the remainder of this section. These CRP lands are not presently used for agriculture, but would likely revert to agricultural use if they were not part of one of the CRP programs.

Contrary to what is stated in the draft, only the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is administered by the USDA-Farm Services Agency (FSA). The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) are administered by the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The Grassland Reserve Program and the Wetland Reserve Program often involve permanent conservation easements. I have attached a copy of the NRCS-CPA-255 for 2009 as an example of a Conservation Easement deed for the Grassland Reserve Program.

The following is an excerpt from this CPA-255:

U. Utilities. The installation or relocation of new public or private utilities, including electric, telephone, or other communications services over the Property, is prohibited, except as provided in this provision. Existing utilities on the Property may be maintained, repaired, removed, or replaced at their current location as identified in the Report. The installation, repair, and maintenance of new underground

utilities such as electric, gas, water, sewer lines, or other utilities may be permitted on the Property if Grantee determines that such activities will result in only a temporary disturbance and are consistent with conserving and maintaining the grazing uses and related Conservation Values, and provides Grantor, in advance and in writing, approval subject to terms and conditions Grantee determines are necessary. The construction or installation of wind, solar and other energy generation structures on the Property are permitted only when the Grantee determines, in its sole discretion, in advance and in writing, that such structures are consistent with conserving and maintaining the grazing uses and related Conservation Values.

Solution: Change the wording of the draft so GRP and WRP are addressed separately from CRP. I also recommend contacting the affected state and/or county USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service offices to determine ground in the GRP and WRP program and then analyzing any ground in GRP or WRP on a case by case basis.

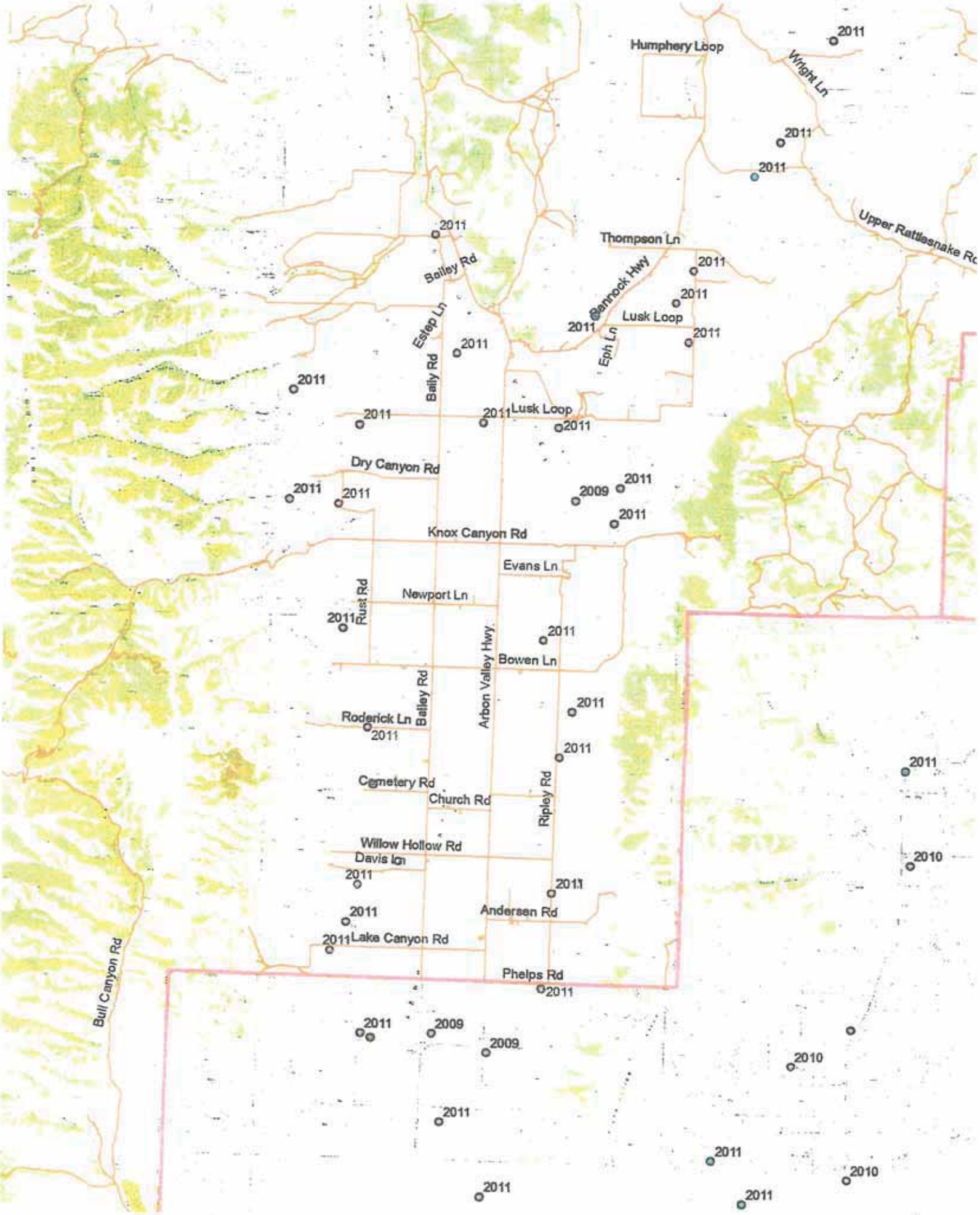
Attachment: Updated lek layer

Rayma Cates Draft EIS Comments – Large number of newly identified grouse leks not included in analysis.

Many previously undocumented grouse leks were identified and documented in Power County and surrounding areas in the spring of 2011 by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. I was given a copy of the new lek layer for the Arbon Valley area by Fish and Game. In the Power County portion of Arbon Valley I count only 2 leks that were documented prior to 2010. I now count 29 leks in this same area. Many of the new leks are near the proposed segment 5 route between mile 21 and mile 28. (In the Pauline area.) Many of the new leks are also near the proposed segment 7 route between mile 21 and mile 28.

Solution: Include the new lek information in the analysis for the EIS as it is likely to greatly change the current analysis of the impact of the proposed segment 5 and proposed segment 7 and perhaps of other alternatives on the grouse population.

Also update Figure E. 11-3 in Appendix E with the additional leks.


Humphery Loop
Wright Ln
Upper Rattlesnake Rd
Thompson Ln
Bailey Rd
Bannock Hwy
Lusk Loop
Estep Ln
Eph Ln
Bally Rd
Lusk Loop
Dry Canyon Rd
Knox Canyon Rd
Evans Ln
Rust Rd
Newport Ln
Bowen Ln
Bailey Rd
Arbon Valley Hwy
Roderick Ln
Cemetery Rd
Church Rd
Ripley Rd
Willow Hollow Rd
Davis Ln
Andersen Rd
Lake Canyon Rd
Phelps Rd
Bull Canyon Rd
2011
2009
2010

7/11

Rayma Cates Draft EIS Comments: Route Detail Maps and Appendix A

Appendix A, Project Maps are difficult to read. Also, Route Detail Maps are not labeled with route and segment numbers adding to public difficulty in understanding the maps and routes.

The project maps are printed too small to use efficiently.

In order to read the segment numbers and tell the difference between segment 5j and 5i, for example, I have to increase the size on my computer to 200%. When I do this and then try to navigate to other parts of the map, my computer severely slows down and has crashed several times. I have been unable to look at the draft on my fairly new lap top due to constant crashes. I have heard similar complaints from other task force members who have tried to use lap tops.

It is impossible to read many of the details on the printed versions of the draft. This makes the printed version almost useless and discriminates against the portion of the public which doesn't have access to a computer that can handle this disk.

Even with the ability to increase the size of the print on my computer, some of the routes aren't clear. For example, even in the enlarged area of Appendix A, Figure A-7 Segment 5, Populus to Borah, it is impossible to tell what 5i and 5j refer to.

The Route Detail maps are also not labeled with the Segments. Labeling these segments would increase the usability of the Route Detail maps greatly.

Solution: Divide all maps and figures up or include enlargements so that the printed version is a font size that is usable for the public. Divide the project up into more than one disk and ensure that standard computers are able to utilize the disks. Label all routes and segments on Route Detail Maps.

Rayma Cates Draft EIS Comments – Appendix E Figures

This comment concerns labeling photos shown in Appendix E in a way that identifies the valley where the photos were taken.

Figure E.2-34a and E.2-34b are both labeled existing landscape of the Rockland and Arbon Valleys. Because the Rockland Valley and Arbon Valley are separated by the Deep Creek Mountains the photos of them should be labeled so the viewer can identify which valley they are observing. There is currently a transmission line in the Arbon Valley. However, there is not a transmission line in the Rockland Valley. Figure E. 2-34a and E. 2034b as labeled could give the erroneous impression that there are currently transmission lines in both valleys.

Solution: Label existing landscape so the viewer can identify which valley they are viewing.

Rayma Cates Draft EIS Comments – Appendix E Figures

This comment concerns clarification of the visual impacts to the Public Campground located on State of Idaho land on the East Fork of Rock Creek. Recommend including recognizable features from the East Fork Campground in the photograph and photographic simulation for KOP 242.

A Photographic Simulation is given from Key Observation Point 242 Segment 5 Figure E.2-21b. Key observation point 242 is very close to the public campground on the East Fork of Rock Creek. However, the general public is not likely to recognize this. It would be more informative if the Key Observation Point and Photographic Simulation showed the visual changes as observed from the East Fork Campground or from the East Fork of Rock Creek. Including the creek in the photo would be helpful in documenting the existing visual resource of the stream.

Solution: Provide simulations from observation points that the public is likely to be familiar with and specifically from the East Fork Campground.

Rayma Cates Draft EIS Comments – Appendix E Figures

Appendix E – Large Format Figures: Difficulty determining Cultural KOP Locations from the information given on the KOP Figures.

Figures E.3 -12 (page74) to Figure E.3 -50 (page 112) show Cultural Key Observation Points. It is very hard to determine the location of these KOPs. These 38 pages do not have a reference to the route segment they are associated with. They are also not in numerical order according to their Key Observation Point. The small map on each page does not usually include any information that would give the general population an idea of the KOP location. There are 10 maps on page 63 (Figure E. 3-1) to 73 (Figure E. 3-11) with very fine print that would have to be closely examined to determine the location of the Cultural KOPs.

Solution: More precisely label each Cultural KOP photo.

Rayma Cates Draft EIS Comments – Appendix A Project Maps and Appendix E Figures

This comment concerns using correctly labeled maps.

Segment 5 Populus to Borah, Figure A-7 and Figure E. 2-6 have an incorrectly labeled road. The road labeled Cutoff Rd. is known to the locals as Deeg Road. I checked a topographic map and a Big Sky map of Power County and both label the road as Deeg Road.

Solution: Label Cutoff Road as Deeg Road.

Rayma Cates Draft EIS Comments – Appendix E Figures

Visual KOP Locations, Segment 5 – IDAHO, Figure E.2-6 shows an enlargement with KOP 241, 242 and 257. It would be much easier to recognize the location of these KOPs if streams in the area were shown. There is plenty of room on this enlargement to show these additional features.

Solution: In the enlargement on E. 2-6 show the name "East Fork of Rock Creek" as it is shown in the same enlargement in Figure A-7, Populus to Borah. Also name the stream and/or road near KOP 257.

Rayma Cates
<raymacates@gmail.com>
10/28/2011 03:25 PM

To <Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Draft EIS Comments

Attached are my Draft EIS Comments and also a sample of a Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) Deed. I am also mailing my comments, minus the GRP deed, so I can also include a copy of the updated Idaho Fish and Game Grouse Lek layer.

Thank you,

Rayma Cates Rayma Cates Draft EIS Comments.docx grp_deed.pdf

Grassland Reserve Program
Conservation Easement

This Conservation Easement Deed ("Deed"), made this _____ day of _____, 20_____, between _____, and its successors, heirs, and assigns, ("Grantor") and the **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, by and through the Commodity Credit Corporation, ("Grantee" or "United States"). Grantor and the United States are jointly referred to as the "Parties." The acquiring agency of the United States is the Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS"), United States Department of Agriculture.

I. Recitals and Conservation Purposes

A. Grantor owns the property ("Property") located in _____ (County) of _____ (State) and legally described in Exhibit A attached hereto and made part of this Deed.

B. The grassland, forb, shrubland, wildlife habitat, and other natural characteristics of the Property (collectively referred to as "Conservation Values") as well as its state of improvement, are described in a Baseline Inventory Report ("Report") prepared by Grantee with the cooperation of Grantor and attached hereto at Exhibit B. The Report describes the condition of the Property as of the date of this Deed. The Report may be used by Grantee to assure that any future changes in the use of the Property are consistent with the terms of this Deed. However, this Report is not intended to preclude the use of other evidence to establish the condition of the Property at the time this Deed is executed.

C. Grantor intends that the grazing uses and related Conservation Values of the Property are to be protected. To effectuate this conservation purpose, Grantor intends to convey to Grantee the right to restore and conserve the grazing uses and related Conservation Values of the Property.

D. Acquisition of this Deed is authorized by the Grassland Reserve Program ("GRP"), sections 1238N through 1238Q of Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. The easement rights in the above-described lands are being acquired for administration by the Secretary of Agriculture through NRCS for the purposes of protecting grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring, enhancing, and conserving grassland, shrubland, forbs and wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of _____ Dollars($_____), Grantor hereby grants and conveys with general warranty of title, to the United States and its assigns, an easement in the Property, including development rights and access to the Property, as defined herein. It is the intent of Grantor to convey and relinquish all development rights to Grantee for the purpose of protecting the Conservation Values identified herein. This Deed shall constitute a servitude upon the Property so encumbered, shall run with the land, and shall bind Grantor, its heirs, successors, assigns, lessees, and any other person

claiming under them.

Subject, however, to any valid rights of record.

The term of this easement is perpetual.

II. Purposes

The purpose of this Deed to protect the grazing uses and related Conservation Values on the Property by conserving, restoring and enhancing grassland, shrubland, forbs, wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

III. Permitted, Prohibited, Restricted and Reserved Activities

A. Grassland Uses of the Property. Grantor is permitted to graze, hay, harvest for seed production, mow, construct fire breaks, conduct fire pre-suppression and rehabilitation activities, and conduct common grazing practices, including maintenance and necessary cultural practices, consistent with the provisions and conservation purposes of this Deed. As used in this Deed, the term "common grazing practices" means those practices customary to the region where the Property is located related to livestock grazing, and includes forage management and necessary cultural practices such as the infrastructure required to conduct livestock grazing on the Property. Grantor shall not hay, mow or harvest for seed during certain nesting seasons for birds whose populations Grantee determines are in significant decline. Such determinations shall be made in writing to the Grantor, or set forth within the Grazing Management Plan on the Property (see paragraph IV. A.). The Grazing Management Plan will be maintained by NRCS following NRCS conservation planning procedures.

B. Quiet Enjoyment. Grantor reserves for itself and its invitees the right of quiet use and enjoyment and the right to convey or lease the Property and restrict public access.

C. Prohibited Acts. Grantor shall not perform, nor knowingly allow others to perform, any act, including those prohibited or restricted herein, that is inconsistent with the purposes of this Deed.

D. Crop Cultivation. Except for grazing uses permitted in paragraph III. A., the cultivation or production of crops, non-perennial forages for human or domestic animal consumption, or seed production is prohibited.

E. Non-Grassland Land Uses. The establishment of tree or shrub nurseries, fruit or nut producing trees, vineyards, tree farms or plantations, aquaculture ponds, or any activity that is inconsistent with maintaining grazing land, except as specifically permitted in this Deed or a restoration plan approved by NRCS, is prohibited.

F. Incidental Lands. Grantee may determine that the enrollment of certain incidental lands (including but not limited to ponds and woods) present on this Property at the time this Deed is executed and identified in the Report, may be necessary to facilitate the administration of the easement boundary. Grantor may utilize and maintain such incidental lands in a manner that is

compatible with the purposes of this Deed, as determined by Grantee.

G. Topography. Altering the existing topography of the Property by digging, plowing, disking, or otherwise disturbing the surface is prohibited, unless Grantee determines such actions are necessary to restore and maintain the viability of grassland and related Conservation Values and provides Grantor, in advance and in writing, approval subject to the terms and conditions Grantee determines are necessary to ensure the protection of grazing uses and related Conservation Values, or unless otherwise specifically permitted by this Deed or the Grazing Management Plan.

H. Waste. Dumping, collecting, recycling, or storing of trash, refuse, waste, sewage, or other debris is prohibited, except that animal waste may be applied on the Property as fertilizer as long as Grantee provides Grantor, in advance and in writing, approval subject to the terms and conditions Grantee determines are necessary to ensure the protection of the grazing uses and related Conservation Values.

I. Mining. The exploration, development, mining, or extraction of soil, sand, gravel, mineral, oil, gas, or any other hydrocarbon substance from the surface of the Property is prohibited. However, subsurface exploration and extraction of oil, gas, and minerals may be conducted utilizing techniques and methods that result in only a temporary disturbance to the surface of the soil, as determined by the Grantee, if Grantee also determines that such activities are consistent with conserving and maintaining the viability of grazing uses and related Conservation Values, and Grantee provides Grantor, in advance and in writing, approval subject to the terms and conditions Grantee determines are necessary to ensure the protection of these Conservation Values, including, but not limited to, requiring that all structures are located beneath the soil surface and that any disturbed surface is restored promptly to grassland. Subsurface extraction of gas, oil, and minerals may be conducted by off-site methods (such as slant drilling) that do not impact the surface of the Property. Any extraction permitted pursuant to this paragraph shall be conducted in compliance with Federal, State and local regulations and permits.

J. Construction of Buildings, Livestock Facilities or Other Structures. The repair, maintenance, or replacement of existing corrals, livestock holding pens, windmills, barns, or other minor structures, as identified in the Report, necessary to conduct common grazing practices on the Property, are permitted at the same location and within the existing footprint of such structures. Construction of new buildings, livestock facilities, or other structures necessary to conduct common grazing practices on the Property may be permitted on the Property, if Grantee determines that such activities are consistent with the purposes of this easement to conserve and maintain the grazing uses and related Conservation Values, and provides the Grantor, in advance and in writing, approval subject to the terms and conditions Grantee determines are necessary to ensure the protection of these Conservation Values.

K. Watering Facilities. Grantor may maintain existing watering facilities (i.e., water tanks, troughs, and dugout ponds) for livestock or wildlife in their current location as identified in the Report. Grantor may construct or place on the Property new watering facilities for livestock and wildlife if Grantee determines that such facilities are consistent with conserving and maintaining the grazing uses and related Conservation Values, and Grantee provides the Grantor, in advance and in writing, approval subject to the terms and conditions Grantee determines are necessary to

ensure the protection of these Conservation Values.

L. Fences. Existing fences may be repaired or replaced and new fences may be built on the Property for the purposes of managing livestock in a manner that is customary in the region where the Property is located and consistent with the purposes of this Deed.

M. Roads and Impervious Surfaces. No portion of the Property shall be paved or otherwise covered with concrete, asphalt, or any other impervious paving material, nor shall any road for access or other purposes be constructed. However, new roads necessary to conduct common grazing practices as permitted herein on the Property may be constructed with prior written approval of Grantee and subject to terms and conditions Grantee determines are necessary to maintain the viability of the grazing uses and related conservation values. Existing roads may be maintained and repaired in their current condition and within their existing footprint as identified in the Report. Maintenance and repair of existing roads shall not be construed to permit the paving of any existing road not already paved or otherwise covered in an impervious material.

N. Tree Cutting. Trees may be cut to control insects and disease, prevent personal injury and property damage, obtain firewood for personal use, and construct fences as permitted herein, with prior written approval of Grantee.

O. Recreational Uses. Undeveloped, passive, recreational uses, such as hiking, camping, bird watching, hunting, and fishing are permitted as long as such uses, as determined by Grantee, do not impair the grazing uses and other Conservation Values.

P. Motorized Vehicle Use. Motorized vehicle use on the Property is prohibited, except as necessary to carry out uses permitted herein on the Property. Off-road vehicle courses for snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, or other motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Q. Development Rights. The Property shall not be developed except as expressly permitted by this Deed. Subject to valid existing rights of record, all development rights associated with the Property are vested in Grantee. The Parties agree that these development rights are terminated and extinguished and may not be used on or transferred off of the Property to any other property or otherwise used.

R. Signs. Except for no trespassing signs, for sale signs, and signs identifying the owner of the Property, all other signs, advertisements, and billboards of any nature are prohibited. The permitted signs may not exceed 15 square feet in size. The Parties agree that the United States has the right to erect and maintain signs on the Property for the purpose of identifying this easement.

S. Exotic Species. The introduction, cultivation, or use of exotic plant or animal species is prohibited on the Property without prior written approval of Grantee and subject to terms and conditions Grantee determines are necessary to ensure the protection of the grassland resources and related Conservation Values referenced in this Deed.

T. Subdivision. The division, partition or subdivision of the Property is prohibited. However, Grantee may approve the division of the Property for reasons which Grantee determines, in its sole discretion, are sufficiently extraordinary to justify an exception to the prohibition. The terms of this Deed shall apply to any approved, subdivided parcels.

U. Utilities. The installation or relocation of new public or private utilities, including electric, telephone, or other communications services over the Property, is prohibited, except as provided in this provision. Existing utilities on the Property may be maintained, repaired, removed, or replaced at their current location as identified in the Report. The installation, repair, and maintenance of new underground utilities such as electric, gas, water, sewer lines, or other utilities may be permitted on the Property if Grantee determines that such activities will result in only a temporary disturbance and are consistent with conserving and maintaining the grazing uses and related Conservation Values, and provides Grantor, in advance and in writing, approval subject to terms and conditions Grantee determines are necessary. The construction or installation of wind, solar and other energy generation structures on the Property are permitted only when the Grantee determines, in its sole discretion, in advance and in writing, that such structures are consistent with conserving and maintaining the grazing uses and related Conservation Values.

V. Rights of Way. Rights-of-way are prohibited over, on, or below the Property, except the conveyance of rights-of-way by Grantor may be permitted under limited circumstances in the sole discretion of Grantee when Grantee determines that such a proposed action is consistent with the purposes of this Deed. Any permission granted under this provision must be in advance and in writing and may stipulate conditions in order to ensure protection of the grazing uses and related Conservation Values.

W. Water Rights. Grantor shall retain the right to use the water rights described in Exhibit C for the present and future use on the Property, as well as all wells, ditches, canals, headgates, springs, reservoirs, water allotments, and water rights of ways associated with the Property and identified in the Baseline Inventory Report. With the prior written approval of Grantee, Grantor may transfer, lease, sell, or otherwise separate a portion of those water rights from the Property that the Grantee determines are not necessary to ensure the function of the grazing operation and the protection of the grazing uses and related Conservation Values.

X. Restoration. In furthering the conservation purposes of this Deed, Grantor may restore grasses, forbs, and shrubs on the Property if approved in advance and in writing by Grantee. In addition, Grantee shall have the right to enter the Property to undertake, at its own expense or on a cost-share basis with Grantor or other entity, activities to restore, protect, manage, maintain, enhance, and monitor the grazing uses and related Conservation Values.

IV. Affirmative Duties: Planning Requirements

A. Grazing Management Plan. The Parties agree that good resource management and land stewardship is important for present and future generations, for the protection and enhancement of grasses and other native and desirable, non-native vegetation on the Property, and in furtherance of its Conservation Values. Grantor agrees to implement a Grazing Management Plan on the Property developed and approved by Grantor and NRCS, which describes the

practices, measures, and other conditions necessary for restoring and maintaining the viability of grazing uses and related conservation values. Subsequent to recording of this Deed, the Grazing Management Plan will be revised when necessary, as determined by NRCS or Grantor, to reflect any changes in the use of the Property that affect the viability of the grassland or other conservation values. The revised Grazing Management Plan shall be developed and approved by Grantor and NRCS. The Grazing Management Plan shall not include any provisions inconsistent with the purposes of this Deed.

B. Pest and Weed Control. Grantor is responsible for control of noxious weeds and pests according to Federal and State law.

V. Enforcement and Transfer

A. Enforcement.

1. Grantee has the right to prevent, correct, or require correction of violations of the terms of this Deed. Upon notification to the Grantor, Grantee or Grantee's agents may enter the Property to inspect for violations, including, but not limited to, assessing compliance with the Grazing Management Plan or other plan described in Section IV above. However, notification by Grantee prior to entry is not required when the Grantee believes there may be a violation of the terms of this Deed. If Grantee finds a violation, Grantee may at its discretion take appropriate legal action in law or equity. Upon discovery of a violation, Grantee shall notify Grantor in writing of the violation. Except when an on going or imminent violation could, as determined by Grantee, seriously impair the conservation values of the Property, Grantee shall give Grantor written notice of the violation and 30 days to correct it before filing any legal action.

2. If Grantor fails to cure the violation within 30 days after receipt of a notice of violation, Grantee may bring an action in court to enforce the terms of this Deed, to enjoin the violation, and to require restoration of the Property to the condition that existed prior to any such injury. Where a court finds that a violation has occurred, Grantor shall reimburse Grantee for all its expenses incurred in halting and correcting the violation, including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees.

3. Any delay by Grantee in exercising its rights under this Deed in the event of any violation of its terms by Grantor shall not be deemed a waiver by Grantee of such rights with respect to that violation. Moreover, any failure by Grantee to discover a violation of this Deed, or forbearance by Grantee in exercising its rights under this Deed in the event of any violation of its terms by Grantor, shall not be deemed a waiver by Grantee of such rights with respect to any subsequent violation.

B. Transfer of Easement Ownership. Upon prior written consent from Grantor, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (“Secretary”) may transfer this easement to an Easement Holder, subject to the right to inspect the Property periodically and the terms set forth below. The Easement Holder must be a State agency, local government, Indian tribe or private conservation or land trust organization which, at the time of transfer, is a qualified organization under 16 U.S.C. 3838q that the Secretary determines has the appropriate authority, expertise, and

relevant experience necessary to administer an easement on grassland, and resources necessary to assume title ownership to this easement.

1. In the event that the Easement Holder fails to enforce the terms of this easement, as determined in the discretion of the Secretary, the Secretary, his or her successors and assigns, shall have the right to enforce the terms of this easement through any and all authorities available under Federal or State law.

2. The Easement Holder may only transfer this easement to another qualified public or private entity as provided for under 16 U.S.C. 3838q(b) as that statute reads on the day that this Deed is executed, and the Grantor consents to the transfer.

3. Should this easement be transferred pursuant to this provision, all warranties and indemnifications provided for in this Deed shall continue to apply to the United States. Subsequent to the transfer of this easement, the Easement Holder shall be responsible for conservation planning and implementation, and will adhere to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide for maintaining the viability of grazing uses and related Conservation Values.

4. Due to the Federal interest in this Deed, this Deed cannot be subject to condemnation without the permission of the United States.

VI. General Terms

A. Access. No public access is conveyed by this Deed. Grantor maintains the right and obligation to prevent trespass and control access by the public pursuant to Federal and State law, provided that Grantee has the right of ingress and egress to the Property over Grantor's property, whether or not Grantor’s property is adjacent to or appurtenant to the Property, for the exercise of Grantee’s rights under this Deed. The authorized representatives of Grantee may utilize vehicles and other reasonable modes of transportation for access purposes.

B. Responsibilities of Grantor and Grantee Not Affected. Other than as specified herein, this Deed is not intended to impose any legal or other responsibility on Grantee, or in any way affect any existing obligations of Grantor as the owner of the Property. For example:

1. **Taxes**. Grantor shall continue to be solely responsible for payment of all taxes and assessments levied against the Property.

2. **Upkeep and Maintenance**. Grantor shall continue to be solely responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Property.

C. Rights Acquired. The property rights of the United States acquired under this Deed shall be unaffected by any subsequent amendments to or repeal of the Grassland Reserve Program. If Grantor receives consideration for this easement in installments, the Parties agree that the conveyance of this easement shall be effective upon payment of the first installment.

D. Subsequent Conveyances. Grantor agrees to notify Grantee in writing of the names and addresses of any party to whom the Property is to be transferred at or prior to the time the transfer is consummated. Grantor and its successors and assigns shall specifically refer to this Deed in any subsequent lease, deed, or other instrument by which any interest in the Property is conveyed.

E. Subsequent Liens. No provisions of this Deed should be construed as impairing the ability of Grantor to use this Property as collateral for a loan, provided that any mortgage or lien associated with the loan is subject to or subordinated to this Deed.

F. Severability. If any provision of this Deed is found to be invalid, the remainder of its provisions shall remain in force.

G. Rules of Construction. This Deed shall be interpreted under the laws of the United States. Any ambiguities in this Deed and questions as to the validity of any of its specific provisions shall be resolved in favor of Grantee so as to preserve the conservation values of the Property and to give maximum effect to the purposes of this Deed.

H. Environmental Warranty. "Environmental Law" or "Environmental Laws" means any and all Federal, State, local or municipal laws, rules, orders, regulations, statutes, ordinances, codes, guidelines, policies, or requirements of any governmental authority regulating or imposing standards of liability or standards of conduct (including common law) concerning air, water, solid waste, hazardous materials, worker and community right-to-know, hazard communication, noise, radioactive material, resource protection, subdivision, inland wetlands and watercourses, health protection and similar environmental health, safety, building and land use as may now or at any time hereafter be in effect.

"Hazardous Materials" means any petroleum, petroleum products, fuel oil, waste oils, explosives, reactive materials, ignitable materials, corrosive materials, hazardous chemicals, hazardous wastes, hazardous substances, extremely hazardous substances, toxic substances, toxic chemicals, radioactive materials, infectious materials, and any other element, compound, mixture, solution or substance which may pose a present or potential hazard to human health or the environment.

Grantor warrants that it is in compliance with, and shall remain in compliance with, all applicable Environmental Laws. Grantor warrants that there are no notices by any governmental authority of any violation or alleged violation of, non-compliance or alleged non-compliance with or any liability under any Environmental Law relating to the operations or conditions of the Property. Grantor further warrants that it has no actual knowledge of a release or threatened release of Hazardous Materials, as such substances and wastes are defined by applicable Federal and State law.

Moreover, Grantor hereby promises to defend and indemnify Grantee against all litigation, claims, demands, penalties, and damages, including reasonable attorneys' fees, arising from or connected with the release or threatened release of any Hazardous Materials on, at, beneath, or from the Property, or arising from or connected with a violation of any Environmental Laws by

Grantor or any other prior owner of the Property. Grantor's indemnification obligation shall not be affected by any authorizations provided by Grantee to Grantor with respect to the Property or any restoration activities carried out by Grantee at the Property; provided, however, that Grantee shall be responsible for any Hazardous Material contributed after this date to the Property by Grantee.

I. General Indemnification. Grantor shall indemnify and hold harmless Grantee, its employees, agents, and assigns for any and all liabilities, claims, demands, losses, expenses, damages, fines, fees, penalties, suits, proceedings, actions, and costs of actions, sanctions asserted by or on behalf of any person or governmental authority, and other liabilities (whether legal or equitable in nature and including, without limitation, court costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees and attorneys' fees on appeal) to which Grantee may be subject or incur relating to the Property, which may arise from, but is not limited to, Grantor's negligent acts or omissions or Grantor's breach of any representation, warranty, covenant, agreements contained in this Deed, or violations of any Federal, State, or local laws, including all Environmental Laws.

J. Notices. Any notices required by this Deed shall be in writing and personally delivered or sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to Grantor and Grantee.

K. No Merger. If Grantee at some future time acquires the underlying fee title in the Property, the interest conveyed by this Deed will not merge with fee title but will continue to exist and be managed as a separate estate.

L. Acceptance. The signature below of Grantee's authorized representative constitutes acceptance of the rights and responsibilities conveyed by this Deed to the United States.

M. Captions. The captions used in this Deed have been inserted solely for convenience of reference. They are not part of this Deed and shall have no effect upon its interpretation.

N. Rights and Obligations. All provisions of this Deed apply to Grantor or Grantee and their respective agents, heirs, executors, administrators, assigns, and any other successors.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, this Conservation Easement Deed is granted to the United States of America and assigns. Grantor covenants that it is vested with good title to the Property and shall warrant and defend the same on behalf of the United States against all claims and demands. Grantor covenants to comply with the terms and conditions enumerated in this Deed governing use of the Property, and adjacent lands owned by the Grantor used for access to the Property, and to refrain from any activity that is restricted, prohibited, or inconsistent with the purposes of this Conservation Easement Deed.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Landowner(s) _____

_____

State of _____

County of _____

I _____ , being the duly authorized representative of the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, do hereby accept this Conservation Easement Deed with respect to the rights and duties of the United States.

Acknowledgment

In the State or Commonwealth of _____, County, Borough or Parish of _____, on this _____ day of _____, 20___, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said jurisdiction, personally appeared _____ to me known to be the person(s) described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that _____ executed the same as _____ free act and deed.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto my hand and Notarial Seal subscribed and affixed in said jurisdiction, the day and year above written.

(NOTARIAL SEAL) _____
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

This instrument was drafted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250-1400.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA'S TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (Voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

I am in agreement with Power County that the proponents anticipated need for the Gateway West transmission line was based on predictions that have not come true and that this transmission line is thus likely not needed at this time.

If Gateway West does proceed, pristine mountain views and wildlife habitat will be destroyed, no matter what route is taken. I urge careful consideration of the need for this project at this time.

Segment 5

If the project does continue, I endorse the alternatives endorsed by Power and Cassia Counties as I believe they will have the least negative impact. This would include:

Segment 5E to Borah. This route will have the least negative impact because it is shorter than the proposed route and there are currently transmission lines already in this area. I agree with Power County that Segement 5E should be the preferred route.

I am in favor of alternative 5C. This route would have the least negative impact because it is shorter than the proposed route 5 and the other alternatives. There is less grouse and mule deer habitat that would be crossed with 5C, there are fewer homes that would have their view impacted by 5C, there is less farmed land that would be crossed by 5C and there are currently transmission lines already in this area.

All the alternatives to 5C either cross over the Deep Creek Mountains or pass the Deep Creek Mountains to the South and then follow the foothills of the Deep Creek Mountains all the way back to American Falls on their northern end. Either way, the Deep Creek Mountains are severely impacted.

> I am very concerned about the Proposed route 5. Segment 5g to 5b goes too close to the Arbon Valley School, is located where it will dominate the view of most if not all of the people who live in the populated area near the Arbon School and goes past many newly documented grouse leks. Segment 5b to 5i travels over the Deep Creek Mountains in a very steep area, it comes down the popular recreation area of East Fork Canyon and right over the top of likely the most popular campground and stream (the East Fork of Rock Creek) in Power County. Segment 5i to 5l turns north and follows the unspoiled scenic foothills of the Deep Creek Mountains to American Falls. There is an Eagle Roost in Bowen Canyon and the eagles travel between the canyon and the Snake River. The eagle flyway will cross this section between mile 44 and mile 45. This route is not acceptable for all of the above reasons.
>
> I am also very concerned about alternative 5D. Segment 5i to 5d follow the East Fork of Rock Creek. This is a very scenic and popular stream. It is also a 303D listed stream. There are many homes in the area with scenic views of this stream. This is also a well known home for mule deer. The mule deer utilize this area year around. Because of the beauty of this area, and the availability of irrigation water from the creek, land values along the East Fork of Rock Creek are going to be much higher and will be more negatively affected by transmission lines than areas where streams are not located. Putting transmission lines along this stream will impact the scenic value of one of the prettiest places in the Rockland Valley. Segment 5d to 5h follows the unspoiled scenic foothills of the Deep Creek Mountains to American Falls. Since this segment is further west, more farm ground and residents will be impacted than with segment 5i to 5l. It is also more likely to impact irrigated farm ground. There is an Eagle Roost in Bowen Canyon and

the eagles travel between this canyon and the Snake River, roughly following Cold Creek. This segment appears to follow the eagle flyway between mile 10 and mile 17. Indian Springs hot springs and numerous homes are also located close to this route. Because of the eagle flyway, Indian Springs, the number of homes in the Cold Creek area, and the impact on the scenery and agriculture of the Rockland Valley, segment 5d to 5h is not acceptable.

I am concerned about Alternative 5A because it is much longer than Alternative 5C. I am also concerned that segment 5x to 5c crosses over the mountains east of Arbon and also over the Deep Creek Mountains west of Arbon. Another concern is from 5c to 5j this route crosses the East Fork of Rock Creek very close to the East Fork Campground. This is likely the most popular campground and stream in Power County. After Alternative 5A reaches the East Fork it still needs to travel north to American Falls over either the Proposed Segment 5 route or Segment 5d which I have previously described as unacceptable.

I am concerned about Alternative 5B because it is the longest route of all. I am also concerned because although 5x to 5f travels around the Deep Creek Mountains, it still crosses over the mountains east of Arbon. After 5c it follows the same route to 5j that Alternative 5A follows. This route crosses the East Fork of Rock Creek very close to the East Fork Campground. This is likely the most popular campground and stream in Power County. After Alternative 5B reaches the East Fork it still needs to travel north to American Falls over either the Proposed Segment 5 route or Segment 5d which I have previously described as unacceptable.

Segment 7

I endorse the Power and Cassia Counties preferred "Stateline Route" for Segment 7. I prefer Alternative 7B to Alternative 7A and the Proposed Segment 7 because Alternative 7B goes south of the Deep Creek Mountains.

I am very concerned about the Proposed route 7 for the same reasons I am very concerned about the Proposed route 5. Segment 7b.0 to 7c goes too close to the Arbon Valley School, is located where it will dominate the view of most if not all of the people who live in the populated area near the Arbon School and goes past many newly documented grouse leks. Segment 7b.0 to 7c travels over the Deep Creek Mountains in a very steep area, it comes down the popular recreation area of East Fork Canyon and will likely dominate the view from the most popular campground and stream (the East Fork of Rock Creek) in Power County. This segment travels to the south of the many houses located along the East Fork of Rock Creek and will likely dominate the view from these houses and decrease property values in the area. The proximity of this line to the City of Rockland and the other residences surrounding the City of Rockland is unacceptable. If the City of Rockland experiences any growth it must be to the south, due to the topography of the area. Segment 7b.0 to 7c would cut off all possible future growth of the town.

I am concerned about the effect Alternative 7A would have on the Deep Creek Mountains. Segment 7b.1 to 7b travels over the Deep Creek Mountains. It seems irresponsible to travel over these mountains when they can be avoided, without making the route longer, by using Alternative 7B.

Rayma Cates Draft EIS Comments: Route Detail Maps and Appendix A

Appendix A, Project Maps are difficult to read. Also, Route Detail Maps are not labeled with route and segment numbers adding to public difficulty in understanding the maps and routes.

The project maps are printed too small to use efficiently.

In order to read the segment numbers and tell the difference between segment 5j and 5i, for example, I have to increase the size on my computer to 200%. When I do this and then try to navigate to other parts of the map, my computer severely slows down and has crashed several times. I have been unable to look at the draft on my fairly new lap top due to constant crashes. I have heard similar complaints from other task force members who have tried to use lap tops.

It is impossible to read many of the details on the printed versions of the draft. This makes the printed version almost useless and discriminates against the portion of the public which doesn't have access to a computer that can handle this disk.

Even with the ability to increase the size of the print on my computer, some of the routes aren't clear. For example, even in the enlarged area of Appendix A, Figure A-7 Segment 5, Populus to Borah, it is impossible to tell what 5i and 5j refer to.

The Route Detail maps are also not labeled with the Segments. Labeling these segments would increase the usability of the Route Detail maps greatly.

Solution: Divide all maps and figures up or include enlargements so that the printed version is a font size that is usable for the public. Divide the project up into more than one disk and ensure that standard computers are able to utilize the disks. Label all routes and segments on Route Detail Maps.

Attachment: Updated lek layer

Rayma Cates Draft EIS Comments – Large number of newly identified grouse leks not included in analysis.

Many previously undocumented grouse leks were identified and documented in Power County and surrounding areas in the spring of 2011 by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. I was given a copy of the new lek layer for the Arbon Valley area by Fish and Game. In the Power County portion of Arbon Valley I count only 2 leks that were documented prior to 2010. I now count 29 leks in this same area. Many of the new leks are near the proposed segment 5 route between mile 21 and mile 28. (In the Pauline area.) Many of the new leks are also near the proposed segment 7 route between mile 21 and mile 28.

Solution: Include the new lek information in the analysis for the EIS as it is likely to greatly change the current analysis of the impact of the proposed segment 5 and proposed segment 7 and perhaps of other alternatives on the grouse population.

Also update Figure E. 11-3 in Appendix E with the additional leks.

This comment concerns the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) being erroneously grouped together as CRP in 3.18-4 as follows:

Gateway West Transmission Line Draft EIS

Chapter 3 – Affected Environment and 3.18-4 Agriculture

Environmental Consequences

USDA Conservation Programs – The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is authorized to provide monetary and technical support to private landowners who reserve agricultural lands for protection of wildlife, wildlife habitat, and wetlands. Contracts are made with landowners to set aside acreage for the reserve programs. The set-asides consist of leases that limit land use to the conservation purposes established within the programs. These programs include the CRP, the Grassland Reserve Program, and the Wetlands Reserve Program; these program acreages are combined and treated as agricultural land for the purposes of analysis and referred to as "CRP" lands for the remainder of this section. These CRP lands are not presently used for agriculture, but would likely revert to agricultural use if they were not part of one of the CRP programs.

Contrary to what is stated in the draft, only the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is administered by the USDA-Farm Services Agency (FSA). The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) are administered by the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The Grassland Reserve Program and the Wetland Reserve Program often involve permanent conservation easements. I have attached a copy of the NRCS-CPA-255 for 2009 as an example of a Conservation Easement deed for the Grassland Reserve Program.

The following is an excerpt from this CPA-255:

U. Utilities. The installation or relocation of new public or private utilities, including electric, telephone, or other communications services over the Property, is prohibited, except as provided in this provision. Existing utilities on the Property may be maintained, repaired, removed, or replaced at their current location as identified in the Report. The installation, repair, and maintenance of new underground

utilities such as electric, gas, water, sewer lines, or other utilities may be permitted on the Property if Grantee determines that such activities will result in only a temporary disturbance and are consistent with conserving and maintaining the grazing uses and related Conservation Values, and provides Grantor, in advance and in writing, approval subject to terms and conditions Grantee determines are necessary. The construction or installation of wind, solar and other energy generation structures on the Property are permitted only when the Grantee determines, in its sole discretion, in advance and in writing, that such structures are consistent with conserving and maintaining the grazing uses and related Conservation Values.

Solution: Change the wording of the draft so GRP and WRP are addressed separately from CRP. I also recommend contacting the affected state and/or county USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service offices to determine ground in the GRP and WRP program and then analyzing any ground in GRP or WRP on a case by case basis.

Rayma Cates Draft EIS Comments – Appendix E Figures

This comment concerns labeling photos shown in Appendix E in a way that identifies the valley where the photos were taken.

Figure E.2-34a and E.2-34b are both labeled existing landscape of the Rockland and Arbon Valleys. Because the Rockland Valley and Arbon Valley are separated by the Deep Creek Mountains the photos of them should be labeled so the viewer can identify which valley they are observing. There is currently a transmission line in the Arbon Valley. However, there is not a transmission line in the Rockland Valley. Figure E. 2-34a and E. 2034b as labeled could give the erroneous impression that there are currently transmission lines in both valleys.

Solution: Label existing landscape so the viewer can identify which valley they are viewing.

Rayma Cates Draft EIS Comments – Appendix E Figures

This comment concerns clarification of the visual impacts to the Public Campground located on State of Idaho land on the East Fork of Rock Creek. Recommend including recognizable features from the East Fork Campground in the photograph and photographic simulation for KOP 242.

A Photographic Simulation is given from Key Observation Point 242 Segment 5 Figure E.2-21b. Key observation point 242 is very close to the public campground on the East Fork of Rock Creek. However, the general public is not likely to recognize this. It would be more informative if the Key Observation Point and Photographic Simulation showed the visual changes as observed from the East Fork Campground or from the East Fork of Rock Creek. Including the creek in the photo would be helpful in documenting the existing visual resource of the stream.

Solution: Provide simulations from observation points that the public is likely to be familiar with and specifically from the East Fork Campground.

Rayma Cates Draft EIS Comments – Appendix A Project Maps and Appendix E Figures

This comment concerns using correctly labeled maps.

Segment 5 Populus to Borah, Figure A-7 and Figure E. 2-6 have an incorrectly labeled road. The road labeled Cutoff Rd. is known to the locals as Deeg Road. I checked a topographic map and a Big Sky map of Power County and both label the road as Deeg Road.

Solution: Label Cutoff Road as Deeg Road.

Rayma Cates Draft EIS Comments – Appendix E Figures

Visual KOP Locations, Segment 5 – IDAHO, Figure E.2-6 shows an enlargement with KOP 241, 242 and 257. It would be much easier to recognize the location of these KOPs if streams in the area were shown. There is plenty of room on this enlargement to show these additional features.

Solution: In the enlargement on E. 2-6 show the name “East Fork of Rock Creek” as it is shown in the same enlargement in Figure A-7, Populus to Borah. Also name the stream and/or road near KOP 257.

Rayma Cates Draft EIS Comments – Appendix E Figures

Appendix E – Large Format Figures: Difficulty determining Cultural KOP Locations from the information given on the KOP Figures.

Figures E.3 -12 (page74) to Figure E.3 -50 (page 112) show Cultural Key Observation Points. It is very hard to determine the location of these KOPs. These 38 pages do not have a reference to the route segment they are associated with. They are also not in numerical order according to their Key Observation Point. The small map on each page does not usually include any information that would give the general population an idea of the KOP location. There are 10 maps on page 63 (Figure E. 3-1) to 73 (Figure E. 3-11) with very fine print that would have to be closely examined to determine the location of the Cultural KOPs.

Solution: More precisely label each Cultural KOP photo.

Rayma Cates
<raymacates@gmail.com>
10/28/2011 04:58 PM

To <Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Another Gateway West Draft EIS Comments

Here is another comment I just completed. Please add it to the ones I already sent you.

Thank you,

Rayma Cates

Table D. 17-1, Specific Land Uses Crossed or Within 1,000 Feet of the Proposed Action and Alternatives.

It is hard to read Table D in the printed form. The font needs to be enlarged

Page 5 of 12

This table does not acknowledge the true impact of Proposed Route 5 on the homes near Pauline. These homes are built against a hill to the north and so their entire view is to the south where Proposed Route 5 is located. At location 24 of Proposed Route 5, only one residence and the Arbon Elementary School are within 1,000 feet. Thus only these two items are listed on page 5 of 12 at location 24 and only these two items are documented in the draft. In reality, there are many more houses located within about 2,000 feet of the proposed line. The view from these houses will be totally dominated by the transmission line. This is also true for the City of Rockland, the houses along the East Fork of Rock Creek and the houses along Cold Creek Road. This table needs to be expanded to include residences, schools, businesses, etc. further than 1,000 feet from the transmission line. Expanding this table to one mile would give a much better analysis of the population density and the effect on the view out of public's living room windows along the proposed and alternative routes.

Solution: Update Table D to include residences, schools, businesses, cemeteries, etc. within one mile or more of the transmission line routes.

----- Original Message -----
From: Rayma Cates
To: Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2011 3:25 PM
Subject: Draft EIS Comments

Attached are my Draft EIS Comments and also a sample of a Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) Deed. I am also mailing my comments, minus the GRP deed, so I can also include a copy of the updated Idaho Fish and Game Grouse Lek layer.

Thank you,

Rayma Cates