3.2 VISUAL RESOURCES

This section addresses potential impacts from the Proposed Route and Route Alternatives during construction, operations, and decommissioning. The Proposed Route and Route Alternatives would pass through multiple landscapes and viewing areas. After a discussion of the affected environment, this section analyzes the potential impacts the Proposed Route and Route Alternatives could have on visual resources. Potential visual impacts on historic trails are discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

3.2.1 Affected Environment

This section discusses those aspects of visual resources in the Project area that could be impacted by the Project. It starts with a discussion of the Analysis Area considered, identifies the issues that have driven the analysis, and characterizes the existing conditions within the Analysis Area of the Proposed Route and Route Alternatives in Wyoming, Idaho, and Nevada.

3.2.1.1 Analysis Area

The Analysis Area for visual resources was established through a combination of field reconnaissance and in consideration of the BLM and Forest Service distance zones including foreground, middleground, background, and seldom seen (landscape areas screened by topographic features). These distance zones are described in more detail in the Key Observation Point (KOP) descriptions (Section 3.2.1.4). The visual resources Analysis Area generally is between 5 miles and 15 miles from either side of the centerline of the Proposed Route and Route Alternatives. Five miles was chosen as the minimum extent because it was assumed that beyond that viewing threshold, terrain and atmospheric conditions would absorb the transmission line. The background distance zone used by the BLM is defined as up to 15 miles. This distance was considered for certain sensitive viewing locations; however, due to the nature of lattice structures it was determined that, beyond the 5-mile distance zone (middleground to background), a lattice structure would not be visible in this landscape. In most instances, middleground and background distance zone views are broad open views of valleys and mountainous terrain that would absorb the visual alterations.

The Proposed Route would pass through two major geologic divisions and four physiographic provinces. The regional landscape for Segments 1, 2, 3, and a portion of 4 are within the Wyoming Basin, which is one of four provinces that dominate southern Wyoming (Fenneman 1931). Segment 1 would originate on the border of the Great Plains and the Wyoming Basin Provinces. The Wyoming Basin, which reaches from Evanston to Casper and covers almost the entire length of the Proposed Route and the Route Alternatives in Wyoming, is characterized by elevated plains in various states of erosion and isolated low mountains (Fenneman 1931). Segments 2, 3, and a portion of 4 would be located within the Wyoming Basin Province.

The relatively flat terrain adjacent to the North Platte River is often subordinate to the scenic hills and mountain ranges of Albany, Converse, Carbon, and Natrona Counties,

which contain the focal features in this region. The high-elevation, steep, and rugged mountains commonly found in the Southern Rockies Ecoregion are often covered by a variety of trees such as Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, aspen, and juniper-oak woodlands (Omernik 1987). The hillside areas are often open grassland interspersed with stands of scrub and trees, creeks, and rock outcroppings. Within the region, the typical views are more commonly identified with the Wyoming Basin, which is relatively open and expansive, allowing the identification of distant features within the landscape. The Wyoming Basin Ecoregion is dominated by arid grasslands and shrublands, interrupted by high hills, and nearly surrounded by forest-covered mountains (Omernik 1987).

Segment 4 would originate within the Wyoming Basin Province and pass through the Middle Rocky Mountain physiographic province before briefly crossing through the most northerly portion of the Great Basin section of the Basin and Range physiographic province south of Pocatello, Idaho. This province is characterized by isolated ranges and dissected mountains separated by broad desert plains (Fenneman 1931). The Middle Rocky Mountain physiographic province is characterized by more complex mountain ranges and intermittent basins. The Idaho portion of Segment 4 and Segments 5 to Segment 10 would be divided between the Basin and Range Province and the Columbia Plateau Province. Almost all of Segment 5 would be located in the Basin and Range Province. The Snake River and associated valley lie within the Snake River Plain section of the Columbia Plateau physiographic province, which is characterized by young lava plateaus.

Segment 7 would be located within the Basin and Range and Columbia Plateau Provinces. The Project would cross the SRBOP and then enter the expanded Hemingway Substation southwest of Boise. The last portion of the alignment would cross the Payette section of the Columbia Plateau physiographic province, which is characterized by young plateaus of prevailingly weak rocks and broad alluvial terraces (Fenneman 1931). Segment 8 would be located entirely within the Columbia Plateau physiographic province and traverse similar landscape types as those described for Segment 7. Segments 9 and 10 are located entirely within the Columbia Plateau physiographic province and traverse similar landscape types as Segments 5 and 8.

3.2.1.2 Issues to be Analyzed

The following visual-related issues were raised during public scoping (Tetra Tech 2009a), scoping by federal and state agencies, or are issues that must be considered as stipulated in law or regulation.

Issues include effects on recreational and scenic resources. Effects on recreation are further discussed in Section 3.17 – Land Use and Recreation. The following is a list of typical aesthetic concerns:

- Conformance with BLM VRM class objectives;
- Consistency with Forest Service Scenery Management System (SMS) or Visual Management System (VMS) as appropriate;
- High impacts to sensitive viewers or from sensitive viewing points, defined as high degree of departure from the existing conditions;

- Sensitive visual resources, such as historic trails or sites, recreation areas, vistas, scenic highways/byways, being degraded and decreased in visual quality; and
- Long-term placement of structures in an undisturbed or otherwise predominantly intact landscape.

3.2.1.3 Regulatory Framework

Public agencies use planning policy to establish visual resource management objectives to protect and enhance visual resources. Goals, objectives, policies, implementation strategies, and guidance are typically contained in RMPs, comprehensive plans, and local specific plans. As described elsewhere in this EIS and in the following summary, federal guidance comes from 1) the BLM's RMPs, and MFPs, for each BLM District or FO throughout the Project area; 2) the Forest Service's Caribou, Medicine Bow, and Sawtooth Forest Plans (Forest Service 2003a, 2003b, and 2003c); 3) the BLM's Oregon and Mormon Pioneers National Historic Trail Management Plan (BLM 1986a) and Oregon/California National Scenic Trail Goals; and 4) the visual resource values of the 1995 City of Rocks Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP; NPS 1995). For information regarding amendments to any of the land use planning documents listed above, please refer to Appendix F. State guidance is found in the Oregon NHT/Bear Lake Scenic Byway, Pioneer Historic Byway, and Snake River Canyon Scenic Byway Goals and Policies. Local guidance is found in plans and policy documents for Sweetwater and Lincoln County, Wyoming, as well as Cassia County, Idaho.

Federal

The BLM is a member of the Federal Interagency Council on Trails, which also includes the NPS, Forest Service, Federal Highway Administration, USFWS, and other federal agencies. The council operates under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) focusing on uniform implementation and a seamless interagency approach to trails management. The BLM also maintains partnerships with approximately 16 National Scenic and Historic Trail organizations dedicated to the advocacy, preservation, and day-to-day care of these trails (BLM 2000a).

The National Scenic and Historic Trails Strategy and Work Plan states that "the creation of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Office for oversight of Congressional and Presidential designations in 2000, resulted in the BLM National Scenic and Historic Trails being managed as one program (BLM, 2000)." The NLCS Office works closely with the BLM recreation, cultural resources, and engineering groups, as well as others, to help ensure a consistent management approach (BLM 2000a). The mission of the NLCS is to protect, conserve, and restore nationally significant landscapes recognized for their outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values.[1]

[1] NLCS Web site: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/NLCS.html

BLM Visual Resource Management

Public lands crossed by the Project and administered by the BLM have a variety of scenic values. These lands are subject to visual resource management objectives as developed using the BLM VRM System (BLM 1984) and are presented in the RMP or MFP for a given unit. Visual resource management requires the BLM to complete a visual resource inventory of the lands under their management control. The visual resource inventory is a systematic process for determining the visual values on the public lands. The inventory process has three parts: scenic quality evaluation, sensitivity level analysis, and delineation of distance zones. Based on the combinations of the three, BLM-managed lands can then be categorized as Class I (most valued and highest quality of scenery) to Class IV (areas of low scenic quality and sensitivity at most or all distance zones). These inventory classes represent the existing visual resources.

During the resource management planning process, BLM determines how the visual landscape will be managed in the future. The VRM decisions that are made in the planning process result in areas being assigned a VRM management class. These management classes determine how much change should occur in the landscape. VRM Class I areas are managed to preserve the existing character of the landscape and allow for limited management activity. Class II areas allow for low levels of landscape change that do not attract the attention of the casual observer. Class III areas allow for moderate changes to the landscape that may attract attention but are not dominant and Class IV areas allow for high levels of landscape change.

The objectives of each VRM classification, as stated in the BLM VRM Visual Resource Inventory Manual (BLM 1984), are as follows:

- VRM Class I. The objective is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.
- VRM Class II. The objective is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- VRM Class III. The objective is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate or lower. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- VRM Class IV. The objective is to provide for management activities that require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention.

However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

In most areas, the Project would conform to VRM Class III and IV objectives, especially where there is existing disturbance, and those areas will not be discussed further.

Forest Service Scenery Management System

The Forest Service developed the SMS to provide a mechanism for inventory and analysis of landscape resources and the effects of land management activities on those resources. The SMS was developed to eventually replace the VMS and, in October 1996, *Landscape Aesthetics: A Handbook for Scenery Management* (Forest Service 1995) was released to begin the transition to SMS. This handbook supersedes the National Forest Landscape Management, Volume 2, Chapter 1, The Visual Management System (issued April 1974). The SMS is used in the Medicine Bow Forest Plan (Forest Service 2003b).

The SMS entails identifying landscape character, visual sensitivity, and scenic integrity. The SMS was used to evaluate those portions of the Proposed Route (Segments 1E, 1W[a] and 1W[c]) and an alternative (Alternative 1E-C) that would cross the Medicine Bow-Routt NFs. The SMS provides an overall framework for the orderly inventory, analysis, and management of scenery. It is a tool for integrating the benefits, values, desires, and preferences regarding aesthetics and scenery for all levels of land management planning. The SMS also considers Concern Levels, which are a categorization of the importance of scenic resources to Forest visitors. Three concepts of the SMS are of key importance to the present analysis and include: 1) Scenic Attractiveness, 2) Landscape Character, and 3) Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIOs). These concepts and landscape character are defined below:

1. **Scenic Attractiveness** is the primary indicator of the scenic importance of a landscape based on human perceptions of the intrinsic beauty of landforms, rockforms, waterforms, vegetation patterns, and cultural features. Reflects varying visual perception attributes of variety, unity, vividness, intactness, coherence, mystery, uniqueness, harmony, balance, and pattern. The frame of reference for scenic attractiveness (generally at the section scale) is landscape character. Three levels of scenic attractiveness are identified during the scenery inventory process: (A) Distinctive, (B) Common or Typical, and (C) Undistinguished (FSM 2380 – Landscape Management).

2. **Landscape Character** is a combination of physical, biological, and cultural images that gives an area its visual and cultural identity and helps to define a "sense of place." Landscape character provides a frame of reference from which to determine scenic attractiveness and to measure scenic integrity (FSM 2380 – Landscape Management).

3. **SIOs** define the degrees of deviation from the landscape character that may occur at any given time as established by using the process described in

Agriculture Handbook 701, *Landscape Aesthetics: A Handbook for Scenery Management* (Forest Service 1995).

When discussing SIOs, the degree of alteration is measured in terms of visual contrast with the surrounding natural landscape. The objectives of each SIO classification are included below:

- **Very High SIO** – Management activities, except for very low visual-impact recreation facilities, are prohibited. Allows for ecological changes only. The existing landscape character and sense of place is expressed at the highest possible level.
- **High SIO** – Management activities are not visually evident to the casual observer. The landscape character "appears" intact. Deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character so completely and at such scale that they are not evident. Changes in the qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc., should not be evident.
- **Moderate SIO** – Management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape being viewed. Activities may repeat form, line, color, or texture common to the characteristic landscape but may not change in their qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc.
- **Low SIO** – Management activities begin to visually dominate the original characteristic landscape. However, activities of vegetative and landform alteration must borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture so completely and at such a scale that its visual characteristics are those of natural occurrences within the surrounding area or character type. Structures must remain visually subordinate to the proposed composition.
- **Very Low SIO** – Management activities of vegetative and landform alterations may dominate the characteristic landscape. While alterations may not borrow from attributes such as size, shape, edge effect, and pattern of natural openings, vegetative type changes, or architectural styles within or outside the landscape being viewed, they must be shaped and blended with the natural terrain so that elements such as unnatural edges, roads, landings, and structures do not dominate the composition.

The SMS defines four distance zones for project-level planning and to evaluate potential visibility:

- **Immediate Foreground** – At this distance people can distinguish details such as individual leaves, flowers, twigs, bark texture, small animals, and can notice the movement of leaves and grasses in light wind (from 0 to 300 feet).
- **Foreground** – At this distance people can distinguish small boughs of leaf clusters, tree trunks and large branches, individual shrubs, clumps of wildflowers, medium sized animals, and medium-to-large birds. At this distance, people can also distinguish movement of tree boughs and tree tops in moderate winds (from 0 to 0.5 mile). Forms are dominant.

- **Middleground** – This is the predominant distance zone at which NFS landscapes are seen, except for regions of flat lands or tall, dense vegetation. At this distance, people can distinguish individual tree forms, large boulders, flower fields, small openings in the forest, and small rock outcrops. Tree forms typically stand out vividly in silhouetted situations. Form, texture, and color remain dominant, and pattern becomes more visible (from 0.5 to 4 miles).
- **Background** – At a background distance, people can distinguish groves or stands of trees, large openings in a forest, and large rock outcrops. Texture has disappeared and color has flattened, but large patterns of vegetation or rock are still distinguishable, and landform ridgelines and horizon lines are the dominant visual characteristic (from 4 miles to the horizon).

The SMS process uses particular ecosystems as the environmental context for aesthetics. Ecosystem management broadens understanding of environments by its holistic consideration of the physical, biological, and social dimensions of ecosystems. The social dimension has many aspects but one of importance for public lands is recreation. A key attribute of recreation settings is the quality of aesthetics. During the inventory process, the SMS uses interdisciplinary collaborative knowledge to discuss constituent input, landscape character, scenic attractiveness, existing scenic integrity, place attachment, concern levels, distance zones, and scenic classes to develop alternatives and achieve landscape character goals (Forest Service 1995: 5-2).

Forest Service Visual Management System

The VMS is used by NFs that have not yet converted to the SMS, including the Caribou and Sawtooth NFs. The VMS provides a framework for establishing the visual landscape as a basic resource and to treat it as an essential part of the basic quality of the land. VMS identifies a desired level of scenic quality and diversity of natural features based on physical and sociological characteristics of an area, referred to as Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs). A given VQO quantifies the degree of acceptable alterations of the characteristic landscape. VQOs are determined by comparing the variety class with the sensitivity level (Bacon 1974). These terms are described below.

Characteristic Landscape is the naturally established landscape being viewed. It visually represents the basic vegetative patterns landforms, rock formations, and water forms that are in view.

Variety Class designates those landscapes that are most important and those that are of lesser value from the standpoint of scenic quality. The classification is based on the premise that all landscapes have some value, but those with the most variety and diversity have the greatest potential for high scenic quality. There are three variety classes: 1) Class A–Distinctive, 2) Class B–Common, and 3) Class C–Minimal.

Sensitivity Level is a measure of people's concern for the scenic quality of a NF. Sensitivity levels are determined for land areas used by those traveling through the forest on developed roads and trails and those using areas such as campgrounds, visitor centers, and other recreation areas. There are three sensitivity levels: Level I–Highest Sensitivity, Level 2–Average Sensitivity, and Level 3–Lowest Sensitivity.

Distance Zones are divisions of a particular landscape being viewed. The three distance zones are: foreground (the area from 0.25 to 0.5 mile from the observer), middleground (the area from foreground to 3 to 5 miles from the observer), and background (from middleground to infinity).

The VQOs represent the visual resource objectives under the Forest Plan. The objectives of each VQO classification are listed below:

- Preservation – Management activities are generally not allowed in this setting. The landscape is allowed to evolve naturally.
- Retention – Management activities are not evident to the casual Forest visitor.
- Partial Retention – Management activities may be evident, but are subordinate to the characteristic landscape.
- Modification – Management activities may dominate the characteristic landscape but will, at the same time, use naturally established form, line, color, and texture. It should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as middleground.
- Maximum Modification – Management activities may dominate the characteristic landscape, but should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as background.

Segment 4 of the Proposed Route crosses areas classified as having Retention and Partial Retention VQOs within the Caribou-Targhee NF. No alternatives to this portion of Segment 4 have been identified. Segment 7 of the Proposed Route does not cross NFS lands; however, Alternatives 7H and 7I both cross areas classified as Modification VQO and Partial Retention VQO within the Sawtooth NF.

Forest Service Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is a continuum of outdoor recreation settings, which is a combination of the existing or desired physical, managerial, and social conditions. It is a planning and management tool used to provide a variety of opportunities for recreationists. The spectrum ranges from highly developed urban parks to backcountry areas without developed trails. User density, remoteness, and size of the area are some of the factors that contribute to experiences along the spectrum. The ROS Classes on NFS and BLM-managed lands typically include Rural, Roaded Natural, Roaded Modified, Semi-primitive Motorized, and Semi-primitive Nonmotorized. These are described in section 3.17 of the DEIS.

City of Rocks National Reserve Visual Quality Objectives

The NPS Organic Act and the enabling legislation for City of Rocks National Reserve (Reserve) call for the conservation and protection of scenic quality. Naturally existing views and vistas of the City of Rocks were the hallmark of the California NHT experience through southern Idaho. Unlike many other places today, these views remain unimpaired, exhibiting integrity and allowing visitors opportunities to experience a landscape similar to those of the emigrants.

Because of the importance of landmarks and vistas to the visitors' understanding and appreciation of the California Trail, the 1996 City of Rocks National Reserve CMP (NPS 1995) encourages the protection of historic views extending beyond the Reserve boundary. Areas of special concern for their historic landscape values include the views to the south and east from Pinnacle Pass and the foreground of the views from the segment of the California NHT west of the Reserve boundary leading to Granite Pass.

The CMP also recommends that portions of the California NHT prism and associated foreground viewshed, between the Reserve boundary and Granite Pass, be considered for potential addition to the designated national historic landmark. To accomplish these protection measures, the CMP suggests that the NPS, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and Cassia County offer to work in partnership with landowners in these areas to encourage complementary management consistency with design guidelines designed to perpetuate a historic rural setting compatible with the one existing inside the Reserve. It is recommended by NPS that the view from Granite Pass be protected from incompatible development through county zoning.

The NPS is currently preparing a General Management Plan (GMP) for the City of Rocks National Reserve and has expressed interest in the Project due to the abundance of sensitive resources in this general area. As part of the GMP process, the NPS, as required by the National Park and Recreation Act of 1978, has considered extending the boundaries of the Reserve south and incorporating portions of Sparks Basin and areas adjacent to Granite Pass into the Reserve. The NPS must consider boundary changes and other methods to protect important resources, such as historic viewsheds and high potential trail sites and segments along the California NHT. Alternatives 7I and 7J pass approximately 5 miles to the south of the Reserve boundary.

Trails were considered as scenic recreational viewpoints during the field inventory for data collection in this section of the EIS. Many of the trails crossed by the Project are historically important and require an assessment of the setting of each trail for a visual impact survey. The visual impact analysis for historical trails can be reviewed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources of this EIS.

Scenic Roadways

Oregon NHT/Bear Lake Scenic Byway

The State of Idaho's management plan for the Oregon NHT/Bear Lake Scenic Byway proposes view corridor protections, discusses the importance and value of scenic quality, and offers guidance for protection. The Proposed Route for Segment 4 is anticipated to cross the scenic byway twice southeast of Montpelier, Idaho. Following is an excerpt from the management plan that discusses the management objectives:

> *The objective is for management activities to remain invisible to visitors. This is especially true for the foreground areas (up to one-half mile from the viewer). Protection of the view corridor also applies to middle-ground and background areas. Road building and infrastructure development should minimize visual impact along the byway. When there are disturbances, incorporate vegetation*

> *screening to camouflage and blend the disturbance with its surrounding landscape. Materials should blend in with the backgrounds from a distance. Billboards harm the visual appeal of the byway and should be restricted by city and county governments. Metal guardrails are recommended rather than concrete jersey barriers. To further ensure high visual quality standards along the byway, interpretive information should encourage the protection and stewardship of the corridor.*

The plan also discusses the development of new infrastructure: "New infrastructures such as roads and overhead power lines along the byway should be carefully monitored. Preferably the power lines should be placed underground" (Planmakers Planning and Taylor Planning 2008).

Pioneer Historic Byway

Like the Oregon NHT/Bear Lake Scenic Byway Management Plan, the Pioneer Historic Byway Management Plan also places emphasis on the visual or scenic quality of the corridor. The Segment 4 Proposed Route would cross the historic byway approximately 0.3 mile south of Thatcher, Idaho. Following is an excerpt from the management plan (Planmakers and J-U-B Engineers 2008) that states the management objectives:

> *The objective is for management activities to remain invisible to the average viewer, especially for the foreground (up to 1/2 mile from the viewer) areas. Protection of the view corridor also applies to middle and background areas. Road building and infrastructure development should minimize visual impact. Future installation of overhead power lines along the corridor should be minimized. In the case of unavoidable disturbances, vegetation screening should be incorporated to camouflage and blend the disturbed space with its surrounding landscape.*

City of Rocks Backcountry Byway

The City of Rocks Backcountry Byway Rural Heritage Stewardship Handbook and Byway Management Plan (City of Rocks 1998) places emphasis on the visual or scenic quality of the corridor especially in relation to preserving the agricultural and ranching character of the areas adjacent to the byway. However, the byway management plan does not have specific goals and objectives to guide development but rather suggestions as to the level of effort needed to achieve preservation of sensitive visual resources and ways to gain protection from the encroachment of new development. Alternatives 7I and 7J would cross the backcountry byway twice, once directly north of Elba, Idaho, and a second time south of Oakley, Idaho. Following is an excerpt from the management plan (City of Rocks 1998) that states the management suggestions for citizen planning to help achieve protection for visual resources:

> *Citizens have made clear that they do not want a government-led Byway. Therefore a citizen-led Byway needs to communicate its goals to the government agencies that own and manage land in the area of the Byway. For example, the BLM is currently managing their land pursuant to a 1984 RMP. Since the BLM Plan pre-dates the Byway, it contains no special protections or prescriptions for*

> *the Byway. When that plan is updated, the Byway should be involved in the process to assure that the plan pays appropriate attention to rural heritage and other Byway issues. This involvement is particularly important in establishing the Visual Resource Management classifications applicable to BLM land along the byway.*

The plan also states that citizens were interested in implementing all three levels of preservation/management effort identified in the management plan incrementally over the course of the next 10 years (City of Rocks 1998: 65). The plan is currently in the process of being fully implemented and restrictions that protect visual resources will be in place in the near future.

Other Byways

The Western Heritage Historic Byway Corridor Management Plan states in Improvement Recommendations-Site Development Actions: "Every effort should be taken to restrict billboards and other visual pollution on SH-69 to meet the spirit of the byway and to be eligible for national recognition, if desired" (Planmakers and J-U-B Engineers 2004: 3-4). Proposed Route Segment 8 would cross the byway, south of Initial Point, and Alternative 8B would cross the byway south of Kuna, Idaho, directly east of Kuna Butte.

The Big Spring Scenic Backway in Lincoln County, Wyoming, does not have a corridor management plan but does have numerous information sources that identify scenic and recreational opportunities along the backway. These areas experience a higher volume of sensitive viewers when compared to secondary roadways in southwestern Wyoming. Some of the opportunities and resources listed along the backway include the Nancy Hill and Alfred Corum Graves, Kemmerer Reservoir, Lake Viva Naughton, and numerous staging areas north of Kemmerer, Wyoming. Proposed Route Segment 4 would cross the backway directly south of the Bridger NF and again north of Cokeville, Wyoming. Alternatives 4A and 4F would cross this backway between the Kemmerer Reservoir and Lake Viva Naughton and Alternative 4F would cross the backway a second time north of Cokeville, Wyoming.

Alternative 8A would also cross the western end of the Thousand Springs Scenic Byway between Hagerman, Idaho, and Lower Salmon Falls. The Thousand Springs Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (Planmakers and J-U-B Engineers 2007) does not have language specific for new developments or corridor crossings related to visual resources.

The Snake River Canyon Scenic Byway spans more than 50 miles and the State of Idaho is currently working to complete a management plan. Alternative 8B would cross the proposed scenic byway on Map Rock Road north of Walters Island. Without an existing management plan, few general assumptions can be made about how the scenic corridor would be managed at this time. Scenic byway management plans often include language that refers to the protection of scenic resources and to what level of protection there would be for scenic resources, and reference industrial or infrastructure projects and how they should be properly sited to protect visual resources along the

byway. Until that plan has been completed, the Snake River Canyon Scenic Byway should be considered a sensitive and protected recreational resource.

3.2.1.4 Methods

Visual Inventory Methods

The main components of the visual resource inventory included identifying the existing landscape conditions, potential sensitive viewers, and the representative KOPs based on potential viewers; evaluating visual contrast ratings for each KOP; applying BLM's VRM classes and objectives; and assessing visual contrast for areas not managed by BLM.

Approach

The proposed Project would cross numerous jurisdictions and thus be subject to different methodologies for assessing visual contrast and impacts. The Visual Resources approach was differentiated according to: 1) federal lands administered by the BLM, 2) federal lands administered by the Forest Service, and 3) other federal lands, non-federal public lands, and private lands. The approach for lands subject to administration by the BLM was based on the BLM's VRM system. The approach for lands within the Medicine Bow-Route NFs was based on the Forest Service's SMS, while the VMS was used on the Caribou-Targhee and Sawtooth NFs.

Regardless of whether VRM, SMS, or VMS is used for describing landscapes and analyzing the impacts to the scenic quality of a landscape, the common goal is to apply a level of objectivity and consistency to the process and to reduce the subjectivity associated with assessing landscape visual quality. One concept commonly used by federal land managers in the BLM, NPS, and Forest Service to assess impacts to scenic quality is contrast analysis. Contrast analysis can be summarized as the degree to which a project or activity affects scenic quality or visual resources depending on the visual contrasts created or imposed by a project on the existing landscape. The contrasts can be measured by comparing the project's features with the major features in the existing landscape (BLM 1986b). Each land use agency applies the concept differently (e.g., different terminology, different methodologies for assessing impacts); however, the essential contrast analysis process described below is common to the Forest Service, BLM, and NPS. The appropriate terminology and applicable analysis methods required by each federal agency with jurisdiction crossed by the proposed Project were used in applying the contrast analysis process. The process was used to characterize scenic quality and assess potential scenic quality impacts from new transmission line construction.

Visual contrast analysis compares the existing features and contrasts of the landscape to the contrasts imposed on that landscape by a proposed project. The landscape features used in the comparison are the forms, lines, colors, and textures that comprise the existing and potentially modified landscape. Landscape form refers to the unified masses or shapes of the landscape being analyzed, such as existing structures, topography, and natural objects (e.g., pyramidal peaks, blocky or geometric mesas, undulating grassland). Landscape color refers to the colors of structures, vegetation, soil, water, rock, and sky. Landscape textures are the variations, patterns, density, and

graininess of the landscape surface (e.g., uneven, sparse, and seemingly random-ordered shrubs in an arid landscape; even, orderly, dense rows of trees in a forest; and the smooth surface of a body of water), and the dimensions of those surface variations (e.g., tall trees, short grasses). Linear landscape features are the real or implied paths that the eye follows when perceiving abrupt changes in form, color, or texture. These are often noticeable as the edge effect created at the boundary of two contrasting areas (e.g., a strata line along a rock layer, the abrupt boundary between forest and grassland, a dark ridgeline silhouetted against a bright sky). It should be noted that all of these observable landscape features (form, line, color, and texture) can be affected by environmental factors that include the viewing distance, the angle and orientation of view, atmospheric effects (e.g., haze, fog, dust, smoke), lighting conditions, and time of day.

In general, the project-related landscape changes that repeat the natural features of the landscape are considered to be less contrasting with their surroundings. These changes produce low levels of contrast and are considered to have a low impact on existing scenic quality or on the aesthetic values of the landscape. Landscape modifications that do not repeat the natural features of the landscape are considered to be in contrast with that landscape. The contrasts appear obvious and they can be visually displeasing to viewers because they are not well integrated with the existing natural landscape.

For the proposed Project, visual analysis involves determining the degree of visual change between the existing landscape and the landscape changes that would be produced by the proposed Project. The degree of change to the landscape is determined for areas of “high scenic value” or “high visual sensitivity,” that is, landscapes that are most interesting and appealing. These tend to be the undeveloped, natural landscapes with a diversity of lines, forms, colors, and textures.

The non-federal lands crossed by the Proposed Route and Route Alternatives, which include state, county, and private lands, were analyzed using the BLM VRM methods of inventory, which include scenic quality evaluation, sensitive level analysis, and Project visibility, to determine impacts. Although non-federal lands have no VRM (or SMS/VQO) classes to use as a baseline for visual inventory, the basic design principals of form, line, color, and texture as well as distance can be applied to any KOP.

Key Observation Points

KOPs are viewing locations chosen to be generally representative of visually sensitive areas where it can be assumed that viewers may be affected by a change in the landscape setting from the Project. The inventory of KOPs included three components: 1) identification and photographic documentation of potential KOPs and viewing areas, 2) classification of the visual sensitivity of KOPs, and 3) assessment of the potential visibility of the Project from the KOPs. Residents and recreational users are often considered sensitive viewers due to their heightened awareness to change within their surrounding environment.

During the field inventory, 1,329 potential KOP locations were identified and photographed. Photographs were taken to document existing conditions at each

potential KOP and were used to evaluate visual conditions and potential visibility. These potential KOP locations included a diversity of viewer types, such as residences, residential and recreation areas, scenic resources, NHTs, and other cultural locations. Following the inventory, 232 locations were selected. An additional 147 KOPs were identified to document the visual impact on historical and cultural resources as presented in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources. All the KOPs described are considered to represent moderate to high sensitivity viewers due to scenic designations, recreational opportunities, cultural sensitivity, or association with residences or residential areas. All KOPs are shown in Appendix E, Figures E.2-1 through E.2-11.

Views from KOPs are described by distance zones and are based on perception thresholds (changes in form, line, color, and texture). Landscape elements become less obvious and less detailed at greater distances, and the elements of form and line become more dominant than color or texture as distance from the observer increases. The BLM VRM system uses the following distance zones to evaluate potential visibility:

- Foreground-Middleground. The limit of a viewed area in which details are perceived and obvious to the zone in which details of foliage and fine textures cease to be perceptible. Vegetation begins to appear as outlines or patterns. Texture and other aesthetic qualities are normally perceived within this zone (from 0 to about 3 to 5 miles).
- Background. Those portions of the landscape where texture and color are subordinate and the landforms become the most dominant elements (from about 3 to 5 miles to 15 miles).
- Seldom Seen Distance Zone: Portions of the landscape that are generally not visible from KOPs or portions that are visible but more than 15 miles distant.

The Forest Service SMS/VMS uses a set of four distance zones as described earlier in this section.

Views from KOPs are described in terms from the VRM Manual 8431(BLM 1986b):

- Form. The mass or shape of an object or objects that appears unified, such as an opening in forest vegetation, a cliff formation, or a water tank.
- Line. The path, real or imagined, that the eye follows when perceiving abrupt differences in form, color, or texture.
- Texture. The visual manifestations of the interplay of light and shadow created by the variations in the surface of an object or landscape.
- Color. The color or colors present in the landscape.

Scenic Quality Rating

KOPs are also described based on the scenic quality in the immediate vicinity. The elements of scenic quality can be summed up with the brief descriptions below.

High

- Landscape elements (landforms, vegetative patterns, water characteristics, and cultural features) have high visual appeal.

- Landscape has high degrees of variety, vividness, intactness, harmony, and uniqueness (attributes).
- Distinctive landscapes that attract people to view.

Moderate-to-High

- Landscape elements have moderate-to-high visual appeal.
- Landscape characteristics have a mix of moderate and high values.
- Landscape may contain built features that neither complement nor detract from overall visual quality.

Moderate

- Landscape elements are moderately appealing.
- Landscape characteristics have common or ordinary values.
- Landscape may contain inharmonious built features, but they are subordinate

Low-to-Moderate

- Landscape elements have low-to-moderate appeal.
- Landscape has weak or missing characteristics and is somewhat common throughout a broad geographic area.
- Landscape may have prominent though not dominant inharmonious built features.

Low

- Landscape elements have low-to-no appeal.
- Landscape is missing character or is common throughout a broad geographic area.
- Landscape is dominated by inharmonious built features.

Project Visibility

Impacts on sensitive viewers are directly attributable to the Proposed Route and Route Alternative's potential visibility or how it would be seen from a particular viewing area. The three components that establish the degree of visibility resulting from the introduction of the proposed facilities into the visual sphere of influence are: 1) viewing distance; 2) screening and backdropping (i.e., adjacent vegetation, terrain, and development); and 3) degree of project contrast.

The noticeable visual change to the landscape resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Route and Route Alternatives would depend largely on the distance of the structures from the viewer. The contrast of the structures within the landscape typically decreases with increased viewing distance because the details and scale/dominance of the structures are reduced. Conversely, when viewed in close proximity, the details and scale/dominance of the structures are prominent. Figure 3.2-1 shows the visibility of existing transmission towers at varying distances.

Figure 3.2-1. Existing Lattice Transmission Structure Visibility at Varying Distances

Available screening and backdropping also were considered in the assignment of impact levels. Three types of screening were identified within the Analysis Area: 1) vegetative screening (e.g., large stands of lodgepole pine, spruce-fir and Douglas-fir, aspen, juniper, and Gambel oak trees as well as the riparian vegetation along the North Platte, Bear, and Snake Rivers); 2) development screening (e.g., adjacent residences and farm, commercial, or industrial structures); and 3) topographic screening, which varies throughout the visual sphere of influence from very dramatic to almost flat and rolling.

The presence of vegetative, structure, or topographic screening can effectively lower levels of impact assigned to views from surrounding areas. Another variable evaluated in the assignment of impact levels is topographic or vegetative backdropping. The proposed structures are visually absorbed to varying degrees when views are backdropped. The extent of visual absorption by the background is determined by the degree or complexity of visual elements and similarity of the Project to the colors and textures that make up the background.

Impact Assessment Methods

The methods used for the visual resources analysis were based on the BLM (1986b) Visual Resource Contrast Rating System Manual (BLM Manual, Section 8431) and the Forest Service SMS (Forest Service 1995) and VMS (Forest Service 1974). The degree of potential impact on viewers is based on the level of viewer sensitivity combined with Project visibility and contrast relative to the existing landscape.

Photographic Simulations

Twenty-two photographic simulations were developed to help in determining the impacts associated with the selected KOPs and are found in Appendix E, Figures E.2-12 through E.2-33. There are an additional 44 photographic simulations located in Appendix G. Computer-aided drafting equipment and GPS were used to create life-sized models of each structure type that translated into real-world coordinates to locate the photos, position facilities, and add other site features. To complete this phase, the sun angle was set, materials and textures were applied, and the composite image was rendered. Additional filters were sometimes required for appropriate atmospheric conditions (such as haze). To verify the scale and accuracy of each simulation, a visual check of the towers and wires is performed to verify that their sizes and locations were modeled correctly.

The impact level was determined by consideration of the following definitions:

- High Impact – will likely cause a substantial (i.e., to a great extent or degree) long-term and adverse effect on scenic quality, an existing viewshed, or KOP due to the visual contrast between the proposed Project and the existing landscape conditions or level of existing scenic quality.
- Moderate Impact – will create a noticeable but not substantial change in scenic quality; or will cause a noticeable, but not substantial change on a sensitive viewer or KOP.

- Low/No Impact – will create negligible or no change in visual contrast or scenic quality, viewer sensitivity, Project visibility, and viewer exposure.

The simulations are included in Appendix E with the KOP location maps for each Project segment. Additional simulations and location maps are located in Appendix G.

3.2.1.5 Existing Conditions

In Wyoming, Segments 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Project are located predominantly within the Wyoming Basin Physiographic Province and Ecoregion. The Wyoming Basin is one of four provinces that make up the system that dominates southern Wyoming (Fenneman 1931). The Wyoming Basin Ecoregion is a "broad arid intermontane basin interrupted by hills and low mountains and dominated by grasslands and shrublands" (Chapman et al. 2004). The Wyoming Basin, which reaches from Evanston to Casper and covers almost the entire length of the Project in Wyoming, is characterized by elevated plains in various states of erosion and isolated low mountains (Fenneman 1931). Hillside areas are often open grassland interspersed with stands of scrub and trees, creeks, and rock outcroppings. Within the region, the typical views are relatively open and expansive, allowing the identification of distant features within the landscape.

Segment 4 of the Project would pass through the Middle Rocky Mountain physiographic province at the Wyoming border before briefly crossing through the most northerly portion of the Great Basin section of the Basin and Range physiographic province south of Pocatello, Idaho. The Great Basin is characterized by isolated ranges and dissected mountains separated by broad desert plains (Fenneman 1931). Southern Idaho is also defined by the Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion. The physiography of the Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion consists of dissected lava plains, rolling hills, alluvial fans, valleys, and scattered mountains (McGrath et al. 2002). The Middle Rocky Mountain physiographic province is characterized by more complex mountain ranges and intermontane basins. Within the Great Basin region, the typical views are relatively open and expansive, allowing the identification of distant features within the landscape; however, in the Middle Rocky Mountain province, the typical views may be focal or enclosed depending on the surrounding terrain and perspective of the viewer.

In Idaho, the Project would be divided between the Basin and Range Province and the Columbia Plateau Province. The Snake River and associated valley lie within the Snake River Plain section of the Columbia Plateau physiographic province, which is characterized by young lava plateaus. The Owyhee Uplands and Canyons, Semiarid Uplands, and Semiarid Hills and Lowlands Ecoregions, which are scattered throughout the Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion, would display more dramatic, high-relief terrain that may screen views or provide focal points for viewers in southern Idaho. The physiography of the Snake River Plain Ecoregion can be described as plains and low hills where "irrigation water and soil depth are sufficient and agriculture is the predominant use, including low growing crops such as sugar beets, potatoes, alfalfa, small grains, or vegetables. Elsewhere, livestock grazing is widespread as well as cattle feedlots and dairy operations. Potential natural vegetation is mostly sagebrush steppe but barren lava fields and saltbush–greasewood also occur" (McGrath et al. 2002). Within the region, the typical views are relatively open and expansive, allowing the identification of distant features within the landscape.

The following section describes the existing visual environment by segment as viewed from numerous KOPs. The description from each KOP is of the view toward the Proposed Route or Route Alternatives unless noted otherwise. Potential viewers, landscape features, contrast, and scenic quality at each KOP are addressed. Photos and simulations are included in Appendices E or G, as noted below.

Segment 1E – Windstar to Aeolus

Segment 1E would cross approximately 5.0 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives (2.2 miles in Casper FO and 2.8 miles in Rawlins FO). Segment 1E would also cross 64.0 miles of private land and 22.0 miles of land owned by the State of Wyoming, as well as 2.7 miles of NFS land within the Medicine Bow-Routt NFs. Approximately 1.3 miles of Alternative 1E would parallel an existing transmission line (approximately 1,500 feet to the southeast) and the remaining 1.4 miles would be Greenfield. The Medicine Bow Forest Plan states that the SIO for utility corridors will be compatible with the SIO of the adjacent land. The adjacent land has a Moderate SIO. Management activities in an area with an SIO of Moderate must remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape being viewed.

Proposed Route

KOP 860 (Figure E.2-1/Appendix G, Figure R-1a). Views from KOP 860 represent the views of residents in the valley between Forty-mile Peak and Smith Mountain. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged, rocky terrain are considered to have high scenic quality . The landscape is unique compared to the adjacent views in the region and has landscape elements of visual interest with few human-made alterations to the landscape in the foreground and middleground views. A focal point of the view is a feature named Long Draw. This KOP is adjacent to KOP 988, a resident on Marshall Road.

KOP 1001 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 1001 represent the views of recreational golfers and the surrounding residences at the Glenrock Golf Course's clubhouse looking due south toward the rolling to rugged terrain of Deer Creek and Mormon Canyon. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. The landscape is fairly common throughout the area and lacks scarce landscape elements of visual interest. There are few human-made alterations to the landscape in the foreground and middleground views. A focal point of the view, which also compromises the aesthetic quality of the landscape, is the highly visible limestone quarry in the background.

KOP 1015 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 1015 represent the views of recreational drivers and historical enthusiasts at the historical marker of the Brigham Young-BYX Mail Station Site on Deer Creek Road, looking northwest across the rolling hills south of I-25. Viewers at this location have open panoramic and subordinate views of the undulating and amorphous terrain. This view is considered to have low to moderate scenic quality due to the lack of distinct landscape features.

KOP 105 (Figure E.2-1/Appendix G-2 Figure 5.1-2). Views from KOP 105 were used to represent scenic views west of the Deer Creek Range and Reno Hill, which are

important to sensitive viewers in this remote area of the Medicine Bow-Routt NFs. There were no KOPs within the Forest due to the remote nature of the area; however, views in the surrounding area range from the undulating valley to more dramatic rocky terrain with numerous mountain silhouettes. KOP 105 is located approximately 2.5 miles south of the Medicine Bow-Routt NFs boundary, but it represents views of the surrounding areas adjacent to the Forest. KOP 105 and other adjacent viewpoints exhibit diversity in form, line, color, and texture with few human-made features. The most visible human-made feature in the surrounding area is an existing 230 kV transmission line.

KOP 983 (Figure E.2-1). Northeast views from KOP 983 represent the views from a residence and travelers on Little Medicine Road, south of Little Medicine Falls. Open panoramic views of the complex undulating terrain with rock outcroppings and dendritic drainage patterns are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality due to the presence of distinct landscape features as well as a lack of human-made intrusions.

KOP 986 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 986 represent the views from a residence on Little Medicine Road looking northeast. Open panoramic views of the undulating terrain with rocky mountainous background terrain are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality. The lack of distinct landscape features, as well as human-made intrusions, distract from the overall landscape composition.

KOP 985 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 985 represent the views from a residence on Balsh Road in Medicine Bow-Routt NFs looking southwest. Open panoramic views of the undulating terrain bordered by large, more dominant vegetation are considered to have moderate to high scenic attractiveness due to the presence of dominant vegetation and few human-made intrusions.

KOP 988 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 988 represent the views from a residence on Marshall Road looking south toward a feature called Long Draw. Open panoramic and focal views of the complex undulating terrain with rugged mountainous silhouettes are considered to have high scenic quality due to the presence of distinct landscape features as well as a lack of human-made intrusions. Most of the human-made features in the view appear as rustic agricultural outbuildings. These structures do not detract from the landscape features and are aesthetically neutral. They do not distract from the overall landscape composition.

KOP 990 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 990 represent the views of a residence next to CR 64, looking south and southwest close to Buck Point and the Greasewood Flats. An open panoramic view of the undulating terrain is considered to have moderate scenic quality due to the presence of some distinct landscape features and lack of human-made intrusions.

KOP 853 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 853 represent the views of a residence next to Sheep Creek, looking southeast close to Buck Point. Open panoramic views of the undulating and contrasting red rock terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality due to the presence of some distinct landscape features and lack of human-made intrusions.

KOP 107 (Figure E.2-1). KOP 107 represents views of Highway 487 north of Medicine Bow, Wyoming. From this location there are open panoramic views of Pine Butte and Flattop Mountain in the middleground and background. Views also include fencing and overhead transmission lines converging in the middleground. Open panoramic views of the rolling hills and geologic features offer some landscape contrast, but views are considered to be of low scenic quality due to the indistinct landscape features and the presence of human-made features (i.e., fencing, mile markers, and overhead utilities) which detract from the scenic quality.

Alternative 1E-A

Segment 1E has three alternatives. Alternative 1E-A, the first alternative, would parallel I-25 before crossing diagonally and heading south toward Banner Mountain. The Route Alternative would cross approximately 6.6 miles of lands owned by the State of Wyoming and 9.5 miles of privately owned lands.

KOP 38 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 38 represent the views of recreational users at this North Platte River access and recreation area. Open panoramic and focal views of the North Platte River riparian landscape and surrounding rolling hills in the middleground and background are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Numerous existing human-made alterations, including the Dave Johnston Power Plant and adjacent industrial features, create a skyline effect in the background of the view. Open panoramic views of the rolling hills and riparian landscapes in the middleground to background offer some landscape contrast. Views are considered to be of low to moderate scenic quality due to the presence of electric utilities and industrial features in the middleground and background, which detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 37 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 37 represent those of recreational viewers touring by automobile or hiking the Oregon NHT. Open panoramic views of distant mountains and rolling hills add contrast. These views include the presence of large electric generation and transmission facilities along the river, including the Dave Johnston Power Plant. Open panoramic views of the rolling hills and riparian landscape by the North Platte River in the middleground to background offer some landscape and vegetation contrast. Views are considered to be of low to moderate scenic quality due to the presence of large electric facilities in the middleground and background of the view that detract from the scenic quality. This viewpoint is also discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

Alternative 1E-B

The second alternative for Segment 1E, Alternative 1E-B, would cross approximately 2.6 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives and 5.0 miles of lands owned by the State of Wyoming. Alternative 1E-B is a variation of the Proposed Route northeast of Medicine Bow, Wyoming. Alternative 1E-B would also cross approximately 45.6 miles of privately owned lands. The following seven KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 1E-B.

KOP 62 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 62 represent the views of residences on Rock Creek and Fort Fetterman Road, or CR 61 looking west toward the rugged terrain

of Smith Mountain, as well as Reed Pass beyond the residence in the middleground. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. There are numerous aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views, such as Smith Mountain and the surrounding rocky outcroppings, and very few human-made alterations.

KOP 991 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 991 represent the views from a residence adjacent to Hay Creek Road looking west. Open panoramic views of the complex undulating terrain with rugged mountainous silhouettes are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Distinct landscape features add to the scenic quality, while human-made intrusions such as fences, signs, and cattle guards detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 993 (Figure E.2-1). East views from KOP 993 represent the views of recreational visitors at the Toltec Reservoir public fishing area. Open panoramic views of the complex rocky terrain and waterbody are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Distinct landscape features add to the scenic quality, while human-made intrusions such as the dams, reservoir retaining walls, parking structures, and bathroom facilities detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 995 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 995 represent the views from a residence on Esterbrook Road looking southwest toward Greasewood Flats. Open panoramic views of the complex undulating terrain and mountainous silhouettes are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Distinct landscape features add to the scenic quality, while human-made intrusions such as fences and small power poles detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 999 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 999 represent the views of recreational visitors at the Wheatland Reservoir Number 3 parking area, looking northwest toward Red Hill. Open panoramic views of the complex undulating terrain and reservoir are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Distinct landscape features add to the scenic quality, while human-made intrusions such as the dams and reservoir retaining walls detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 840 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 840 represent the views of a residence at Carlin Ranch, looking north toward the Como Bluffs. Open panoramic views of the complex undulating to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality due to the presence of distinct landscape features with few human-made intrusions.

KOP 982 (Figure E.2-1). Northeast views from KOP 982 represent the views of residences on the northern boundary for the jurisdiction of the town of Medicine Bow, Wyoming. Open panoramic views of the undulating terrain with distant mountainous silhouettes are considered to have moderate scenic quality. The lack of distinct landscape features as well as the presence of human-made intrusions detract from the scenic quality.

Alternative 1E-C

The third alternative for Segment 1E, Alternative 1E-C, would parallel Segment 1W(a) beginning at point 1Ee and continuing south to the Aeolus Substation. The 48.0-mile

Route Alternative would cross approximately 0.5 mile of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives, 10.2 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives, and 2.1 miles of NFS land with an SIO of Moderate. The following four KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 1E-C.

KOP 105 (Figure E.2-1/Appendix G-2, Figure 5.1-2). Described above.

KOP 89 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 90 represent those of recreational users at the Bates Creek Reservoir, close to a BLM access road and a historic cabin site. From the top of the main retaining wall of Bates Creek Reservoir, there are open views of the surrounding valley of the Shirley Basin area, which has very little landscape contrast. However, the existing transmission line in the background is scarcely visible due to blending in with the background terrain (backdropping), resulting in low to moderate scenic quality.

KOP 86 (Figure E.2-1). Views from this KOP represent those of recreational drivers along a BLM access road close to the Proposed Route. Open panoramic views from the top of this lookout area are of the surrounding valley of the Shirley Basin in the middleground and background. There is little landscape contrast; however, the existing transmission line in the middleground is scarcely visible due to backdropping. Views would be of low to moderate scenic quality due to low landscape contrast and the presence of existing human-made modifications, which detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 90 (Figure E.2-1). KOP 90 represents the view from a historic cabin site in the Shirley Basin area of Wyoming looking east (it is the same location as KOP C98). Open panoramic views of the surrounding valley, Shirley Basin, offer little landscape contrast. However, the existing transmission line is scarcely visible due to the foreground terrain. Views would be of moderate scenic quality due to low landscape contrast and the presence of a few existing human-made modifications, which detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 46 (Figure E.2-1). Views from this KOP represent those of local commuters and residents traveling north on State Highway 487. Open panoramic views from the top of this hill crest are of the surrounding valley of the Shirley Basin in the middleground and Ice Cave Mountain in the background. There is little landscape contrast, and the existing transmission line in the foreground and middleground is highly visible because it parallels the roadway. Views would be low to moderate scenic quality due to the presence of existing human-made modifications and the lack of scarce scenic landscape elements.

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

Segment 1W(a) would cross approximately 0.7 mile of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives, 10.6 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives, and 2.3 miles of NFS land (Medicine Bow-Routt NFs) with an SIO of Moderate. Where Segment 1W(a) would cross this NFS land, it is a rebuild of an existing transmission line. Segment 1W(c) would cross approximately 1.3 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives (Casper FO) and 9.1 miles of

BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives. Approximately 2.3 miles of Segment 1W(c) would cross NFS land with an SIO of Moderate, approximately 1,500 feet southeast of Segment 1W(a) along the edge of the existing utility corridor. This area is allocated to MA 8.3, Utility Corridors and Electronic Sites.

The Segments 1W(a) and 1W(c) Proposed Routes would cross 18.5 miles and 15.4 miles, respectively, of lands owned by the State of Wyoming. The following 13 KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Segment 1W.

Proposed Route – 1W(a)

KOP C98 (Figure E.2-1). Views from this viewpoint are from a historic cabin. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 1004 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 1004 represent the views of a residence looking southwest across the North Platte River and the town of Glenrock. Open views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality. The presence of numerous human-made alterations and/or built elements (such as the visible transmission line, railroad, buildings, storage tanks, and a limestone quarry) adjacent to this view and in the visible distance distract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1005 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 1005 represent the views of numerous residences on Cottonwood Lane looking northeast. Open panoramic views of the rolling and patchy rugged terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Human-made alterations adjacent to this view detract from the scenic quality, while somewhat intact natural landscape elements add to the scenic quality.

KOP 1008 (Figure E.2-1). North views from KOP 1008 represent the views of recreational hikers along the Trail at the Rock in the Glen historic site, west of the town of Glenrock. Open panoramic and elevated views of the gently rolling and indistinct terrain are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality. Numerous human-made alterations adjacent to this view are subordinate to the intact natural landscape elements found within the view; however, they detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1006 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 1006 represent the views of a residence looking west along Highway 87. An open panoramic view of the gently rolling and riparian terrain is considered to have low to moderate scenic quality. Human-made alterations adjacent to this view that are not dominant in this somewhat intact natural landscape with a riparian corridor detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 105 (Figure E.2-1 / Appendix G-2 Figure 5.1-2). Described above.

KOP 89 (Figure E.2-1). Views represent those of recreational users at the Bates Creek Reservoir, close to a BLM access road and historic cabin site. From the top of the main retaining wall of Bates Creek Reservoir, there are open views of the surrounding valley of the Shirley Basin area, which is in the middleground and background. There is little landscape contrast; however, the existing transmission line in the background is scarcely visible because of how it blends in with the background terrain, resulting in low to moderate scenic quality.

KOP 86 (Figure E.2-1). Views from this KOP represent those of recreational drivers along a BLM access road. Open panoramic views from the top of this lookout area are of the surrounding valley of the Shirley Basin in the middleground and background There is little landscape contrast, though the existing transmission line in the middleground is scarcely visible due to backdropping. Views would be of low to moderate scenic quality due to low landscape contrast and the presence of existing human-made modifications, which detract from the scenic quality.

Proposed Route – 1W(c) Alignment

Segment 1W(c) would cross approximately 24.2 miles of BLM-administered land, including 1.3 miles managed with VRM Class II objectives, and 9.1 miles managed with VRM Class III objectives. The route would also cross 14.8 miles of land owned by the State of Wyoming, as well as approximately 30 miles of privately owned land. The route would be a rebuild of an existing line for all but approximately 9 miles of its length. The following four KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Segment 1W(c).

KOP 56 (Figure E.2-1). KOP 56 is directly adjacent to the Oregon NHT and Oregon NHT marker. From this location, there are open panoramic views of the broad floodplains of the North Platte River with the surrounding mountains in the background. Views also include overhead transmission lines and an abundance of industrial electric utilities in the foreground and middleground. Open panoramic views of the rolling hills and riparian landscape by the river in the middleground to background offer some landscape contrast. However, views are considered to be of low to moderate scenic quality due to the presence of electrical transmission lines and the Dave Johnston Power Plant in the middleground and in the distance, which detract from the scenic quality. KOP 56 is also discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 83 (Figure E.2-1). Views from this KOP represent the views from residences within 3.25 miles of the Dave Johnson Power Plant. Open panoramic views of the rolling hills in the middleground and distant mountain views offer little landscape contrast. Views of the existing electric utilities in the middleground create a skyline effect around the adjacent residences. These views are considered to be of low to moderate scenic quality due to both the presence of existing electric utilities in the middleground and background distance zones lowering contrast levels and detracting from the scenic quality.

KOP 1013 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 1013 represent the views of a residence adjacent to Deer Creek Road looking southwest toward Banner Mountain, directly west of Phillips Spring. Open panoramic and focal views of the rolling to rugged terrain is considered to have moderate to high scenic quality due to the lack of human-made alterations and the presence of distinct landscape features, such as Banner Mountain and Lower Deer Creek Canyon.

KOP 105 (Figure E.2-1/Appendix G-2, Figure 5.1-2). Described above.

Alternative 1W-A (1 to 1Wb)

Segment 1W has one alternative, 1W-A, which crosses approximately 5.5 miles of lands owned by the State of Wyoming and 10.7 miles of private land. The following three KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 1W-A.

KOP 1010 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 1010 represent the views of residences along Highway 87 looking southeast. Open panoramic views of the indistinct, rolling terrain are considered to have low scenic quality. Numerous vertical and geometric human-made alterations adjacent to this view, including the visually dominant Dave Johnston Power Plant, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 71 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 71 represent the views of residences along CR 61 adjacent to Banner Draw looking southeast. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Distinct landscape elements, as well as human-made alterations adjacent to this view, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1011 (Figure E.2-1). Views from KOP 1011 represent the views of a residence adjacent to Deer Creek Road looking southwest toward Banner Mountain, directly west of Banner Draw. Open panoramic and focal views of the rolling terrain and distant rugged terrain of Banner Mountain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. The lack of human-made alterations and the presence of distinct landscape features, such as the terrain of Banner Mountain and Lower Deer Creek Canyon, add to the scenic quality of the landscape.

Segment 2 – Aeolus to Creston

Segment 2 would traverse an area of checkerboard land ownership largely to the south of I-80 in Wyoming. This segment would cross approximately 22.9 miles of BLM-administered land managed to conform to VRM Class III objectives and approximately 6.2 miles of Wyoming state land. Most of the land crossed by Segment 2 is private (approximately 53.5 miles).

Proposed Route

The Proposed Route generally follows the base or foot of topographic features including the Hogback providing a backdrop from potential viewing areas except at the crossing of I-80 and the North Platte River. Views range from moderate to high scenic quality. The following nine KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or typical views within this area of the Project.

KOP C4 (Figure E.2-2). Views from this viewpoint on Lincoln Highway are discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C3 (Figure E.2-2). Views from this viewpoint on Lincoln Highway are discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C2 (Figure E.2-2). Views from this viewpoint on Lincoln Highway are discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C1 (Figure E.2-2). Views from this viewpoint on the Rawlins to Baggs Stage Road and are discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 836-East (Figure E.2-2). Views from KOP 836-East represent the views of a residence looking east through Coyote Canyon and across Highway 30 toward Coal Bank Basin and Elk Mountain. Open views of the rolling terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Unique landscape features, such as Elk Mountain, add to the scenic quality, while the presence of numerous human-made alterations and/or built elements (such as the visible transmission line) adjacent to this view detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 94 (Figure E.2-2). Views represent those of recreational drivers along the historic Old Lincoln Highway. Open panoramic views of the surrounding mountains in the background offer some landscape contrast and include transmission and telephone lines, as well as sheds and a substation in the foreground and middleground. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged hills in the middleground to background would offer some landscape contrast, but views are of low to moderate scenic quality. The distance and the presence of electric utilities in the middleground of the view detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 822 (**Figure E.2-2).** Views from KOP 822 represent the views of recreational users at the Rochelle public access area adjacent to the North Platte River looking north toward the Hogback geologic formation. Enclosed and focal views of the rolling and rugged terrain bisected by the North Platte River are considered to have high scenic quality due to the lack of human-made alterations and relatively pristine conditions of landscape elements adjacent to this view.

KOP 824 (Figure E.2-2). Views from KOP 824 represent the views of a residence directly adjacent to the North Platte River looking east between the Hogback geologic formation and Whitehorse Canyon. Open panoramic views of the flat to rolling and rugged terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. The presence of a variety of natural landscape elements add to the scenic quality, while human-made alterations detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 829 (Figure E.2-2). Views from KOP 829 represent the views of a residence looking north to northeast toward the proposed Project, east of the Coal Mine Draw and north of the Five Mile Ridge. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality. The presence of numerous human-made alterations adjacent to this view and throughout the perceptible viewing range detract from the scenic quality; however, the mountainous views in the background add to the interest and complexity of the view.

Alternative 2A

Alternative 2A would traverse an area of checkerboard land ownership of BLM-administered (7.6 miles managed with VRM Class III objectives) and 1.7 miles of Wyoming state lands. BLM-administered land in this area is primarily VRM Class III and IV; therefore, this alternative should conform to VRM objectives. Alternative 2A could be seen from many of the proposed KOPs of Alternative 2B, with the exception of

KOP 94, due to the close proximity of the alternative to the Proposed Route from this particular viewing location. The following four KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or typical views within this area of the Project.

KOP 838 (Figure E.2-2). Views from KOP 838 represent the views of dispersed residences and three churches at the southwestern edge of the town of Hanna, Wyoming. The view to the south is of the Sand Hills, with Elk Mountain visible in the background. Open panoramic views of the flat to rolling and rugged terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. The presence of numerous human-made alterations adjacent to this view detract from the scenic quality and the distant scenic landscape elements.

KOP 836-West (Figure E.2-2). Views from KOP 836-West represent the views of a residence looking northwest to west across Coyote Canyon and towards St. Mary's Hill. Partially screened views of the rolling to rugged terrain in Coyote Canyon are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Terrain and the presence of numerous human-made alterations adjacent to this view (e.g., powerlines, pipelines, and fencing) detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 9 (Figure E.2-2). Views from KOP 9 represent the views of recreational users in the Fort Fred Steele cemetery at a historic marker, located at the top of a hill overlooking Whitehorse Canyon and the North Platte River. Open panoramic views of Whitehorse Canyon and surrounding mountains in the background include human-made alterations (transmission structures, houses, barns) in the middleground. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged hills in the middleground to background and riparian landscapes adjacent to the North Platte River create landscape contrast; however, scenic quality is considered low to moderate due to the presence of electric utilities in the foreground and middleground.

KOP 5 (Figure E.2-2). From this KOP, an informational kiosk at historic Fort Fred Steele, visitors have views to the north across Whitehorse Canyon and a reach of the North Platte River toward the Project. From this particular viewing area, railings for a cemetery are visible in the immediate foreground marking the viewing area, and two existing transmission lines can be seen in the middleground distance zone. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged hills in the middleground to background offer some landscape contrast, but views are of low to moderate scenic quality. The presence of numerous existing electric utilities in the middleground of the view detract from the scenic quality.

Alternative 2B

Alternative 2B traverses an area of checkerboard land ownership of BLM-administered land (2.3 miles managed with VRM Class III objectives) and 3.8 miles of private lands. BLM-administered land in this area is primarily VRM Class III; therefore, Alternative 2B should conform to VRM objectives. The following KOP location was selected to represent the most sensitive or typical views within this area of the Project.

KOP 4 (Figure E.2-2). Views from KOP 4 represent those of residences south of historic Fort Fred Steele, looking north toward the Fort and North Platte River with Mount Steele and the Fort Steele Mountains in the background. Open panoramic

views, with surrounding mountains in the background, are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Existing alterations (transmission structures, houses, barns) in the middleground detract from the scenic quality.

Alternative 2C

Alternative 2C would traverse an area of checkerboard land ownership, west of Hanna Draw Road, which consists of BLM-administered land (11.3 miles managed with VRM Class III objectives) and 12.9 miles of Wyoming state lands. BLM-administered land in this area is primarily VRM Class III (3.7 miles) and IV (7.6 miles); therefore, this alternative should conform to VRM objectives. Alternative 2C could be seen from the KOPs of Alternative 2A and the Proposed Route. There is one KOP location selected to represent the most sensitive or typical views within this area of the Project.

KOP 836-West (Figure E.2-2). Views from KOP 836-West represent the views of a residence looking northwest to west across Coyote Canyon and towards St. Mary's Hill. Partially screened views of the rolling to rugged terrain in Coyote Canyon are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Terrain and the presence of numerous human-made alterations adjacent to this view (e.g., powerlines, pipelines, and fencing) detract from the scenic quality.

Segment 3 – Creston to Anticline

Segment 3 would cross approximately 19 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives (10.4 miles in Rock Springs FO and 8.5 miles in the Rawlins FO) and 10 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class IV objectives (6.5 miles in the Rock Springs FO and 3.6 miles in the Rawlins FO). Segment 3 would also cross 1.0 mile of Wyoming State land and 26.5 miles of private land. The following KOP location was selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical viewers within this area of the project.

Proposed Route

KOP 16 (Figure E.2-3). Views from KOP 16 represent those of drivers on I-80 and at a particular rest area close to Bitter Creek Road. Open panoramic views of flat to rolling terrain include human-made alterations (transmission structures, oil and gas structures, sheds) in the middleground. Open panoramic views of the flat to rolling terrain in the middleground to background would offer some landscape contrast, but views are of low scenic quality due to the presence of numerous human-made disturbances. Disturbances include electric utilities in the foreground and middleground of the view, which detract from the scenic quality.

Segment 4 – Anticline to Populus

Segment 4 would cross 9.2 miles of NFS land in the Caribou-Targhee NF, approximately 8 miles of which is managed with a VQO of Partial Retention and 1.3 miles with a VQO of Retention. A VQO of Retention requires that management activities or alterations not be visually apparent and Partial Retention requires that management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. The following KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical

views for Segment 4. Segment 4 has six Route Alternatives, almost entirely within the Kemmerer subsegment in proximity to sensitive landscape elements such as the Cokeville Meadows NWR and Fossil Butte National Monument in Lincoln County, Wyoming. None of the six Route Alternatives would cross NFS land.

Segment 4 would cross 82.1 miles of BLM-administered lands, including 19.9 miles managed with VRM Class II objectives, and 23.0 miles managed with VRM Class III objectives.

Proposed Route

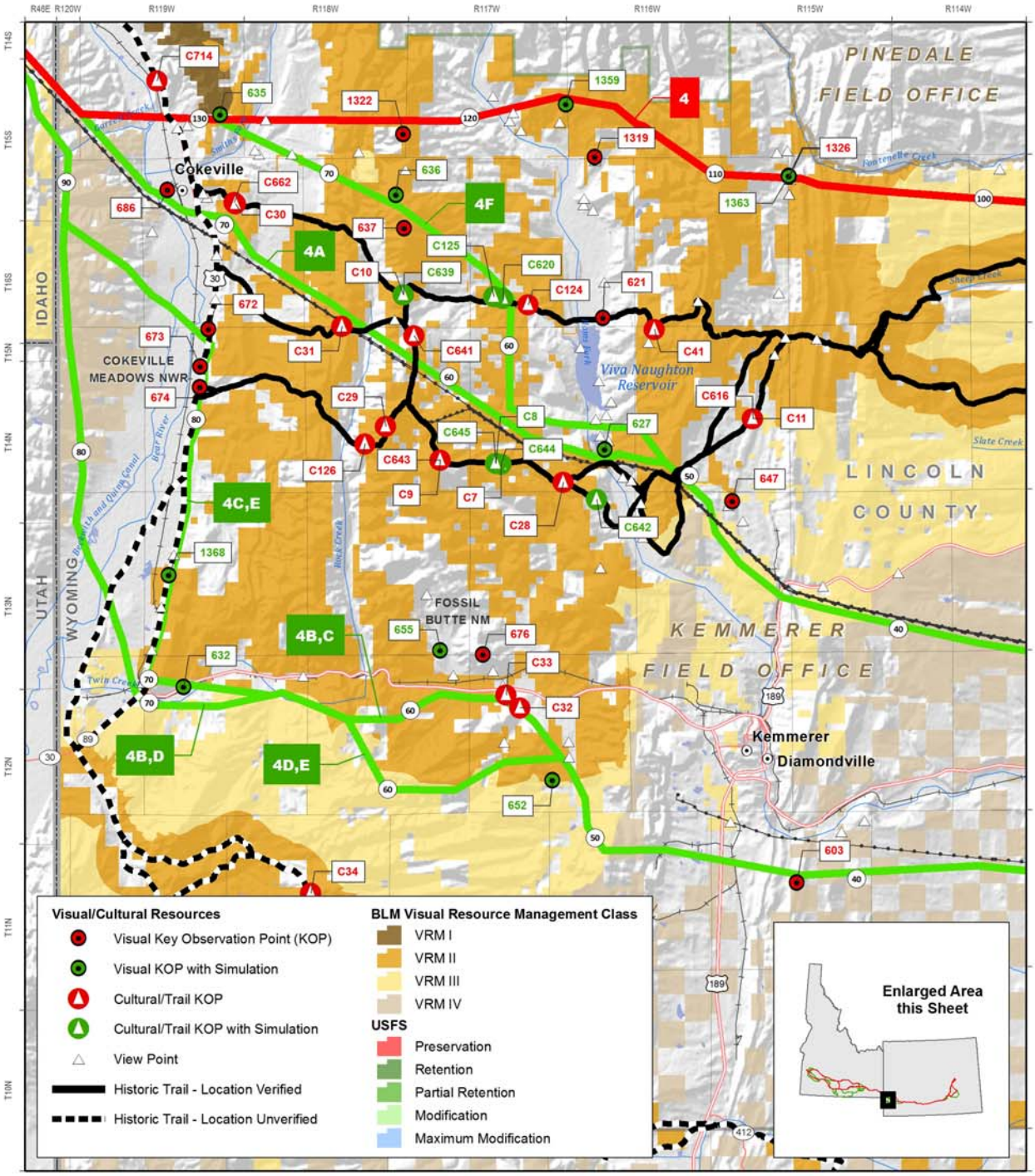
The following 24 KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views, and were analyzed for potential impacts on visual resources for Segment 4 of the Project. Figure 3.2-2 shows the Kemmerer area in greater detail.

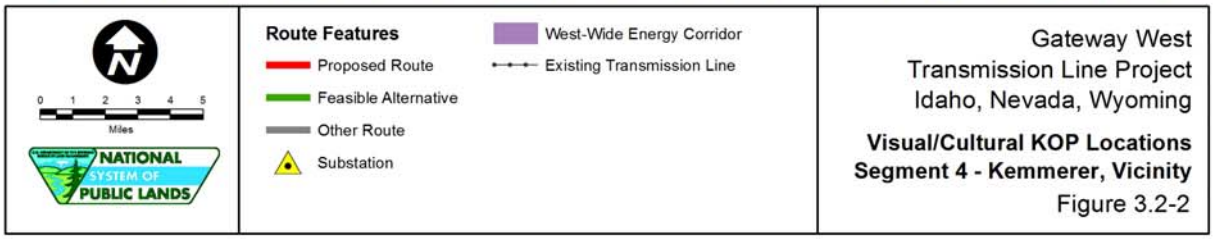
KOP C105 (Figure E.2-4). Views from this point are from the McCauley's Road and Big Hill historic markers along the Oregon NHT. This KOP has cultural as well as visual resource concerns and is described in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 1346 (Figure E.2-5/Appendix G, Figure CB-1a). Views from KOP 1346 represent the views of recreational users/drivers traveling along the Highline Trail in the Caribou-Targhee NF. Views in this area are enclosed by the surrounding vegetation and topography. Enclosed views of the surrounding landscape are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. The lack of substantial human-made alterations in the foreground and middleground and the dominant vegetation, which exhibits a variety of forms and textures, increases the scenic quality.

KOP 25 (Figure E.2-4). Views from KOP 25 represent those of recreational users/drivers along U.S. Route 191 looking west toward the Landscapes of Power recreation area. The view is backdropped by mountains and the Sand Knolls, with the Boar's Tusk geological feature in the Seldom-Seen distance zone. This KOP is on BLM-administered lands managed to conform to VRM Class III objectives. Open panoramic views, with surrounding mountains in the background, are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Numerous human-made alterations create a skyline effect in the middleground and detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 23 (Figure E.2-4). Views from KOP 23 represent the views of recreational users along the Wild Horse BLM/NPS Trail, looking west toward the Landscapes of Power recreation area (KOP 25). The view is backdropped by mountains and the Sand Knolls as well as the Boar's Tusk geological feature in the Seldom-Seen distance zone. This KOP is on BLM-administered lands managed to conform to VRM Class III objectives. Open panoramic views of the surrounding mountains in the background views are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Numerous human-made alterations create a skyline effect in the middleground view and detract from the scenic quality.


PINEDALE
FIELD OFFICE
LINCOLN
COUNTY
KEMMERER
FIELD OFFICE
IDAHO
WYOMING
UTAH
Cokeville
COKEVILLE
MEADOWS NWR
FOSSIL
BUTTE NM
Viva Naughton
Reservoir
Kemmerer
Diamondville
4
4A
4F
4C,E
4B,C
4B,D
4D,E
Visual/Cultural Resources
Visual Key Observation Point (KOP)
Visual KOP with Simulation
Cultural/Trail KOP
Cultural/Trail KOP with Simulation
View Point
Historic Trail - Location Verified
Historic Trail - Location Unverified
BLM Visual Resource Management Class
VRM I
VRM II
VRM III
VRM IV
USFS
Preservation
Retention
Partial Retention
Modification
Maximum Modification
Enlarged Area
this Sheet


Miles
NATIONAL
SYSTEM OF
PUBLIC LANDS
Route Features
Proposed Route
Feasible Alternative
Other Route
Substation
West-Wide Energy Corridor
Existing Transmission Line
Gateway West
Transmission Line Project
Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming
Visual/Cultural KOP Locations
Segment 4 - Kemmerer, Vicinity
Figure 3.2-2

KOP 26 (Figure E.2-4). The views from KOP 26 represent those of recreational viewers touring by automobile or hiking the Oregon NHT. Segment 4 would run parallel to SR 372 in the foreground and cross behind this particular view. This KOP is on BLM-administered lands managed to conform to VRM Class III objectives. Open panoramic views of distant mountains in the background add some contrast and include overhead transmission lines. Views are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Numerous human-made alterations create a skyline effect in the middleground and detract from the scenic quality. This viewpoint is also discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 1315 (Figure E.2-4). Views from KOP 1315 represent those of recreational campers at the BLM's Fontenelle Reservoir campground looking southwest toward Highway 189. Open panoramic views of the surrounding rugged terrain and water feature are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Human-made alterations in the middleground detract from the scenic quality, while distinct landscape views with the presence of a waterbody increase the scenic quality.

KOP 1295 (Figure E.2-4). Views from KOP 1295 represent the southeast views of residences in the Pomeroy Draw area adjacent to Dry Hollow. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Few aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views, as well as human-made alterations throughout the Pomeroy Draw, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1288 (Figure E.2-4/Appendix G-1, Figure K-1c). South views from KOP 1288 represent the views of recreational hikers/drivers on CR 314 at a crossing of the Oregon NHT. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Few aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views, as well as human-made alterations throughout the Pomeroy Draw, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1292 (Figure E.2-4). Views from KOP 1292 represent the views of a resident off of CR 314 looking southwest toward rolling to rocky terrain. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Few aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views, as well as human-made alterations and landscape scarring, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1363 (Figure E.2-5/Appendix G, Figure K-2c). Views from KOP 1363 represent the views of travelers on Sublet Pomeroy Road (CR 306) looking south toward rolling to rocky terrain of Oyster Ridge. The open and focal views are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality due to the variety of landforms and vegetation and presence of few human-made alterations.

KOP 1326 (Figure E.2-5). Views from KOP 1326 represent those of residential viewers adjacent to Mammoth Springs on Sublet Pomeroy Road. The KOP is facing south toward mountainous terrain. Open panoramic and focal views, with surrounding mountains in the background, are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Human-made alterations in the middleground detract from the scenic quality, while distinct background landscape views add to the scenic quality.

KOP 1319 (Figure E.2-5). Views from KOP 1319 represent those of seasonal residential campers at a temporary dwelling and campers adjacent to Spring Gulch. The KOP is facing a northeastern view toward Fort Hill and Miller Mountain, which are not apparent due to atmospheric seasonal conditions. Open panoramic views, with surrounding mountains in the background , are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Human-made alterations in the middleground detract from the scenic quality, while distinct background views add to the scenic quality.

KOP 1359 (Figure E.2-5/Appendix G, Figure K-2a). Views from KOP 1359 represent those of recreational viewers approximately 2.3 miles east of Hams Fork Road (CR 305) looking north across Commissary Ridge and the East Fork of Pole Creek. The rolling to mountainous views are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality due to the variety of vegetation and presence of several roads.

KOP 1322 (Figure E.2-5). Views from KOP 1322 represent those of recreational drivers and viewers north of Coke Mountain, on Sublet Cuttoff Road looking north toward Buck and Bear Canyon. KOP 1326 is on BLM-administered land managed to conform to VRM Class II objectives. Open superior and high elevation views, with surrounding mountains in the background, are considered to have high scenic quality due to few discernable human-made features and distinct, scenic background landscape views.

KOP 635 (Figure E.2-4). Terrain encloses the views of recreationists and ranchers around this KOP located adjacent to Quealy Reservoir on the south and a WSA immediately north. The BLM road that provides access to the reservoir continues east and eventually turns north providing access to the east side of the WSA. The town of Cokeville, not visible from this point, is located about 2.8 miles to the southeast along Highway 30. Scenic quality is considered moderate to high due the minimal human-made alterations, water, variable landforms, and vegetation.

KOP 697 (Figure E.2-5). Views from KOP 697 represent those of recreational users/drivers along U.S. Highway 30 looking north toward the foothills of the Preuss Range and the Sheep Creek Hills. Open panoramic views, with surrounding mountains in the background, are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Human-made alterations, such as fencing, roads, and existing transmission lines, detract from the scenic quality. KOP 697 also has historical resources (two segments of the Oregon NHT) in the foreground and middleground view.

KOP 705 (Figure E.2-5). Views from KOP 705 represent the views from a residence on Bench Road looking south across the Bear Lake Valley. Open panoramic views, with surrounding hills and mountains in the background, are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality. Numerous human-made alterations, such as fencing, existing transmission lines, roads, a gravel operation, and buildings, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 758 (Figure E.2-5). Views from KOP 758 represent the views of recreational users/drivers traveling along a Forest Service road and at a trailhead in the Caribou-Targhee NF in Middle North Fork Canyon. Views are enclosed by the surrounding vegetation. The Project would be moderately visible due to dense vegetation. Enclosed views of the surrounding landscape are considered to have moderate to high

scenic quality due to the lack of human-made alterations in the foreground and middleground views.

KOP 757 (Figure E.2-5). Views from KOP 757 represent the views of recreational users/drivers traveling along a Forest Service road in the Caribou-Targhee NF in Grunder Hollow, south of Ant Basin. Views in this area are enclosed by the surrounding vegetation. The Project would have low to moderately visibility due to dense vegetation. Enclosed views of the surrounding landscape are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality due to the lack of human-made alterations in the foreground and middleground views and the dominant vegetation.

KOP 746 (Figure E.2-5). Views from KOP 746 represent the views from the Thatcher Elementary School looking south toward the Gentile/Mound Valley and the Bear River. Open panoramic views, with surrounding mountains in the background, are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Human-made alterations such as fencing, existing transmission lines, roads, and buildings detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 778 (Figure E.2-5). Views from KOP 779 represent those of recreational campers/drivers in Cottonwood Valley. In this area, the existing 345-kV Jim Bridger transmission lines are 1.5 miles distant. Open panoramic views, with surrounding mountains in the background, are considered to have moderate scenic quality due to the presence of human-made alterations in the middleground to background, detracting from the scenic quality.

KOP 691 (Figure E.2-5). Views from KOP 691 represent the views of residents west of Marsh Creek looking south toward Oxford Peak and the Red Rock Pass area. Open panoramic and focal views of the surrounding valley and mountains are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Human-made alterations such as fencing and agricultural lands detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 775 (Figure E.2-5). Views from KOP 775 represent the views of recreational users/drivers along U.S. Highway 91 looking north toward the historic Red Rock Pass Geologic Site. Open panoramic views of the surrounding mountains are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Human-made alterations, directly adjacent to the focal geologic structures in the foreground and middleground views, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 770 (Figure E.2-5). Views from KOP 770 represent those of recreational users at the Downata Hot springs looking north from the Marsh Creek Valley. Open panoramic views of the surrounding hills are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality. Human-made alterations in the foreground and middleground views detract from the scenic quality. The ridge visible from this KOP could provide partial screening views of the transmission structures.

Alternative 4A

Alternative 4A, the shortest of all the Segment 4 alternatives, would cross approximately 42.9 miles of BLM-administered land, including 13.5 miles managed with VRM Class II objectives in Wyoming and 10.5 managed with VRM Class III objectives in Wyoming and Idaho. Alternative 4A would also cross 4.5 miles of Wyoming state

land and 34.3 miles of private land in Wyoming and Idaho. The following 10 KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 4A. The first six KOPs exhibit both cultural and visual resource concerns and are described in the Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C5 (Figure 3.2-2). Views from this point are from the Opal Wagon Road.

KOP C6 (Figure 3.2-2). Views from this point are from the Opal Wagon Road.

KOP C110 (Figure 3.2-2). Views from this point are from the White Hill Historic Monument on the Oregon NHT.

KOP C7 (Figure 3.2-2). Views from this point are from the Alfred Corum Grave on the Oregon NHT.

KOP C8 (Figure 3.2-2). Views from this point are from the Nancy Hill Grave on the Oregon NHT.

KOP C9 (Figure 3.2-2). Views from this point are from Emigrant Springs on the Oregon NHT.

KOP 620 (Figure E.2-4). Views from KOP 620 are representative of recreational views along a segment of the Dempsey-Hockaday Cutoff of the Oregon/California NHT looking northeast. This area is located in an open panoramic landscape with undulating topography in the middleground and background with distant views of wooded mountainous terrain. This landscape is considered to have high scenic quality due to the variety of basic landscape elements (i.e., form, line, color, and texture) and the lack of human-caused disturbance in the area.

KOP 604 (Figure E.2-4). Views from KOP 604 are representative of general views from VRM Class IV lands, looking north from an unpaved access road about 0.5 mile north of Highway 30 and about 7.5 miles east of the Opal Cutoff. This area is located in an open panoramic landscape that generally lacks significant topography in the foreground and middleground but provides some views of distant hills in the background. This landscape is considered to have a low scenic quality due to the presence of four existing transmission lines, scattered gas wells, and limited variety in the basic landscape elements (i.e., form, line, color, and texture).

KOP 647 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP represents residential viewers located along Lupine Lane in the Pomeroy Basin. This view is enclosed by hills that provide a backdrop for an existing transmission line. Variation in land form and color exist but is limited in vegetation and texture. Overall scenic quality is moderate due to existing human-made structures which detract from the scenic quality. KOP 647 may have a view of Alternative 4F.

KOP 627 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP represents recreational viewers from a boat launch site on Kemmerer Reservoir, located north of the city of Kemmerer off Highway 233. Overall, the scenic quality is moderate, offering an interesting mix of landscape elements (hills, water, and trees); however existing transmission lines detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 686 (Figure E.2-4). The view from this location is looking south to southwest along Collette Avenue in West Cokeville, Wyoming, from a residential and farming area. The view is focused toward three existing transmission lines that cross the foothills in the middleground, just before crossing the Bear River. This open view toward the Bear River has been impacted by human-made alterations in the foreground/middleground, resulting in a low to moderate scenic quality rating. The Bear River is not apparent in the view.

Alternative 4B

Alternative 4B would cross approximately 50.5 miles of BLM-administered land, including 7.3 miles managed with VRM Class II objectives (Kemmerer FO) in Wyoming and 15.5 miles managed with VRM Class III objectives (5.9 miles in Wyoming and 2.8 miles in Idaho). Alternative 4B would also cross 8.1 miles of Wyoming and Idaho state land and 41.0 miles of private land (35.5 miles in Wyoming and 5.5 miles in Idaho). The following four KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 4B.

KOP 652 (Figure E.2-4/Appendix G-1, Figure K-6c). This KOP is located on Twin Creek South Fork Road west of Cavanaugh Peak and the Naughton Power Plant. This KOP has open panoramic views of the rolling terrain in all directions. To the east, the Naughton Power Plant, the Kemmerer Coal Mine, and the city of Kemmerer are not visible. Overall scenic quality in this area is moderate to high due to the diversity of color in vegetation and land forms. Landforms also add variety of form, line, and texture with a lack of visible human-made elements.

KOP 603 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP is taken from atop a ridge about 2.5 miles east of Highway 189 and 2.2 miles south of Highway 30 near the Radiant Mine. This KOP has open panoramic views in all directions. To the west, the Naughton Power Plant and Kemmerer Coal Mine are visible. To the northeast, portions of the town of Kemmerer are visible in the background. Overall scenic quality in this area is low. The lack of significant water or vegetation and the presence of large industrial features including the mine and power plant detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 676 (Figure E.2-4). This elevated viewpoint represents views from the Historic Quarry Site located in Fossil Butte National Monument. This open panoramic view overlooks the historic Fossil town site, Highway 30, Nugget Canyon Creek, and Fossil Ridge in the middle and background. Various human-made elements are perceivable. These elements do not dominate the views; however, they detract from the scenic quality. Scenic quality is considered moderate due to the mix of adjacent scenery, variable topography, and expansive views from this location.

KOP 655 (Figure E.2-4). Views from KOP 655 represent the recreational view from the observation deck of the Fossil Butte National Monument Visitors Center. This view is looking to the south across Nugget Canyon Creek toward Fossil Ridge. Views are enclosed by the Fossil Ridge and include human-made alterations such as Highway 30, a railroad, and an existing transmission line, which all detract from the scenic quality. Overall scenic quality is considered moderate.

KOP 673 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP represents a view from a kiosk looking west toward the Cokeville Meadows NWR along Highway 89. The proposed Project would be visible where it crosses Red Knoll and the foothills of Red Mountain on the west side of the Bear River. The open view of Red Mountain is impacted by human-made alterations (railroad, fencing) in the middleground, which detract from the scenic quality, The Bear River is not apparent in the view.

Alternative 4C

Alternative 4C would cross approximately 46.8 miles of BLM-administered land, including 12.5 miles managed with VRM Class II objectives (Kemmerer FO) in Wyoming and 12.6 miles managed with VRM Class III objectives (9.8 in Wyoming and 2.8 miles in Idaho). The Route Alternative would also cross 8.6 miles of Wyoming state land and 44.9 miles of private land in Wyoming and Idaho (39.4 miles of private in Wyoming and 5.5 miles of private land in Idaho). The following seven KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 4C.

KOP 603 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 4B above.

KOP 676 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 4B above.

KOP 655 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 4B above.

KOP 632 (Figure E.2-4). The view from this location is looking to the northeast along Highway 30 from a wildlife viewing pull out about 1.75 miles east of Highway 60. This enclosed view looking down Nugget Creek Canyon is considered to have a low to moderate scenic quality. Human-made alterations in the foreground and middleground and limited variations in landscape elements detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1368 (Figure E.2-4/Appendix G-1, Figure K-8a). The view from this location is looking to the east to northeast from Highway 89, which is adjacent to the Cokeville Meadows National Wildlife Area and west of the highway. The Oregon NHT parallels the highway. This enclosed view of Boulder Ridge and Tunp Range in the background is considered to have moderate to high scenic quality due to the rolling topography and random patterns of vegetation.

KOP 674 (Figure E.2-4). The residential view from this location is looking southeast from two residences along Highway 89. The open view is considered to have a low to moderate scenic quality. Human-made alterations (barns, sheds, and fencing) in the foreground and middleground and limited variations in landscape elements detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 672 (Figure E.2-4). The residential view from this location is looking southwest from the Clark Ranch residence along Highway 89. The open view would have some slight screening provided by the vegetation along Highway 89. The view is considered to have a low to moderate scenic quality. Human-made alterations (railroad, fencing) in the foreground and middleground and limited variations in landscape elements detract from the scenic quality. The Bear River is not apparent in the view.

Alternative 4D

Alternative 4D would cross approximately 4.3 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives (Kemmerer FO) in Wyoming and 20.1 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives in Wyoming and Idaho. The Route Alternative would also cross 6.7 miles of Wyoming state land and 41.4 miles of private land (35.9 miles in Wyoming and 5.5 miles in Idaho). The following two KOP locations are shared with Alternative 4B due to shared portions of their route and were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 4D.

KOP 603 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 4B above.

KOP 673 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 4B above.

Alternative 4E

Alternative 4E would cross approximately 9.5 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives (Kemmerer FO) in Wyoming and 17.2 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives (5.9 miles in Wyoming and 2.8 in Idaho). The Route Alternative would also cross 7.2 miles of Wyoming state land and 45.3 miles of private land in Wyoming and Idaho (39.8 miles of private land in Wyoming and 5.5 miles of private land in Idaho). The following five KOP locations, which are shared with Alternatives 4B and 4C due to shared portions of their routes, were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 4E.

KOP 603 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 4B above.

KOP 632 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 4C above.

KOP 1368 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP is the same as described for in Alternative 4C above.

KOP 674 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 4C above.

KOP 672 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 4C above.

Alternative 4F

Alternative 4F would cross approximately 45 miles of BLM-administered land, including 16.4 miles managed with VRM Class II objectives in Wyoming (Kemmerer FO) and 10.5 miles managed with VRM Class III objectives (18.8 miles in Wyoming and 1.7 miles in Idaho). Alternative 4F crosses 3.5 miles of state land in Wyoming and 35.7 miles of private lands in Wyoming and Idaho (30.9 miles of private land in Wyoming and 4.8 miles of private land in eastern Idaho).

The following 11 KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 4F. The first 5 KOPs exhibit both cultural and visual resource concerns and are described in the Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C6 (Figure 3.2-2). Views from this point are from the Opal Wagon Road.

KOP C5 (Figure 3.2-2). Views from this point are from the Opal Wagon Road.

KOP C11 (Figure 3.2-2). Views from this point are from the Oregon NHT.

KOP C110 (Figure 3.2-2). Views from this point are from the White Hill Historic Monument on the Oregon NHT.

KOP C10 (Figure E.2-4). Views from this point are from a trail marker at the Dempsey Hockaday Cutoff along the Oregon NHT.

KOP 604 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 4A above.

KOP 647 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 4A above.

KOP 636 (Figure E.2-4/Appendix G, Figure K-5a). KOP 636, located on Dempsey Ridge, has sweeping views of the Dempsey Basin, Rock Creek Ridge, and Coke Mountain. This area is located in an open panoramic landscape with superior views of undulating terrain, background pyramidal mountainous silhouettes, and contrasting vegetation that exhibits diversity in form, line, color, and texture. There are few human-made features and simple geometric patterns in this open landscape. This landscape is considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. The lack of human-made disturbance as well as a variety in the basic landscape elements (i.e., form, line, color, and texture) increases the scenic quality.

KOP 621 (Figure E.2-4). KOP 621, located at a trailhead immediately east of Highway 233 near the north end of Lake Viva Naughton, represents the views of hikers on Trail 81. This trail provides an off-highway vehicle (OHV) route around the lake and onto Dempsey Ridge. This trail is also used as a snowmobile trail in the winter. The view is generally to the south toward Segment 4, which is located at the boundary of middleground and background distance zones about 5 miles away. This enclosed view, framed by terrain, is considered to have moderate scenic quality. Views of water and topographic variation increases the scenic quality, while the presence of skylined transmission lines in the background detracts from the scenic quality.

KOP 637 (Figure E.2-4). KOP 637 is located near the summit of Coke Mountain, along an existing road running along the top of Dempsey Ridge. This road, providing access for recreational users, including hunters, offers panoramic views west toward Rock Creek Ridge, east toward Wilkinson Creek, and southeast to the Pink Hill. Other than fencing and some roads, there are few human-made alterations noticeable in this landscape. The scenic quality is generally high due to unobstructed panoramic views of dramatic mountainous terrain.

KOP 635 (Figure E.2-4). This KOP is the same as described for the Proposed Route above.

Segment 5 – Populus to Borah

Segment 5 would cross approximately 13.2 miles of BLM-administered land, including 1.6 miles managed with VRM Class II objectives and 3.9 miles managed with VRM Class III objectives (Pocatello FO).

Proposed Route

The Proposed Route would cross 3.5 miles of Idaho state lands including less than 0.1 mile of Idaho Department of Game and Fish (IDFG) designated lands and 37.8 miles of private land. For photos of the Rockland and Arbon Valleys, refer to Appendix E (Figure E.2-34). The following seven KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Segment 5 of the Proposed Route.

KOP C25 (Figure E.2-6). The view from this point is from a portion of the Oregon NHT and is described in the Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 907 (Figure E.2-6/Appendix G, Figure M-1/M-3a). This KOP is located at a scenic lookout in the Deep Creek Mountains, approximately 1,000 feet from KOP 920 (a trailhead on BLM-administered land). The open view to the north includes bold and prominent mountains, valleys, and a variety of vegetation with numerous focal points. The scene is filled with complex landscape elements of form, line, color, and texture. No human alteration is apparent beyond the dirt roads and trails in the view. Scenic quality is high for KOP 907.

KOP 185 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP represents a south view of the Segments 5 and 7 Proposed Routes, from the Arbon Elementary School. This KOP is located south of Pauline on the Arbon Valley Highway. Although an elementary school is often considered a high-sensitivity viewing location, the views to the south from the buildings and playground area are generally heavily screened by trees planted along the southern edge of the school property. Views from the edge of the property, beyond the screening, exhibit open panoramic views of the Arbon Valley between the Deep Creek Mountains to the west and the Bannock Range to the east. The few structures in the view include a pair of residences and an electrical distribution line, which detract from the scenic quality. Generally this KOP exhibits a low overall scenic quality due to numerous human-made alterations and lack of visually appealing elements.

KOP 242 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP represents an eastern view of the Segments 5 and 7 Proposed Routes and Alternative 5D, through the East Fork Canyon. A campground and a sportsmen access to East Fork Rock Creek represent the dominant viewing locations. Views into the canyon in this area, while limited by the topography, provide a dynamic mix of form, line, color, and texture of landscape in both landform and vegetation cover. There are limited human-made modifications in this area, including signs and fencing, resulting in moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1302 (Figure E.2-6). KOP 1302 represents residential viewers on Mayer Road looking north toward American Falls and the American Falls Reservoir. Views of the broad, open terrain, while altered by agricultural production and other human-made modifications, provide a mix of form, line, and color with the dominant background view of American Falls Reservoir. The human-made modifications present in this area include agriculture, road/highways, and numerous high-voltage transmission lines, which detract from the overall moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1304 (Figure E.2-6). KOP 1304 represents residential viewers in the Riverbend Estates looking southeast toward Bannock Peak and White Quartz Mountain. Views of the mountainous terrain, while limited by some human-made modifications, provide a

dynamic mix of form, line, and texture of landform. The human-made modifications present in this area include signs, road and highways, and fencing. These modifications do not detract from the overall moderate to high scenic quality.

KOP 260 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP is located adjacent to the recreation area, park, and boat dock associated with a pipeline on the Snake River, approximately 2.5 miles southwest of American Falls. The views to the west include variations in form, line, and color, as well as features such as the curvilinear shape of the Snake River and the large gas pipeline crossing the river. About 1.5 miles to the northwest, a large substation with numerous transmission lines detracts from the scenic quality. Scenic quality is moderate due to the dominant nature of the industrial features which detract from the scenic Snake River in the foreground.

Alternative 5A

Alternative 5A would arc south of Segment 5 close to Hawkins Reservoir in the Arbon Valley and cross the Deep Creek Mountains south of existing BLM-administered land managed to conform to VRM Class II objectives. Alternative 5A rejoins the Proposed Route in the Rockland Valley east of the town of Rockland. Alternative 5A would cross approximately 10.1 miles of BLM-administered land, including 6.2 miles managed with VRM Class III objectives (Pocatello FO). Alternative 5A would also cross 0.3 mile of Idaho state lands, and 23.4 miles of private land. The following four KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 5A of the Project.

KOP 305 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP is located adjacent to the Hawkins Reservoir, an existing BLM recreation site. The views to the south include variations in form, line, and color, as well as features such as Rattlesnake Peak in the Caribou-Targhee NF. To the south, a gravel road marks the only noticeable human-made modification of the landscape. The view to the north is dominated by multiple transmission lines approximately 1,000 feet from the KOP which detract from the scenic quality. Scenic quality is considered moderate due to the dominant nature of the transmission lines located immediately to the north.

KOP 903 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP is located at a church along Church Road. The views to the north extend to mountains in the distant background and are enclosed on the east and west by mountains in the middleground. Foreground views include agricultural fields offering little vegetation or landform variety. Few human-made modifications are noticeable. Few scattered residences, fences, and agricultural fields detract from the scenic quality. Scenic quality is considered moderate due to the influence of the mountains and their varied textures, colors, and forms in an otherwise generally flat agricultural valley.

KOP 920 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP is located at a trail head on BLM-administered land in the Deep Creek Mountains. The enclosed view to the south includes bold and prominent mountains, valleys, and a variety of vegetation. The scene is filled with complex landscape elements of form, line, and color. No human alteration is apparent beyond the dirt roads and trails in the view. Scenic quality is high for KOP 920.

KOP 242 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP is the same as described for the Segment 5 Proposed Route above.

Alternative 5B

Alternative 5B would be located farther south than Alternative 5A at Dairy Creek and travel north of the Curlew National Grasslands before turning east at the town of Roy and rejoining Alternative 5A west of the Deep Creek Mountains in the Rockland Valley. Alternative 5B would cross approximately 10.3 miles of BLM-administered land, including 3.9 miles managed with VRM Class III objectives (Pocatello FO). Alternative 5B would also cross 0.3 mile of Idaho state lands and 33.8 miles of private land. The following five KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 5B of the Proposed Route.

KOP 305 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 5A above.

KOP 912 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP is located at a locked gate along Daniels Road, approximately 0.75 mile north of Dairy Creek Road. A residence is located approximately 0.3 mile north of this location in an agricultural setting. Views to the north are semi-panoramic with some limitations in viewing distance provided by the low hills in the middle to background. The foreground presents rolling terrain with a mix of vegetation from grass fields to trees and agricultural lands. Human-made features of this landscape include a residence, agricultural buildings, and fences which detract from the scenic quality. Scenic quality is considered moderate.

KOP 916 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP is adjacent to a residence on 10800 West Road north of Little Malad Spring. Views to the north are focal with numerous mountain silhouettes and complex form, line, color, and texture variations. The immediate foreground is predominantly flat with some rolling agricultural fields and scattered residences, agricultural out buildings, and electrical distribution lines, detracting from the scenic quality. Overall scenic quality is considered moderate to high in this setting.

KOP 898 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP is adjacent to a residence on the Arbon Highway west of Mount Elkhorn. Views to the north are broad and focal with numerous mountain silhouettes to the south end of the Deep Creek Mountains with complex form, line, color, and texture variations. The immediate foreground is predominantly flat, with some rolling agricultural fields and scattered residences and agricultural outbuildings. These features detract from the scenic quality. Overall scenic quality is considered moderate to high in this setting.

KOP 887 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP is adjacent to a residence on Groom Road. Views to the east are short and enclosed by mountains with complex form, line, and color variations. The immediate foreground is predominantly flat with some rolling agricultural fields and scattered residences, agricultural outbuildings, and electrical distribution lines, detracting from the scenic quality. Overall scenic quality is considered moderately high in this setting.

Alternative 5C

Alternative 5C would deviate from the Segment 5 Proposed Route north of Bradley Mountain and the Caribou-Targhee NF and travel northwest across the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Alternative 5C rejoins the Proposed Route south of American Falls, which travels west and terminates at the Borah Substation. Alternative 5C would cross approximately 0.7 mile of Idaho state land, 13.0 miles of private land, and approximately 12.4 miles of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation (federal land held in trust for the Tribe by the BIA). The majority of this alternative would parallel numerous existing high-voltage transmission lines. The following seven KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 5C of the Project.

KOP 1298 (Figure E.2-6). KOP 1298 represents the views of a residence within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation on the Arbon Valley Highway viewing north. Views to the north are semi-panoramic and focal with dramatic mountainous terrain in the middle to background. The foreground presents a broad open valley with grass fields, natural riparian vegetation and larger dominant trees. The visible human-made features of this landscape include the residences, fences, and numerous high-voltage transmission structures which clutter the view and detract from the scenic quality. The scenic quality of this view is considered moderate.

KOP 1308 (Figure E.2-6). KOP 1308 represents the views of two residences within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation on the Arbon Valley Highway viewing southwest. Views to the south and southwest are semi-panoramic with dramatic mountainous terrain in the middle to background offering diversity in form, line, and texture. The foreground presents a broad open valley with grass fields, natural riparian vegetation, and larger dominant trees. The visible human-made features of this landscape include the residences, fences, and numerous high-voltage transmission structures that clutter the view, detracting from the scenic quality. The scenic quality of this focal view is considered moderate to high.

KOP 1309 (Figure E.2-6). KOP 1309 represents the southwest views of three residences within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation on the Arbon Valley Highway. This KOP is approximately 1.8 miles north of KOP 1308. Views to the south and southwest are semi-panoramic with dramatic and rolling mountainous terrain in the middle to background offering diversity in form, line, and texture. The foreground presents a broad open valley with a mix of vegetation including grass fields, natural riparian vegetation, and larger dominant trees. The visible human-made features of this landscape include the residences, fences, and numerous high-voltage transmission structures that clutter the view and skyline the dramatic terrain in the middleground, detracting from the scenic quality. The scenic quality of this focal view is considered moderate.

KOP 1311 (Figure E.2-6). KOP 1311 represents the views from Moonshine Road, which leads to a sacred sundance location within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Views to the northeast toward Study Spring and Flatiron Hill are somewhat panoramic, though partially screened, with mountainous silhouettes in the foreground, middleground, and background.

The foreground presents partially screened rolling hills with natural vegetation and clusters of larger vegetation which offer variety in form, line, color, and texture. The visible human-made features of this landscape include distant high-voltage transmission structures which detract from the scenic quality. The scenic quality of this focal view is considered moderate.

KOP 1313 (Figure E.2-6). KOP 1313 represents the views from the existing transmission line access road at a traditional use area within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. The traditional use area is a known location where tribal members harvest Chokecherry and is located at the western boundary of the reservation grounds. Views to the west and northwest are partially screened by the rolling terrain in the foreground and middleground. The foreground and middleground presents rolling hills with natural grassland vegetation, distant agricultural land, and clusters of larger vegetation which offer variety in form, line, color, and texture. The visible human-made features of this landscape include the dominant high-voltage transmission structures overhead, detracting from the scenic quality. The scenic quality of this focal view is considered low to moderate.

KOP 1314 (Figure E.2-6). KOP 1314 represents the views of a residence on Sunbeam Road directly west of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Views to the north are semi-panoramic with some limitations in viewing distance, provided by the low hills in the middle to background. The foreground presents rolling terrain with a mix of vegetation from grass fields and natural riparian vegetation to agricultural lands. The visible human-made features of this landscape include two residences, agricultural buildings, and fences, detracting from the scenic quality. The scenic quality of this focal view is considered moderate.

KOP 1299 (Figure E.2-6). KOP 1299 represents the views from a sacred sundance location within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, south of I-86 viewing southwest. Views to the south are panoramic with mountainous silhouettes in the middle to background. The foreground presents a broad open valley dominated by agricultural development. The visible human-made features of this landscape include residences, agricultural equipment, and numerous high-voltage transmission structures, detracting from the scenic quality. The scenic quality of this focal view towards Alternative 5C is considered moderate.

Alternative 5D

Alternative 5D would diverge from the Proposed Route east of Rockland and travel north through the Rockland Valley paralleling the alignment of the Proposed Route to the west. South of American Falls, Alternative 5D would turn northwest, crossing I-84 and the Snake River before terminating at the Borah Substation. Alternative 5D would cross approximately 0.8 mile of Idaho state land and 16.4 miles of private land. The following five KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 5D of the Project.

KOP 242 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP is the same as described for the Segment 5 Proposed Route above.

KOP 241 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP, like KOP 242, is located in the East Fork Rock Creek area. This view is toward a low hillside immediately to the south that may partially or totally screen Segment 5, which would be approximately 900 feet south. Views in this area provide some variation in form, line, color, and texture of landscape in both landform and vegetation cover. Limited human-made modifications are present in this area and include signs and fencing, which somewhat detract from the scenic quality. Overall scenic quality is considered moderate.

KOP 257 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP represents southeastern views from a residence on Windmill Road in the Rockland Valley toward Howard Mountain and Cold Creek Canyon. The views from this area are generally open with mountain ranges framing each side of the valley. Scenic quality is considered to be moderate to high due to scenic landscape elements and a variety of form, line, color, and texture.

KOP 263 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP represents views from the Snake River Vista, a recreational area on the north side of the Snake River southwest of American Falls. The views from this area are generally open with some vegetation screening views of the river. Rural elements of American Falls are discernable to the northeast, and electrical transmission lines are noticeable in this view to the north and northeast, slightly detracting from the scenic quality. Scenic quality is considered to be moderate to high due to scenic landscape along the Snake River and the Snake River itself.

KOP 260 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP is located adjacent to the recreation area, park, and boat dock associated with a pipeline on the Snake River (approximately 2.5 miles southwest of American Falls). The views to the west include variations in form, line, and color as well as features such as the curvilinear shape of the Snake River and the large gas pipeline crossing the river. About 1.5 miles to the northwest, a large substation, with numerous transmission lines ,detract from the scenic quality. Scenic quality is moderate due to the dominant nature of the industrial features that detract from the scenic Snake River in the foreground.

Alternative 5E

Alternative 5E would diverge from the Proposed Route south of American Falls at point 5m and parallel the existing transmission lines to the west across I-86 and the Snake River before terminating at the Borah Substation. Alternative 5E would cross mostly private land (approximately 5.0 miles) south of American Falls. The following KOP location was selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical view for Alternative 5E of the Project.

KOP 1302 (Figure E.2-6). KOP 1302 represents residential viewers on Mayer Road looking north toward American Falls and the American Falls Reservoir. Views of the broad, open terrain, while altered by agricultural production and other human-made modifications, provide a mix of form, line, and color with the dominant background view of American Falls Reservoir. The human-made modifications present in this area include agriculture, roads and highways, and numerous high-voltage transmission lines. which all detract from the overall moderate scenic quality.

Segment 6 – Borah to Midpoint

The Proposed Action under the Proposed Route is an increase in voltage carried by structures and conductors of an existing transmission line. The use of an existing transmission line would not produce noticeable changes to the existing visual conditions and thus no KOPs were required for the analysis.

Segment 7 – Populus to Cedar Hill

Segment 7 would cross approximately 28.1 miles of BLM-administered land, including 1.4 miles managed with VRM Class II objectives (Pocatello FO) and 6.4 miles managed with VRM Class III objectives (Pocatello FO and Twin Falls FO).

Proposed Route

The Proposed Route would cross 4.3 miles of Idaho state lands as well as 85.7 miles of private land. The following 13 KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive and typical views for Segment 7.

KOP C25 (Figure E.2-8). Views from this point are from the "Parting of the Ways" site along the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C63 (Figure E.2-8). Views from this point are from the "Parting of the Ways" site along the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 305 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 5A above.

KOP 185 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for the Segment 5 Proposed Route above.

KOP 907 (Figure E.2-8/Appendix G, Figure M-1/M-3c). This KOP is located at a scenic lookout in the Deep Creek Mountains approximately 1,000 feet from KOP 920(a trailhead on BLM-administered land). The open view to the north includes bold and prominent mountains, valleys, and a variety of vegetation with numerous focal points. The scene is filled with complex landscape elements of form, line, color, and texture. No human alteration is apparent beyond the dirt roads and trails in the view. Scenic quality is high for KOP 907.

KOP 247 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP, on East Shoshone Street in the town of Rockland, represents the view from residences at an LDS Church looking south toward Molly's Nipple and the Sublette Mountains. Views are open and panoramic across an area of largely agricultural land and beyond to the mountainous terrain and silhouettes. The foreground views offer little variation in landform or vegetation; however, middleground and background views include the dominant hills offering more visual diversity. Overall scenic quality is moderate in this landscape.

KOP 301 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP, on 950 Road East, represents the view from a residence west of East Hills on private land looking southeast along Segment 7. Views are open and panoramic across an area of largely agricultural land with hills in the

background. The foreground views offer little variation in landform or vegetation; however, middleground views include the dominant hills offering more visual diversity. Overall scenic quality is low to moderate in this landscape.

KOP 303 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP, at 500 Water Canyon Road, represents a southern view from a residence south of Water Canyon. Views are focal, meaning they have landscape features which either create a focal point or frame a certain view, and are screened by the dominant hills in the foreground and middleground. The foreground views offer little variation in landform from an inferior (low-elevation) vantage point. Overall scenic quality is low to moderate in this landscape.

KOP 310(Figure E.2-8). This KOP represents views from residences in the mountainous landscape located north of Pine Knob. Views are partially screened and inferior (low-elevation). In the foreground, most structures are residential though agricultural settings can be seen further west. Overall scenic quality is low. Human-made modifications within the view and the lack of diverse form, line, color, and texture detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 315 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP was taken from a residence on East 700 South Road. Open and panoramic views of the surrounding agricultural fields offer little visual variety but the rugged mountains in the background offer some landscape contrast and variety. Views are considered to be of moderate scenic quality due to the presence of electric utilities and other human-made modifications in the foreground and middleground that detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 131 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP represents views from residences in a largely flat agricultural landscape organized into square blocks by largely north-south and east-west roads. Views are open and panoramic. In the foreground, agricultural lands limit landform and vegetation variety, while structural elements include electrical distribution lines, residences, elevated irrigation equipment, and agricultural “out structures” such as sheds or storage buildings. The middleground and background views include the mountains, which provide more dynamic visual elements. Low scenic quality is due to the amount of visible human-made modification which detracts from the scenic quality.

KOP 140 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is an area cooperatively managed by BLM and the Idaho Fish and Game Department located just south of Big Cottonwood Creek and 1 mile east of the Cassia County line designated as VRM Class III. Views are generally open and panoramic and include the Sawtooth NF to the south in the middleground and to the east in the background. Foreground views include a stockyard/feedlot operation and agricultural fields offering little vegetation or landform variety. Overall scenic quality is considered low. The limited variety in vegetation or topography as well as the adjacent stockyard buildings and activities detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 221 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP includes a residence and agricultural operations east of the Cedar Hill Substation. The views to the south are open and panoramic with distant mountains creating a backdrop to the flat to rolling valley terrain. Irrigational farming equipment is visible along with dispersed residences, fences, and agriculture-related structures. Vegetation adds some limited variation in color and texture with strong lines created between differing crops. The resultant scenic quality is considered

moderate due to mountainous terrain and visible human-made alterations, which detract from the scenic quality.

Alternative 7A

Alternative 7A would arc southwest of Segment 7 close to Hawkins Reservoir in the Arbon Valley and cross the Deep Creek Mountains south of existing BLM-administered land managed to conform to VRM Class III objectives before rejoining the Proposed Route north of Cedar Ridge. Alternative 7A would cross 5.9 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives and 30.7 miles of private land. The following five KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 7A of the Project.

KOP 305 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 5A.

KOP 903 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 5A.

KOP 920 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 5A.

KOP 887 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 5B.

KOP 917 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP represents views from recreational users at a seasonal recreational vehicle (RV) camping area adjacent to Smith Canyon. Views are open and panoramic with numerous mountain silhouettes and rugged landforms visible in the middleground. Moderate to high scenic quality is due to the presence of some visible human-made modifications that do not necessarily detract from the variety in form, line, color, or texture.

Alternative 7B

Alternative 7B would arc farther south than Alternative 7A at Dairy Creek and travel north of the Curlew National Grasslands and the town of Buist before crossing the foothills of the Deep Creek Mountains. The route turns northeast of the town of Roy to rejoin Alternative 7A west of the Deep Creek Mountains in the Rockland Valley. Alternative 7B would cross approximately 3.8 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives and 38.7 miles of private lands. The following six KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 7B of the Project.

KOP 305 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 5A.

KOP 912 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 5B.

KOP 916 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 5B.

KOP 898 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 5B.

KOP 917 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 5B.

KOP 893 (Figure E.2-8). Views from this KOP represent those of residents north of Buck Peak in the Rockland Valley. Panoramic and focal views of rolling to rugged terrain in the middleground and background offer some landscape contrast in terms of

form, line, color, and texture. Views are considered to be of moderate to high scenic quality. Human-made features in the foreground and middleground detract from the overall scenic quality.

Alternative 7C

Alternative 7C would diverge from the Segment 7 Proposed Route at Heglar Canyon and cross the Raft River to the south before rejoining the Proposed Route close to where it crosses I-84. Alternative 7C would cross approximately 7.2 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class IV objectives as well as 1.0 mile of Idaho state land and 12.0 miles of private lands. The following KOP location was selected to represent the most sensitive and typical views for Alternative 7C.

KOP 282 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP represents views from residences in a largely flat agricultural landscape along North Yale Road. Views are open and panoramic with limited landform and vegetation variety. Structural elements present on the landscape include fencing, electric distribution lines, and cellular communication towers, which are visible in the foreground and middleground. Low to moderate scenic quality is due to the amount of visible human-made modifications and the lack of variety in form, line, color, or texture, detracting from the scenic quality.

Alternative 7D

Alternative 7D would diverge from the Segment 7 Proposed Route after crossing I-84 and rejoin the Proposed Route east of the town of Declo. Alternative 7D would cross less than 0.1 mile of BLM-administered land with VRM Class IV objectives as well as 1.0 mile of Idaho state land and 5.7 miles of private lands. The following KOP location was selected to represent the most sensitive and typical views for Alternative 7D.

KOP 296 (Figure E.2-8). Views from this KOP represent those of residents and drivers traveling along Skaggs Ranch Road. Open panoramic views of the relatively flat valley, currently used for agriculture, and more rugged distant hills in the middleground and background offer some landscape contrast in terms of form, line, and color. Views are considered to be of moderate scenic quality. Human-made features and landscape alterations detract from the scenic quality in the foreground and middleground.

Alternative 7E

Alternative 7E would be one of the potential variations in the area of the Albion Mountains south of the town of Springdale. Alternative 7E would cross approximately 0.3 mile of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives, 1.6 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class IV objectives, and 2.6 miles of private lands. The following two KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive and typical views for Alternative 7E.

KOP 304 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7F.

KOP 311 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP includes a residential area located along the foothills of the Albion Mountains. The views to the southwest are open and framed on one side by the mountains, creating a partially backdropped view with the contrasting

flat rolling valley terrain. Irrigational farming equipment is visible along with dispersed residences, fences, and agriculture-related structures. Vegetation adds some limited variation in color and texture with strong lines created between differing crops and irrigated land. The resultant scenic quality considered low to moderate. Mountainous terrain and visible human-made alterations detract from the scenic quality.

Alternative 7F

Alternative 7F would be one of the potential variations in the area of the Albion Mountains south of the town of Springdale. Alternative 7F would cross approximately 4.4 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class IV objectives and 6.4 miles of private lands. The following KOP location was selected to represent the most sensitive and typical views for Alternative 7F.

KOP 304 (Figure E.2-8). Views from this KOP represent the views of recreational drivers along SR 77 on lands managed by the BLM to meet VRM Class II objectives. Alternative 7E would be visible in a gap to the east but may not be fully visible. Views are considered to be of moderate scenic quality in the foreground and middleground. Open and panoramic views of the surrounding mottled and rolling terrain offer little visual variety; however, there are a few visible human-made modifications detracting from the scenic quality.

Alternative 7G

Alternative 7G would deviate from the Segment 7 Proposed Route directly west of the Cedar Hill Substation and travel north of the Proposed Route to avoid sensitive BLM-administered lands. Alternative 7G would cross approximately 1.8 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM class III objectives as well as 1.4 miles of private land. The following KOP location was selected to represent the most sensitive and typical views for Alternative 7G.

KOP 221 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for the Segment 7 Proposed Route.

Alternative 7H

Alternative 7H would deviate from the Segment 7 Proposed Route east of Bradley Mountain and travel southeast along Alternative 7B, diverging from Alternative 7B north of Buist, Idaho. The alternative would travel west across the Sawtooth NF and Raft River Valley before crossing the Albion Mountains and rejoining the Proposed Route east of the Cedar hill Substation. Alternative 7H would cross approximately 1.0 mile of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives and 13.3 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives. The alternative would cross 64.5 miles of private land, 4.7 miles of Idaho state land, and 0.3 mile of IDFG-administered lands.

Alternative 7H would cross two divisions of the Sawtooth NF—the Sublett and Albion Divisions—for a total distance of 11.4 miles. The roads associated with this alternative would cross the northwestern edge of the Black Pine Division. This alternative would cross 7.2 miles of NFS lands allocated to MA 6.1, Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Shrubland and Grassland Landscapes; 2.7 miles of land allocated to

MA 4.2, Roaded Recreation Emphasis; and 1.5 miles allocated to MA 5.1, Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Forested Landscapes. Alternative 7H would cross 2.9 miles of NFS lands managed with Partial Retention VQOs, which would be more restrictive and require management activities to remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Alternative 7H would cross 5.5 miles of NFS lands managed with Modification VQOs, which allows management activities to visually dominate the original characteristic landscape. Approximately 2.9 miles of Alternative 7H would cross NFS lands managed with Maximum Modification VQOs. This would allow management activities of vegetative and landform alterations to dominate the characteristic landscape and be out of scale or contain detail that is incongruent with natural occurrences as seen in foreground or middleground. Siting opportunities in the Albion Division are limited due to Alternative 7H being located within a canyon access area bordered on the north and south by Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs), Mount Harrison and Cache Peak (see Figure 3.2-3). The ROS for this area is listed as Roaded Natural (RN), except for 0.2 mile of the route in the westernmost portion of its crossing of the Albion Division, which is listed as Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM).

The following 28 KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive and typical views for Alternative 7H. Figure 3.2-3 shows an area of Sawtooth NF in more detail.

KOP 305 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 5A.

KOP 912 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7B.

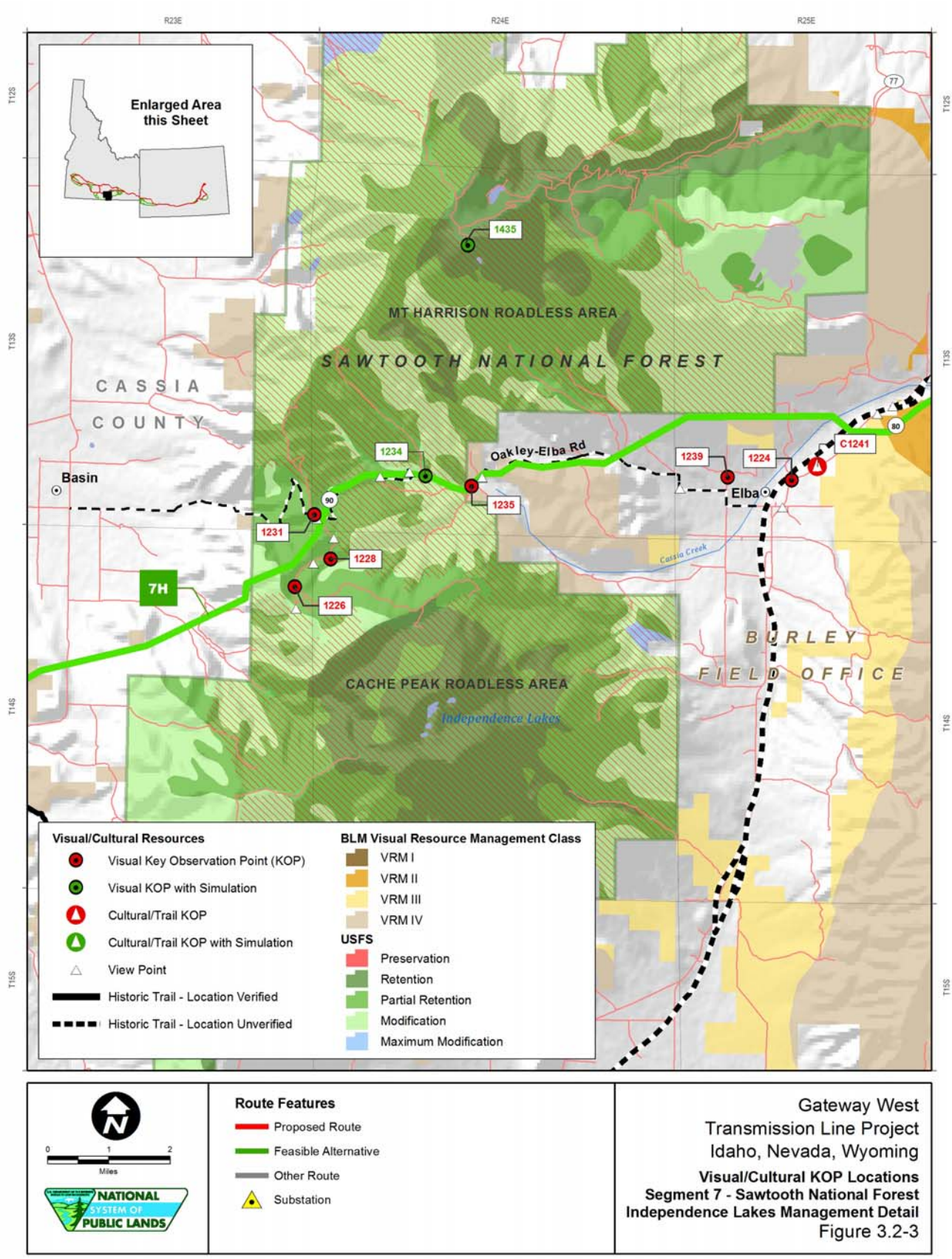
KOP 916 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7B.

KOP 898 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7B.

KOP 1282 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1282 represent the views of a residence and farm on Bull Canyon Road looking north toward the Deep Creek Mountains. Open, panoramic, and focal views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have high scenic quality. Numerous aesthetic landscape elements present in the middleground and background views with variations of form, line, color, and texture increase the scenic quality.

KOP 1278 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1278 represent the views of a residence on the Rockland Highway looking north toward Buck Peak. Open, panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. The aesthetic landscape elements present in the middleground and background increases the scenic quality, while numerous human-made alterations detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1273 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1273 represent the views of recreational users looking south on Heydlauff Canyon Road in the Sawtooth NF. Open, panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have high scenic quality due to the numerous aesthetic landscape elements present in the middleground and background with variations of form, line, color, and texture. The view is considered a natural characteristic landscape with a landscape variety class A, or distinctive.


R23E
R24E
R25E
T12S
T13S
T14S
T15S
Enlarged Area this Sheet
1435
MT HARRISON ROADLESS AREA
SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST
CASSIA COUNTY
Basin
1234
Oakley-Elba Rd
1239
1224
C1241
Elba
1235
1231
1228
1226
7H
Cassia Creek
BURLEY FIELD OFFICE
CACHE PEAK ROADLESS AREA
Independence Lakes
Visual/Cultural Resources
Visual Key Observation Point (KOP)
Visual KOP with Simulation
Cultural/Trail KOP
Cultural/Trail KOP with Simulation
View Point
Historic Trail - Location Verified
Historic Trail - Location Unverified
BLM Visual Resource Management Class
VRM I
VRM II
VRM III
VRM IV
USFS
Preservation
Retention
Partial Retention
Modification
Maximum Modification
Route Features
Proposed Route
Feasible Alternative
Other Route
Substation
0 1 2
Miles
NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
Gateway West
Transmission Line Project
Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming
Visual/Cultural KOP Locations
Segment 7 - Sawtooth National Forest
Independence Lakes Management Detail
Figure 3.2-3

Viewers traveling on this roadway would have a level 2 (average) sensitivity to changes in the characteristic landscape.

KOP 1270 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1270 represent the views of recreational users on the Hudspeth Cutoff portion of the Oregon NHT in the Sawtooth NF looking southeast in Kossman Canyon. The view is considered a natural characteristic landscape with a landscape variety class of A, or distinctive. Viewers traveling on this roadway would have a level 1 (highest) sensitivity to changes in the characteristic landscape. Enclosed and focal views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality due to the aesthetic landscape elements present in the middleground and background with few human-made alterations.

KOP 1267 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1267 represent the views of recreational users entering the Sawtooth NF looking east across the Cold Spring Canyon area. The view is considered a natural characteristic landscape with a landscape variety class of B, or common, when compared to views in the surrounding region. Viewers traveling on this roadway would have a level 2 (average) sensitivity to changes in the characteristic landscape. Enclosed and focal views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality due to the aesthetic landscape elements present in the middleground and background with few human-made alterations.

KOP 1207 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1207 represent the views from a resident on Clover Lane looking north across the vast Sun Valley toward North and South Chapin Mountains. Open panoramic views of the flat to rolling terrain with mountainous silhouettes are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality. Few aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background and monotonous visible human-made alterations (i.e., planted agricultural fields) detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1252 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1252 represent the views of a resident on Cottle Lane looking south toward Red Rock Mountain and Red Rock Spring. Open, panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain with mountainous silhouettes are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality due to the aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background with few visible human-made alterations.

KOP 1255 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1255 represent the views of recreational visitors of the Raft River Valley Trails Marker looking south toward Red Rock Mountain. Open, panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain with mountainous silhouettes are considered to have moderate scenic quality. The aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background and numerous visible human-made alterations detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1246 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1246 represent the views of two residences adjacent to the Elba-Almo Road (City of Rocks Back Country Byway) directly south of Conner, Idaho, looking south toward Red Rock Mountain. Focal views of the rolling to rugged terrain with mountainous silhouettes and rocky valleys are considered to have moderate scenic quality. The aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background and numerous visible human-made alterations detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1241 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1241 represent the views of recreational travelers on Elba-Almo Road (City of Rocks Back Country Byway) at a crossing of the historic California NHT looking north across the Elba Basin to Kemp Hollow. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain with mountainous silhouettes and rocky outcroppings are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. The aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views and few visible human-made alterations increase the scenic quality.

KOP 1224 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1224 represent the views from a resident on Anderson Lane looking north across the Elba Basin to Kemp Hollow. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain with mountainous silhouettes are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality due to the aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views and few visible human-made alterations.

KOP 1239 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1239 represent the views from a residence on 1125 East in Elba, Idaho, looking north towards Rocky Hollow. Open, panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain with rocky outcrops are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality due to the aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views as well as numerous human-made alterations which detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1235 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1235 represent the views from a recreational hiker at the marked Stinson Trail in the Sawtooth NF looking northeast towards Clyde Flat. The view is considered a natural characteristic landscape with a landscape variety class of A, or distinctive, when compared to views in the surrounding region. Viewers traveling on this roadway would have a level 1 (highest) sensitivity to changes in the characteristic landscape. Focal and partially screened views of the rolling to rugged terrain with mountainous silhouettes are considered to have moderate scenic quality. While much of the terrain is screened, aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background increase scenic quality. .

KOP 1234 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1234 represent the views from a recreational hiker at the marked New Canyon Trail in the Sawtooth NF looking east towards Clyde Flat. The view is considered a natural characteristic landscape with a landscape variety class of A, or distinctive, when compared to views in the surrounding region. Viewers traveling on this roadway would have a level 1 (highest) sensitivity to changes in the characteristic landscape. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain with mountainous silhouettes and snow-capped peaks are considered to have high scenic quality. Numerous aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background and few visible human-made alterations increase the scenic quality.

KOP 1435 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1435 represent the views of recreationalists at the Mt. Harrison Lookout Tower looking south toward Mount Independence. Open, expansive, and superior (high-elevation) views of the broad valley with rolling to rugged terrain and pyramidal mountainous silhouettes are considered to have high scenic quality. Numerous aesthetic landscape elements

present in the middleground and background with variations of form, line, color, and texture increase the scenic quality.

KOP 1231 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1231 represent the views from a recreational hiker at the marked Skyline trailhead (#513) in the Sawtooth NF looking southeast towards Mount Independence and Cache Peak. The view is considered a natural characteristic landscape with a landscape variety class of A, or distinctive, when compared to views in the surrounding region. Viewers traveling on this roadway would have a level 1 (highest) sensitivity to changes in the characteristic landscape. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain with mountainous silhouettes and snow-capped peaks are considered to have high scenic quality. Numerous aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views and few visible human-made alterations increase the scenic quality.

KOP 1228 (Figure E.2-8). Views north toward Myers Canyon from KOP 1228 represent the views of recreational hikers at the Stinson Creek trailhead in the Sawtooth N F. The view is considered a natural characteristic landscape with a landscape variety class of A, or distinctive, when compared to views in the surrounding region. Viewers traveling on this roadway would have a level 1 (highest) sensitivity to changes in the characteristic landscape. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain with mountainous silhouettes have a moderate to high scenic quality. Aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background and few visible human-made alterations increase the scenic quality.

KOP 1226 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1226 represent the views from a recreational hiker at a marked trailhead in the Sawtooth NF looking north towards Myers Canyon. The view is considered a natural characteristic landscape with a landscape variety class of A, or distinctive, when compared to views in the surrounding region. Viewers traveling on this roadway would have a level 1 (highest) sensitivity to changes in the characteristic landscape. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain with mountainous silhouettes are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background and few visible human-made alterations increase the scenic quality.

KOP 1184 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1184 represent the views of a residential area on 2400 South Road looking north toward Oakley, Idaho. Open panoramic and partially screened views of the rolling terrain are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality due to the few aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views with few visible human-made alterations.

KOP 1180 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1180 represent the views of a resident on 2200 South Road looking south toward Walker Hallow and the Lower Goose Creek Reservoir. Open panoramic and partially screened views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality due to the aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background with few visible human-made alterations.

KOP 1175 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1175 represent the views of a resident on Mullen Ranch Road looking south toward Cowboy Spring and the Lower Goose Creek Reservoir. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are impacted by

numerous human-made alterations associated with heavy agricultural uses and cattle operations around Oakley. Views from this KOP have moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1173 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1173 represent the views of recreational users in Cedar Canyon, which is managed by the BLM to conform to VRM Class III objectives. Motorists traveling northeast along Little Cedar Canyon Road have panoramic views of the flat to rugged terrain that has been impacted by numerous human-made alterations associated with heavy agricultural uses and industrial uses around Oakley. Views from this KOP have moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1171 (Figure E.2-8). From KOP 1171, residents at Warm Creek Ranch have views south toward the rugged terrain of Cedar Canyon. Open panoramic views of the flat to rugged terrain are impacted by numerous human-made alterations associated with heavy agricultural uses, resulting in a moderate scenic quality.

KOP 221 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for the Segment 7 Proposed Route.

Alternative 7I

Alternative 7I would deviate from the Segment 7 Proposed Route east of Bradley Mountain and travel southeast along the Alternative 7B route, diverging from it north of Buist, Idaho. The alternative would travel west across the Sawtooth NF and Raft River Valley following the Alternative 7H route before diverging farther to the south, east of the Jim Sage Mountains. The Route Alternative would travel south of the City of Rocks National Reserve along the Nevada state line before turning northwest toward Amsterdam, Idaho, where it would follow an existing transmission alignment and WWE corridor to the Cedar Hill Substation from the west.

Alternative Route 7I would cross approximately 0.6 mile of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives (Burley FO) and 24.1 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives (Burley and Pocatello FO) as well as 65.3 miles of private land in the states of Idaho and Nevada.

Alternative 7I would also cross 8 miles of Idaho state land. The portion of the alignment in Wells, Nevada, crosses land with both VRM Class II objectives (0.3 mile) and Class III objectives (8.4 miles) managed by the Wells FO of the Elko District.

Alternative 7I would cross two divisions of the Sawtooth NF—the Sublett and Cassia Divisions—for a total distance of 27.7 miles. Roads associated with this alternative would cross the northwestern edge of the Black Pine Division. Alternatives 7H, 7I, and 7J would share the same alignment where they cross the Sublett Division and pass within 0.5 mile of the Black Pine Division. Alternative 7I would cross 25 miles of NFS lands allocated to MA 6.1, Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Shrubland and Grassland Landscapes, and 2.7 miles allocated to MA 4.2, Roaded Recreation Emphasis.

Most of the NFS land that would be crossed by Alternative 7I is managed to conform to Maximum Modification VQO (17.6 miles), which allows management activities of vegetative and landform alterations to dominate the characteristic landscape and be out

of scale or contain detail that is incongruent with natural occurrences as seen in foreground or middleground. Two other portions of the alternative would cross Modification VQO (9.2 miles), which allows management activities to visually dominate the original characteristic landscape. Partial Retention VQO-Moderate SIO (0.8 mile) would be more restrictive and require management activities to remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

Although Alternative 7I would be south of the City of Rocks National Reserve, the NPS must consider boundary changes and other methods to protect important resources, such as historic viewsheds and high potential trail sites and segments along the California NHT. Specific KOPs regarding this area of visual concern, where there is a heightened awareness to visual change, have been provided in the KOP description below (see Figure 3.2-4).

The following 25 KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive and typical views for Alternative 7I.

KOP 305 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 5A.

KOP 912 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7B.

KOP 916 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7B.

KOP 898 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7B.

KOP 1282 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7H.

KOP 1278 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7H.

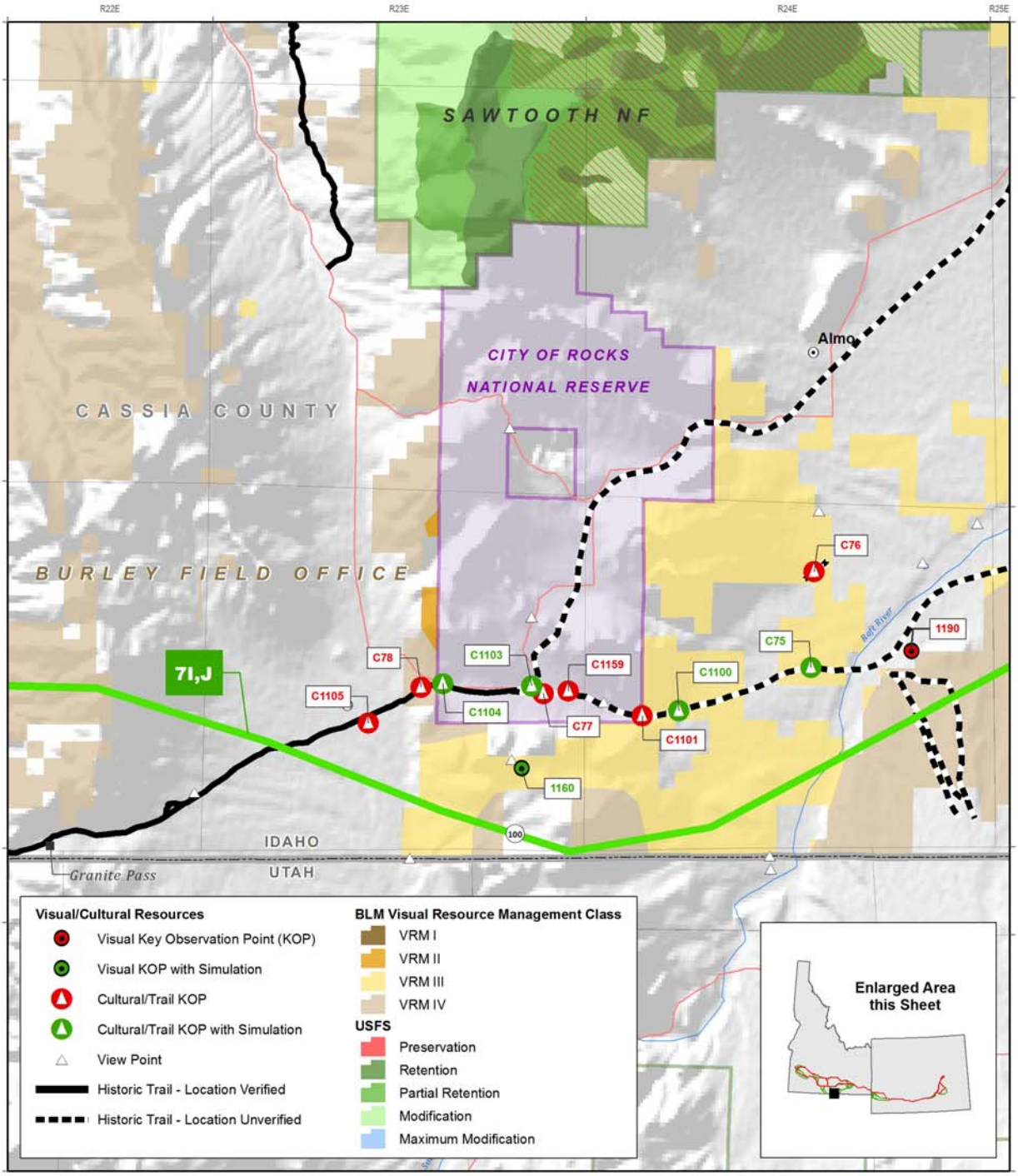
KOP 1273 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7H.

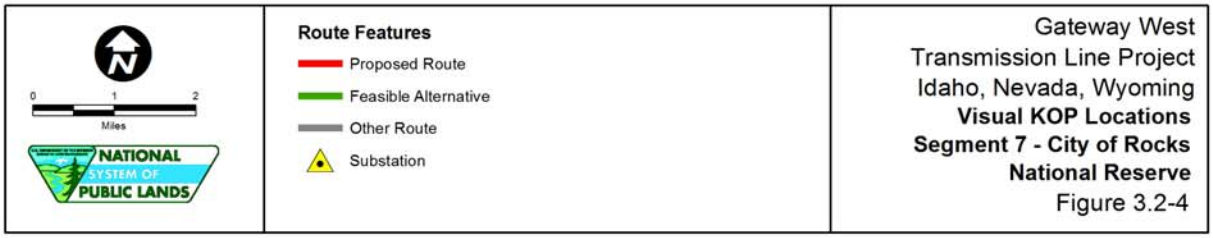
KOP 1270 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7H.

KOP 1267 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7H.

KOP 1079 (Figure E.2-8/Appendix G, Figure ST-3a). Views from KOP 1079 represent the views of recreational users of the Sawtooth NF driving along Hoppers Gulch Road looking west toward the rolling terrain of Flatiron Butte, adjacent to the Sawtooth NF. The view is considered a natural characteristic landscape with a landscape variety class of B, or common, when compared to views in the surrounding region. Viewers traveling on this roadway would have a level 2 (average) sensitivity to changes in the characteristic landscape due to the distance from campgrounds and viewpoints. Open panoramic views of the rolling terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. due to the lack of unique aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background with few human-made alterations.

KOP 1081 (Figure E.2-8/Appendix G, Figure ST-3c). Views from KOP 1081 represent the views of recreational users of the Sawtooth NF driving along Hoppers Gulch Road looking southwest toward the rolling terrain adjacent to Hopper Gulch Spring in the Sawtooth NF. The view is considered a natural characteristic landscape with a landscape variety class of B, or common, when compared to views in the


R22E
R23E
R24E
R25E
T14S
T15S
T16S
T15N
T14N
SAWTOOTH NF
CITY OF ROCKS
NATIONAL RESERVE
Almo
CASSIA COUNTY
BURLEY FIELD OFFICE
7I,J
C76
C75
1190
C78
C1103
C1159
C1100
C1105
C1104
C77
C1101
1160
Raft River
100
IDAHO
UTAH
Granite Pass
Visual/Cultural Resources
Visual Key Observation Point (KOP)
Visual KOP with Simulation
Cultural/Trail KOP
Cultural/Trail KOP with Simulation
View Point
Historic Trail - Location Verified
Historic Trail - Location Unverified
BLM Visual Resource Management Class
VRM I
VRM II
VRM III
VRM IV
USFS
Preservation
Retention
Partial Retention
Modification
Maximum Modification
Enlarged Area
this Sheet


0
1
2
Miles
NATIONAL
SYSTEM OF
PUBLIC LANDS
Route Features
Proposed Route
Feasible Alternative
Other Route
Substation
Gateway West
Transmission Line Project
Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming
Visual KOP Locations
Segment 7 - City of Rocks
National Reserve
Figure 3.2-4

surrounding region. Viewers traveling on this roadway would have a level 2 (average) sensitivity to changes in the characteristic landscape due to the distance from campgrounds and viewpoints. Open panoramic views of the rolling terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality due to the lack of unique aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views as well as few human-made alterations.

KOP 1204 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1204 represent the views of residences adjacent to Clover Lane looking southeast across Sandrock Canyon toward the rugged terrain of the Black Pine Range. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Numerous alterations associated with agricultural detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1190 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1190 represent the views of residences at Reed Springs looking southeast toward the rugged terrain of George Peak in the Sawtooth NF and Dry Hallow. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Numerous alterations associated with intensive agricultural activity detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1097 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1097 represent the views of recreational users on a marked portion of the California NHT on Lynn Road. This KOP is adjacent to Reed Springs and looks south toward the rugged terrain of Mahogany Peak and the Nut Pine Hills. Focal views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background and few human-made alterations increase the scenic quality.

KOP 1101 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1101 represent the views of recreational users at the boundary of the Reserve and State Park traveling on City of Rocks Road in Emigrant Canyon. The eastern view focuses on the rolling to rugged terrain of Round Mountain and the snaking Raft River Canyon. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background add to the scenic quality, while human-made alterations associated with agricultural uses detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1159 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1159 represent the views of recreational users on the City of Rocks Road, east of the Twin Sisters interpretive site in the Reserve and State Park. The south-facing views focus on the rolling terrain of the area adjacent to Sparks Spring. Partially screened views of the undulating and rocky terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background increase the scenic quality, while a few human-made alterations, associated with park uses, slightly detract from the overall scenic quality.

KOP 1103 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1103 represent the views of recreational users at the Twin Sisters interpretive site in the Reserve and State Park at the intersection of the City of Rocks Road. The south-facing views focus on the rolling terrain of the area adjacent to Sparks Spring. Partially screened views of the undulating terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Aesthetic landscape elements

in the background increase the scenic quality, while human-made alterations associated with park interpretive uses detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1160 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1160 represent the views of recreational users within the Reserve and State Park looking south toward the rugged bold terrain of the area adjacent to Sparks Spring. Partially screened views of the rugged terrain are considered to have high scenic quality. Numerous aesthetic landscape elements in the foreground, middleground, and background, along with few human-made alterations associated with park uses, increase the scenic quality.

KOP 1104 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1104 represent the views of recreational users at the Junction Valley entrance to the City of Rocks Natural Reserve. The southwest view is focused toward the rugged bold terrain of Twin Peaks and the Junction Valley. Open superior (high elevation) views of the rugged terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Numerous aesthetic landscape elements in the foreground, middleground, and background increase the scenic quality, while visible human-made alterations, such as the visible powerline, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1105 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1105 represent the views of recreational users on the California National Historic Trail west of the City of Rocks and adjacent to a historic homesite and school. The southwest view is focused toward the rugged and prominent terrain around Worthington Spring. Open panoramic and somewhat focal views of the rugged terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background increase the scenic quality, while visible human-made alterations, such as the visible powerline in the foreground, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1091 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1091 represent the views of residences at a ranch along Lower Goose Creek looking north toward the rugged terrain surrounding Blue Hill. Focal views of the rugged terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background increase the scenic quality, while human-made alterations associated with ranching uses, slightly detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1086 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1086 represent the views of recreational users adjacent to the Sawtooth NF driving along Shoshone Basin Road and looking east toward the rolling to rugged terrain of Timber Butte and Monument Peak in the Sawtooth NF. The view is considered a natural characteristic landscape with a landscape variety class of B, or common, when compared to views in the surrounding region. Viewers traveling on this roadway would have a level 2 (average) sensitivity to changes in the characteristic landscape due to distance from the Sawtooth NF. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background increase the scenic quality, while human-made alterations associated with grazing land uses, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1078 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1078 represent the views of recreational users adjacent to the Sawtooth NF driving along Magic Mountain Road. The northeast

view is focused toward the rolling to rugged terrain of Black Mountain and Bald Hill in the Sawtooth NF. The view is considered a natural characteristic landscape with a landscape variety class of A, or distinctive, when compared to views in the surrounding region. Viewers traveling on this roadway would have a level 1 (highest) sensitivity to changes in the characteristic landscape adjacent to the Sawtooth NF. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background increase the scenic quality, while human-made alterations associated with Forest Service uses, slightly detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1052 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1052 represent the views of adjacent residences along North 2475 East Road looking east toward the rolling to rugged terrain of Sugarloaf Mountain in the Sawtooth NF. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality. Aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background increase the scenic quality, while human-made alterations associated with adjacent agricultural uses, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1047 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1047 represent the views of adjacent recreational users at Nat-Soo-Pah Warm Springs looking east toward the rolling terrain of foothills adjacent to Sugarloaf Mountain and Squaw Joe Canyon. Partially screened views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have low scenic quality. Few aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background along with human-made alterations associated with the warm springs partially block the view and detract from the scenic quality.

Alternative 7J

Alternative 7J would incorporate all of Alternative 7I from the Populus Substation to point 7r.3, where Alternative 7J would replace the remainder of Alternative 7I. At MP 137.2, Alternative 7J would turn west then northwest for approximately 16.6 miles across Shoshone Basin. Local landowners proposed that the Cedar Hill Substation be moved to this junction, a move of about 24 miles southwest from its current proposed location at point 9; Twin Falls County sent a letter supporting this proposal (Twin Falls County 2010). From point 13, Alternative 7J would branch in two directions: one line would continue northwest for approximately 8 miles, then turn north within a WWE corridor to meet Proposed Segment 9 at point 9a.6. The second line would proceed for approximately 10 miles back to the WWE corridor at point 9a.1, continuing to the east along the Alternative 7I alignment, into the current location of the proposed Cedar Hill Substation.

Alternative 7J would cross approximately 0.6 mile of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives (Burley FO) and 25.2 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives (Burley and Pocatello FO) as well as 92.3 miles of private land in the states of Idaho and Nevada.

Alternative 7J would also cross 8.9 miles of Idaho state land. The first portion of the alignment would be shared with Alternative 7I, crossing the same portion of VRM Class

II objectives (0.3 mile) and Class III objectives (8.4 miles) in Nevada, managed by the Wells FO of the Elko District.

The portion of NFS land crossed by Alternative 7J and not by 7I is managed to conform to Maximum Modification VQO (0.1 mile), which allows management activities of vegetative and landform alterations to dominate the characteristic landscape and be out of scale or contain detail that is incongruent with natural occurrences as seen in foreground or middleground. Approximately 13 miles of portion of the route that Alternative 7J shares with Alternative 7I would cross the Sawtooth NF. Of these, 6.8 miles would cross NFS land managed to conform to Maximum Modification VQO, and 6.2 miles would cross NFS land managed to conform to Modification VQO.

Alternative 7J shares the same portion of the Alternative 7I alignment south of the City of Rocks National Reserve. Specific KOPs regarding this area of visual concern, where there is a heightened awareness to visual change, have been provided in the KOP description for Alternative 7I.

The following 23 KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive and typical views for Alternative 7J.

KOP 305 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 5A.

KOP 912 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7B.

KOP 916 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7B.

KOP 898 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7B.

KOP 1282 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7H.

KOP 1278 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7H.

KOP 1273 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7H.

KOP 1270 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7H.

KOP 1267 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7H.

KOP 1204 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7I.

KOP 1190 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7I.

KOP 1097 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7I

KOP 1101 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7I.

KOP 1159 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7I.

KOP 1103 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7I.

KOP 1160 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7I.

KOP 1104 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7I.

KOP 1105 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7I.

KOP 1091 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7I.

KOP 1086 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7I.

KOP 1410 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1410 represent the views of adjacent residences on Three Creek Road west of Rogerson looking northeast toward the rolling terrain of foothills adjacent to the Deep Creek Reservoir and South Hills of the Sawtooth NF. Open, panoramic views of the undulating terrain are considered to have low scenic quality. Few aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background, along with numerous human-made alterations associated with agricultural land use, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1401 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1401 represent the views of adjacent recreational users at the Salmon Falls Dam west of Rogerson looking northeast across the jagged and focal terrain of Salmon Falls Canyon. Focal views of the canyon with contrasting undulating terrain across the top of the plain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Diverse aesthetic landscape elements of form, line, and texture in the foreground and middleground increase the scenic quality, while human-made alterations associated with the dam and picnic/camping area detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1409 (Figure E.2-8). Views from KOP 1409 represent the views of adjacent residences on 2700 East south of the Nat Soo Pah Hotsprings approximately 2.0 miles west of the NF boundary. The south-facing view is focused toward the undulating terrain of North Cottonwood Ridge in the NF. Open, panoramic views of the undulating terrain with numerous vertical man-made elements are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality due to the scenic aesthetic landscape elements in the foreground and middleground views. Numerous human-made alterations associated with the high-voltage transmission lines and smaller distribution lines that alter the natural appearing landscape detract from the scenic quality.

Segment 8 – Midpoint to Hemingway

Proposed Route

The Segment 8 Proposed Route would cross approximately 3.2 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class I objectives (Four Rivers FO), 12.3 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives (Shoshone FO), and 40.3 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives (Four Rivers FO, Shoshone FO). The route would also cross 9.3 miles of Idaho state lands and 33.4 miles of private land.

The following 14 KOPs were identified to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Segment 8 of the Project. The first 3 KOPs have cultural as well as visual resource concerns and are described in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources and summarized in Table 3.3-5.

KOP C100 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this point are the from Canyon Creek Stage Station historic site.

KOP C101 (Figure E.2-9, Simulation Figure E.2-24). Views from this point from the Pioneer Reservoir on the Oregon NHT.

KOP C102 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this point are from the Rattlesnake Station historic site on the Oregon NHT.

KOP 561 (Figure E.2-9/Figure BOP-3a in Appendix G-1). From this KOP, located at a BLM trailhead directly adjacent to Marsing Murphy Road, there are views toward an existing residences and the Striker Basin. The view is open with variation in topography from the foreground to the horizon. Scenic views in the Striker Basin of Guffey Butte and the surrounding mountainous terrain are important to sensitive viewers such as hikers at the BLM trailhead and the adjacent residences in the view. The pristine mountain views exhibit diversity in form, line, color, and texture. The views include residences and other structures, which detract from the scenic quality; however, the overall scenic quality is considered moderate to high.

KOP 1222 (Figure E.2-9). Views from KOP 1222 represent the views of two residences looking south across both agricultural and natural re-growth lands surrounding Jerome, Idaho. Open panoramic views of the broad, rolling terrain are considered to have low scenic quality. Few aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background and numerous dominant human-made alterations detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 356 (Figure E.2-9). From this KOP, located approximately 3 miles south of Gooding on State Highway 46, there are views toward an existing electrical transmission line. The view is open with little variation in topography from the foreground to the horizon. The landscape includes relatively homogenous sagebrush and agricultural areas. The views include electrical distribution lines, residences, and other structures, which detract from the scenic quality. The overall scenic quality is considered low.

KOP 353 (Figure E.2-9). This KOP, which represents travelers along U.S. Route 26, is located approximately 3.5 miles east of I-84 on U.S. Route 26, just south of a railroad. An electrical transmission line is present in this view, along with dispersed residences, fences, and agriculture-related structures, which detract from the scenic quality. Topography in this view is flat to gently rolling and extends from the foreground to the horizon. Vegetation adds some limited variation in color and texture, but the resultant scenic quality is considered low.

KOP 1350 (Figure E.2-9/Appendix G-1, Figure J-5a). Views from this KOP represent recreational viewers along the Bennett Mountain Road looking south. Open panoramic views of this nearly horizontal landscape are considered to have low scenic quality due to the few aesthetic landscape elements and relatively homogenous sagebrush. The views include three existing electrical transmission lines and the straight paved road, which detract from scenic quality.

KOP 1208 (Figure E.2-9). Views from KOP 1208 represent the views of residences on Bennett Road looking southwest toward the broad Snake River Valley Plain. Open panoramic views of the broad, rolling terrain are considered to have low to moderate

scenic quality due to the few aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background. Dominant human-made alterations associated with wind energy infrastructure detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1126 (Figure E.2-9). Views from KOP 1126 represent the views of residents and travelers on I-84 looking north toward the rolling terrain of Smith's Draw and mountainous silhouette of Lucky Peak in the background. Open panoramic views of the flat to rolling terrain in the foreground to middleground are considered to have low scenic quality due to the few scarce aesthetic landscape elements. Numerous human-made alterations within the view detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1118 (Figure E.2-9). Views from KOP 1118 represent the views of residents traveling on Pleasant Valley Road looking directly south toward rolling terrain and mountainous silhouettes. Open panoramic views of the flat to rolling terrain are considered to have low scenic quality due to the few scarce aesthetic landscape elements. Numerous human-made alterations within the view detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1142 (Figure E.2-9). Views from KOP 1142 represent the views of recreational hikers at Initial Point Butte looking south across the flat to rolling terrain with the mountainous silhouette of Coyote Butte in the background. Open panoramic views of the flat to rolling terrain have been impacted by subordinate human-made alterations to the landscape, which draw the attention of the casual observer and result in a moderate to high scenic quality rating.

KOP 563 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this KOP represent those of recreational drivers and hikers at Celebration Archeological Park. Open panoramic views of the surrounding mountains in the background offer some landscape contrast along with the presence of aesthetically interesting elements in the foreground, middleground, and background of the view. Overall scenic quality is considered moderate to high for this KOP.

KOP 1145 (Figure E.2-9). Views from KOP 1145 represent the views of recreational OHV users at the Hemingway Butte OHV use area, looking southwest toward rocky and angular terrain that constitutes Hemingway Butte and the surrounding area. The visible overhead transmission line in the view is approximately 0.6 mile from the KOP. Open panoramic views of the rugged terrain with heavy OHV scarring are considered to have moderate scenic quality due to the aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background. Human-made alterations across the landscape detract from the scenic quality.

Alternative 8A

Alternative 8A would deviate from the Proposed Route at the Midpoint Substation and travel directly west crossing I-84 and the Thousand Springs Scenic Byway, which does not have specific visual requirements at this time, and parallel an existing 138-kV line northwest across the Snake River and I-84 before rejoining the Proposed Route north of Glenn's Ferry. Alternative 8A would cross approximately 6.8 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class I objectives (1.0 mile in the Four Rivers FO and 5.8

miles in the Jarbidge FO) and 2.1 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives (Shoshone FO). The alternative would also cross 6.2 miles of Idaho state land including 0.1 mile of IDFG land at the Billingsley Creek Wildlife Management Area and 22.1 miles of private land. Alternative 8A would cross the Snake River north of the Hagerman Fossilbeds, which is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources (see KOP C62). The following two KOPs have cultural as well as visual resource concerns and are described in the Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources and summarized in Table 3.3-5.

KOP C107 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this point are from a portion of the Oregon NHT.

KOP C108 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this point are from a portion of the Oregon NHT.

The following nine KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 8A of the Project.

KOP 810 (Figure E.2-9/Appendix G, Figure J-4c). This KOP is located southeast of Black Mesa and represents the view of recreational viewers on the Oregon NHT. Views north toward the Snake River are open and panoramic and include a limited variation in vegetation but do exhibit topographic variation as the mesa slopes down toward the river. Numerous transmission lines are readily visible in the middleground and background. Overall scenic quality is low to moderate due to a lack of diversity in form, line, color, and texture as well as the visible human-made disturbance.

KOP 358 (Figure E.2-9). This KOP is located on the west side of U.S. Highway 93 south of Shoshone and about 1 mile southwest of the Midpoint Substation; this KOP represents residential viewers. Views are open and panoramic and include a limited variation in vegetation due to agricultural uses and minimal topographic variation. The existing transmission line is readily visible as are smaller distribution lines. To the northeast, the existing Midpoint Substation is visible, which detracts from the overall scenic quality. Overall scenic quality is low.

KOP 1220 (Figure E.2-9). Views from KOP 1220 represent the views of a residence looking north across agricultural lands approximately 0.5 mile from Alternative 8A. This KOP represents a foreground, uninterrupted view of the Project alignment. Open panoramic views of the broad, rolling terrain are considered to have low scenic quality. Few aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views as well as numerous dominant human-made alterations and landscape scarring from agriculture detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1213 (Figure E.2-9). Views from KOP 1213 represent the views from a residence adjacent to Idaho Highway 46 looking north toward Gooding and Turkey Head Butte. Viewers at this location would be approximately 1.5 miles from Alternative 8A. This KOP represents a foreground, partially screened view of the alternative route. Open panoramic views of the broad, rolling terrain are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality. Few aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views as well as industrial/infrastructure human-made alterations, such as the high-voltage transmission lines in the middleground, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1211 (Figure E.2-9). Views from KOP 1211 represent the views from a residence on Shoe String Road looking south toward the town of Wendell and I-84. Open panoramic views of the broad, rolling terrain are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality. Few aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views as well as industrial/infrastructure human-made alterations, such as the high-voltage transmission lines in the middleground, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 791 (Figure E.2-9). Views from KOP 791 represent the views of recreational drivers along the Thousand Springs Scenic Byway north of Hagerman, Idaho, looking north toward the Lower Salmon Falls and the Devil's Washbasin along the Snake River. A framed, superior view of the rolling to rugged terrain and diverse vegetative patterns is considered to have high scenic quality due to the few visible human-made alterations, and the scenic status of the roadway.

KOP 803 (Figure E.2-9). Views from KOP 803 represent the views of recreational users of the Salmon Reserve boat launch and recreational dock on the Snake River just south of Lower Salmon Falls, looking southwest across the Snake River at a highly visible transmission line. Open panoramic and inferior views of the rolling to rough terrain and more dramatic background views are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality due to the presence of the dominant water feature in the immediate foreground. A few human-made alterations adjacent to this view detracts from the scenic quality.

KOP 783 (Figure E.2-9). Views from KOP 783 represent the views of residences on Black Mesa Road looking slightly northeast toward the flat to rolling terrain of Black Mesa and the Pasadena Valley. There are visible existing transmission lines crossing the middleground that have a high contrast with the existing viewing conditions. Open panoramic views of the rolling terrain are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality. Numerous human-made alterations to the landscape in the foreground and middleground detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1339 (Figure E.2-9). Views from KOP 1339 represent those of recreational viewers at the Three Island Crossing State Park south of Glenns Ferry, Idaho, looking east toward Black Mesa across the Snake River. Open panoramic views of the surrounding rolling to rugged terrain and meandering water feature are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Human-made alterations adjacent to the view and in the background detract from the scenic quality.

Alternative 8B (8q, 8r, 8s, 8g, 8h, 8j, 8k, 8l, 8m, 8n, 8p, 11)

Alternative 8B would be one of the variations in the route near the town of Melba. Alternative 8B would cross approximately 7.4 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives (Four Rivers FO), 2.8 miles of Idaho state land, and 27.3 miles of private land. The following nine KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive and typical views for Alternative 8B.

KOP C88 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this point are from Walter's Ferry historic site. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 1126 (Figure E.2-9). This KOP is the same as described for the Segment 8 Proposed Route.

KOP 329 (Figure E.2-9). From this KOP located in southern Kuna, north of Indian Creek, there are views toward the south with Kuna Butte evident in the middleground at a distance of approximately 3.5 miles. This KOP, adjacent to the Kuna's athletic fields, offers a partially screened view to the south of Segment 8. A variety of structures are present in this view, including residences, cellular towers, fences, and the baseball field, which all detract from the scenic quality. Vegetation includes trees of different species, sizes, and shapes. Overall scenic quality is considered low for this KOP.

KOP 362 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this KOP represent those of recreational drivers traveling along Highway 45 and stopped at this lookout point. Framed views of the surrounding valley and mountainous terrain in the background offer some landscape contrast, but views include the presence of human-made features in the middleground, detracting from the scenic quality. Overall scenic quality is considered moderate for this KOP.

KOP 591 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this KOP represent those of travelers on the Snake River Canyon Scenic Byway (Map Rock Road) east of the Snake River. The view looking to the south includes rolling topography, water, and prominent hills in the background. From this location there would be views of a diverse variety of vegetation, ground cover, structures, and terrain. Overall scenic quality is considered moderate.

KOP 338 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this KOP represent those of residents on State Highway 78 looking northwest. Open views of the flat agricultural land with mesas and mountainous terrain in the middleground and background offer some landscape contrast. Views include the presence of numerous human-made features in the foreground and middleground, detracting from the scenic quality. Overall scenic quality is considered low to moderate for this KOP.

KOP 328 (Figure E.2-9). Views represent those of residential visitors to Wilson Cemetery looking south to southeast. Open views of the rolling hills and mountainous terrain in the background offer some landscape contrast. Views include the presence of human-made features in the foreground and middleground, which detract from the scenic quality. Overall scenic quality is considered low to moderate for this KOP.

KOP 1333 (Figure E.2-9). Views from KOP 1333 represent those of residential viewers adjacent to Kuna Butte looking south across the top of the butte. Open panoramic views of the undulating terrain are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality due to the lack of variety in form, line, color, and texture when compared to other views in the surrounding region.

KOP 1334 (Figure E.2-9). Views from KOP 1334 represent those of residential viewers on Swan Falls Road east of Kuna Butte looking south. Open panoramic views of the flat to undulating terrain are considered to have low scenic quality due to the lack of variety in form, line, color, and texture when compared to other views in the surrounding region.

Alternative 8C

Alternative 8C would be one of the variations in the route near the town of Melba (directly west). Alternative 8C would cross approximately 2.3 miles of BLM-administered land managed to conform to VRM Class III objectives and 3.9 miles of private land. The following three KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical view for Alternative 8C.

KOP 1126 (Figure E.2-9). This KOP is the same as described for the Segment 8 Proposed Route.

KOP 336 (Figure E.2-9). This KOP, which represents travelers on I-84, is located near Indian Creek Reservoir. The terrain is gently rolling with views of the reservoir in the middleground. The vegetation lacks variety in color and texture and is generally made up of low shrubs and grass. Noticeable structures include an existing electric transmission line and an overpass to the southeast with visible retail signs, all of which detract from the scenic quality. Overall scenic quality is considered low.

KOP 337 (Figure E.2-9) This KOP, which represents travelers stopping at the Sinclair gas station on I-84 or local residents on Mayfield Road, is located southeast of Indian Creek Reservoir. The terrain is gently rolling with views of distant mountainous silhouettes in the middleground. The vegetation is typical of the Columbia Plateau physiographic province and lacks variety in color and texture and is generally made up of low shrubs and grass. Noticeable structures include an existing high-voltage electric transmission line. Overall scenic quality is considered low.

Alternative 8D

Alternative 8D would be one of the variations in the route in the SRBOP. Alternative 8D would cross approximately 4.2 miles of private land, 2.5 miles of BLM-administered land managed to conform to VRM class III objectives, and 1.0 mile of Idaho state land. The following KOP location was selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 8D.

KOP 331 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this KOP represent those of local residences traveling along South Pleasant Valley Road. Open and panoramic views of the rolling terrain in the middleground and background as well as the relatively flat agricultural land in the background offer little landscape contrast. Views are considered to be of low to moderate scenic quality. Electric utilities and high-voltage transmission lines in the middleground, as well as other human-made elements in the foreground and middleground, detract from the scenic quality.

Alternative 8E

Alternative 8E has been proposed to avoid the Halverson Bar non-motorized area in the Guffey Butte-Black Butte Archaeological District. The portion of the Proposed Route that would cross the north end of the Guffey Butte-Black Butte Archaeological District and the Snake River would be located within an area designated by the BLM as Non-Motorized (i.e., no vehicle travel allowed). Alternative 8E would avoid this Non-Motorized land designation.

Alternative 8E would leave the Proposed Route at point 8r.4 (between MPs 113 and 114), proceeding south, following an existing 138-kV transmission line for approximately 8.2 miles. The route would turn to the west-southwest, following an existing transmission line, through the Guffey Butte-Black Butte Archaeological District and crossing the Snake River south of Sinker Butte and Swan Falls. On the west side of the river, the route would turn to the northwest then west before rejoining the Proposed Route at point 8r.5. The portion of Alternative 8E located west of the Snake River would follow the same route as Alternatives 9D and 9F. Alternative 8E on the east side of the river would cross approximately 9.8 miles of BLM-administered land managed to conform to VRM class III objectives and the western alignment would cross approximately 5.9 miles of BLM-administered land managed to conform to VRM class III objectives. Alternative 8E would also cross 2.4 miles of BLM-administered land managed to conform to VRM Class II objectives, and 0.3 mile of private land.

The following KOP location was selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 8E of the Project west of the Snake River.

KOP 1423 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this KOP represent those of recreational users at Celebration Park adjacent to the Snake River looking south across the river toward Guffey Butte and Con Shea Basin. Open yet focal views of the placid river and more dramatic terrain in the middleground and background offer diverse landscape contrast in form, color, texture, and line. Views are considered to be of moderate to high scenic quality. The presence of human-made changes in the foreground, which do not necessarily detract from the scenic quality, often exist harmoniously with the natural landscape.

The following two KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 8E of the Project east of the Snake River.

KOP 1425 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this KOP represent those of recreational users at the Dedication Point Overlook on the Snake River looking south to southeast toward Big Foot Butte and the SRBOP. Open, panoramic views of the undulating terrain in the middleground and background offer little landscape contrast in form, color, texture, and line. Views are considered to be of moderate scenic quality. The presence of a few horizontal and vertical human-made changes in the foreground detract from the scenic quality of the natural landscape.

KOP 1428 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this KOP represent those of recreational drivers on the Western Heritage Historic Byway looking east toward Coyote Butte and the SRBOP. Open, panoramic views of the undulating to flat terrain in the middleground and background offer little landscape contrast in form, color, texture, and line. Views are considered to be of moderate scenic quality due to the presence of man-made changes in the middleground (transmission line), which detract from the scenic quality of the natural landscape.

Segment 9 – Cedar Hill to Hemingway

Proposed Route

The Segment 9 Proposed Route would cross 0.15 mile of BLM-administered land with VRM Class I objectives (Burley FO), 5.6 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives (Bruneau FO and Jarbidge FO), and 29.2 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives (Bruneau FO, Burley FO, Jarbidge FO, and Owyhee FO). Approximately 15.0 miles of the Proposed Route would cross the SRBOP in two locations. This route would cross an eligible Wild and Scenic River (WSR; Salmon Falls Creek). Scenery is one of the outstandingly remarkable values identified for this WSR.

Approximately 10.0 miles of the Proposed Route would be in the eastern end of the SRBOP between Bruneau Dunes State Park and the Saylor Creek Air Force Range (a military withdrawn area). Approximately 5.0 miles would be located in Owyhee County, southeast of Murphy, Idaho. Approximately 11.1 miles of the SRBOP land crossed by the Proposed Route is managed by the BLM with VRM Class III objectives. This portion of the Proposed Route would be in the designated WWE corridor. The route would also cross 4.5 miles of Idaho state lands and 28.4 miles of private land.

The following 17 KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Segment 9.

KOP C101 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this point are from the historic Hollister School. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C109 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this point are from the Owyhee County Courthouse. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 372 (Figure E.2-10/Appendix G, Figure J-2a). Views from this KOP represent those of residences along the Snake River Plain. Open and panoramic views of the rolling hills in the middleground and background as well as relatively flat adjacent agricultural land offer some landscape contrast. Views are considered to be of moderate scenic quality due to the monotonous landscape features. This KOP is also discussed in further detail in Appendix G.

KOP 410 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this KOP represent those of recreational drivers and hikers traveling along this BLM access road. Superior (elevated) open and panoramic views of the rolling hills in the middleground and relatively flat agricultural land in the background offer some landscape contrast. Views are considered to be of moderate scenic quality. The presence of electric utilities in the middleground and other human-made elements and altered landscapes detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 452 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 452 represent the views of a residence on North 3100 East Road east of Hub Butte looking southwest toward Black and Sugarloaf Mountains in the Sawtooth NF. Panoramic and focal views of the flat, rolling, and bold terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. The resulting scenic quality is due to the presence of human-made alterations adjacent to this view, which detracts

from the scenic quality, and the monotone vegetation as well as some distinct forms within the natural landscape elements in the background.

KOP 407 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 407 represent the views of a residence on East 2900 North Road west of Hub Butte looking south toward the town of Hollister and Flatiron Mountain. Open panoramic views of the flat, rolling, and bold terrain with monotone vegetation are considered to have moderate scenic quality due to the presence of some human-made alterations adjacent to this view, detracting from the scenic quality.

KOP 1067 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this KOP represent those of recreational drivers traveling along Lily Grade Road crossing the Lower Salmon Falls Creek. Low elevation framed views of the vertical rugged terrain in the foreground and middleground offer a variety of landscape elements with form and texture. Views are considered to be of moderate to high scenic quality due to the lack of human-made elements and the seemingly unaltered landscape.

KOP 1068 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this KOP represent those of recreational drivers and local residents traveling along Lily Grade Road after crossing the Lower Salmon Falls Creek. Open panoramic views of the flat to rolling terrain in the foreground, middleground, and background offer little variety of landscape elements. Views are considered to be of low to moderate scenic quality due to the presence of human-made elements, detracting from the scenic quality.

KOP 1069 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1069 represent the views of a residence adjacent to Balanced Rock Road looking southwest toward Castleford Butte. The natural landscape elements within the view are monotone in form. Focal views of the rolling and bold terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality due to the presence of human-made alterations adjacent to this view, detracting from the scenic quality.

KOP 387 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this KOP represent those of recreational drivers and hikers on the Centennial Trail. KOP 387 is located on BLM-administered lands managed to conform to VRM Class III objectives. Open panoramic views of rolling hills and distant mountains in the middleground and background offer some landscape contrast. However, the wind turbines that appear in the background detract from the view, resulting in a moderate to high scenic quality.

KOP 401 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this KOP represent those of recreational drivers and hikers traveling along Bruneau Dunes Road in the Bruneau Dunes State Park. Open panoramic views of the rolling sand dunes and distant mountains (ranging up to 3,000 feet in elevation) in the middleground and background offer some landscape contrast. Views are considered to be of moderate to high scenic quality due to human-made elements in the middleground around Dunes Lake, which slightly detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 599 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this KOP represent those of local residents and drivers traveling along Mud Flat Road. Open panoramic views of relatively flat landscapes to distant rolling hills in the middleground and background and relatively flat

agricultural land dominating foreground views offer little landscape contrast. Views are considered to be of low to moderate scenic quality due to the presence of electric utilities, numerous human-made features, and human-made landscape alterations in the foreground and middleground, detracting from the scenic quality.

KOP 602 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this KOP represent those of residents and attendees of a school on Mud Flat Road. Open panoramic views of distant hills and plateaus in the background and relatively flat to rolling agricultural land dominating foreground and middleground views offer little landscape contrast. Views are considered to be of low to moderate scenic quality. The presence of electric utilities, numerous human-made features, and human-made landscape alterations in the foreground and middleground detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 592 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 592 represent the views of recreational drivers at the Utter Disaster Historic Site. Open panoramic views of the surrounding mountains in the background offer some landscape contrast; however, electric utilities and other human-made elements in the foreground and middleground modify the setting. Views are considered to be of low to moderate scenic quality due to human-made alterations in the foreground and middleground, detracting from the scenic quality.

KOP 566 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this KOP represent those of recreational viewers visiting the historic Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church. Open panoramic views of the surrounding agricultural lands and rolling hills in the middleground and background offer some landscape contrast but include human-made features in the foreground and middleground. Views are considered to be of moderate scenic quality due to numerous human-made alterations in the foreground and middleground, detracting from the scenic quality.

KOP 1114 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1114 represent the views of recreational OHV users at the Fossil Creek Trailhead looking southwest toward rolling to rugged terrain commonly found in the Underwood Alkaline Foothills Ecoregion of the Snake River Plain. This KOP represents a foreground to middleground, uninterrupted view of the project alignment and alternative. Open panoramic and elevated views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have high scenic quality due to the numerous aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views and a lack of human-made alterations.

KOP 572 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this KOP represent those of recreational hikers at the BLM Rabbit Creek Trailhead. Open panoramic views of the rolling hills in the middleground and background offer some landscape contrast. Modest human-made alterations in the foreground and middleground detract from the view and result in moderate to high scenic quality for views from this KOP.

Alternative 9A

South of Magic Valley there is one proposed Route Alternative, which is Alternative 9A. Alternative 9A is generally an 8-mile reconfiguration of the Segment 9 Proposed Route, south of Hub Butte (south of the Twin Falls Airport and the Saylor Creek Air Force

Range. Alternative 9A would cross approximately 2.1 miles of private land and 5.6 miles of BLM-administered land managed to conform to VRM Class IV objectives.

The following three KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 9A.

KOP 454 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 454 represent the views of a residence adjacent to North 2800 East Road looking south toward Alternative 9A northeast of Hollister, Idaho. Focal views of the prominent terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. The presence of highly visible human-made alterations adjacent to this view detracts from the scenic quality, while the natural landscape elements add a variety of form, line, color, and texture within the view, increasing the scenic quality.

KOP 414 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 414 represent the views of a residence on North 3000 East Road looking south toward Alternative 9A south of Hub Butte. Open panoramic views of the flat to rolling terrain with rugged background silhouettes are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. The presence of some small-scale human-made alterations adjacent to this view detract from the scenic quality, while the presence of natural landscape elements with distinguishable form, line, color, and texture adds variety within the view.

KOP 440 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 440 represent the views of a residence on North 2800 East Road looking north toward Alternative 9A northeast of Hollister, Idaho. Open panoramic views of the flat to rolling terrain are considered to have low scenic quality. The presence of numerous human-made alterations adjacent to this view and the lack of natural landscape elements detract from the scenic quality.

Alternative 9B

Alternative 9B, south of Hagerman, Idaho, and Glenns Ferry, would follow an existing 138-kV transmission line and WWE corridor for much of its alignment before turning west at Dead Mans Flat. Alternative 9B would cross approximately 1.6 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class I objectives (Jarbidge FO), 31.5 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class IV objectives, 1.0 mile of Idaho state land, and 19.1 miles of private land.

The following six KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 9B.

KOP C106 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this point are from a portion of the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 810 (Figure E.2-9/Appendix G, Figure J-4c). This KOP is located southeast of Black Mesa and represents recreational viewers on the Oregon NHT. Views south toward Twenty-Mile Butte are open and panoramic and include a limited variation in vegetation with little human-made development. The only apparent human-made development in the view is a gravel road cutting through the middleground. Overall scenic quality is moderate due to a lack of diversity in form, line, color, and texture as well as the lack of visible human-made disturbance.

KOP 419 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 419 represent the views of a residence looking northwest toward the location of Alternative 9B directly east of the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon. Open panoramic views of the flat to rolling terrain are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality. The presence of numerous human-made alterations associated with heavy agricultural use adjacent to this view and the lack of natural landscape elements detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 793 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 793 represent the views of a residence looking east toward Alternative 9B directly east of the Snake River. Open panoramic views of the flat to rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have low scenic quality. The presence of numerous human-made alterations and the lack of natural landscape elements detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 798 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 798 represent the views of a residence looking east directly west of the Snake River and Sinking Canyon. Open panoramic views of the flat to rolling terrain are considered to have low scenic quality. Numerous human-made alterations and/or built elements (such as a transmission in the foreground) and the lack of unique natural landscape elements, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 801 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 801 represent the views of a residence looking southwest, east of the Twenty-Mile Butte, and directly west of the Snake River. Viewers at this location would have open panoramic views of the flat to rolling and rugged terrain that are considered to have moderate scenic quality due to the presence of somewhat intact natural landscape elements. Human-made alterations adjacent to this view, detract from the scenic quality.

Alternative 9C

Alternative 9C would parallel Salmon Falls Creek (avoiding the Proposed Route WSR crossing) for a portion of its route before turning west and crossing west of Castleford, Idaho. Alternative 9C would cross approximately 7.0 miles of private land, 0.1 mile of BLM-administered land managed to conform to VRM Class II management objectives, and 8.2 miles of BLM-administered land managed to conform to VRM Class IV objectives.

The following three KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 9C.

KOP 419 (Figure E.2-10). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 9B.

KOP 369 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this KOP represent those of recreational drivers and hikers in Balanced Rock County Park at the bottom of the canyon created by Salmon Falls Creek. Enclosed and inferior views of the rugged canyon walls that dominate the middleground offer some landscape contrast. Views are considered to be of moderate scenic quality due to the presence of electric utilities in the middleground, detracting from the scenic quality.

KOP 793 (Figure E.2-10). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 9B.

Alternative 9D

Alternative 9D would turn north of the Proposed Route south of the Bruneau Dunes State Park travel northwest directly north of the Snake River before turning west and crossing the Snake River south of Swan Falls, then rejoining the Proposed Route north of Murphy, Idaho. The alternative would cross approximately 11.5 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives (Four Rivers FO), 36.1 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives, 3.4 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class IV objectives, 3.9 miles of Idaho state land, and 3.3 miles of private land. Alternative 9D is proposed to parallel an existing 138-kV line across the SRBOP.

The following 11 KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 9D.

KOP 1129 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1129 represent the views of recreational hikers and campers at Broken Wheel campground looking southwest toward the complex terrain surrounding the Bruneau Dunes State Park. Open panoramic views of the undulating and rugged terrain in the middleground are considered to have high scenic quality due to the scarce aesthetic landscape elements and few human-made alterations within the view. Landscape modifications have been designed to conform to surrounding aesthetic elements, ensuring change is minimally noticeable.

KOP 1128 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1128 represent the views of recreational hikers and OHV users looking south toward the complex terrain of the Bruneau Dunes State Park. Open panoramic views of the undulating and rugged terrain in the middleground are considered to have high scenic quality due to the scarce aesthetic landscape elements and few human-made alterations within the view.

KOP 1133 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1133 represent the views of recreational drivers on Crane Falls Road north of the Oregon NHT looking southwest toward rolling to rugged terrain surrounding Wilkins Gulch and the Bruneau Arm of the C.J. Strike Reservoir. Open panoramic and elevated views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Various aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background increase the scenic quality, while highly visible human-made alterations detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1156 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1156 represent the views of recreational campers in the BLM's Cove Recreation Site at the C.J. Strike Reservoir looking south across rolling to rocky terrain and curvilinear water features. Open and partially screened views of the surrounding rugged terrain and water features are considered to have moderate scenic quality due to the aesthetic landscape elements in the surrounding views; however, the view is typical of this region. Human-made disturbance is very apparent and detracts from the scenic quality.

KOP 1154 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1154 represent the views of recreational campers in the Idaho Power Campground at the C.J. Strike Reservoir. The view is focused to the west across agricultural and dominant vegetation along the water retention and control structures associated with the C.J. Strike Reservoir and Snake River canyon. Screened and enclosed views of the surrounding rugged and engineered terrain are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality. There are

few aesthetic landscape elements in the surrounding views and the diverse variations of form, line, color, and texture are screened by the numerous human-made alterations and structures in the foreground. Many elements within the view have an industrial nature to them and detract from the overall scenic quality.

KOP 1158 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1158 represent the views of recreational drivers traveling along Strike Dam Road adjacent to the C.J. Strike Reservoir looking southwest to west across undulating terrain and meandering water features. Open and panoramic views of the surrounding rolling terrain and water features are considered to have moderate scenic quality due to the aesthetic landscape elements in the surrounding views; however, the view is typical of this region. Human-made disturbance is very apparent and detracts from the scenic quality.

KOP 1143 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1143 represent the views of recreational users at Dedication Point, a BLM-developed day use area with scenic overlooks of the Snake River and Swan Falls. The southwest view is focused toward rocky and angular terrain that comprises the edges of the Snake River Canyon. Open panoramic views of the rugged terrain and background agricultural fields are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Numerous aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background increases the scenic quality, while human-made alterations, though partially screened, detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1115 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1115 represent the views of residents traveling on Warrick Road looking directly north toward rolling terrain and the Snake River Valley (at a distance of 3.25 miles). Open panoramic views of the flat to rolling terrain are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality. The few scarce aesthetic landscape elements and numerous human-made alterations detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1352 (Figure E.2-10/Appendix G, Figure BOP-2a). Views from this KOP represent local residents on Warrick Road looking southeast towards the SRBOP approximately 0.8 mile away. Open panoramic views of this landscape along with agricultural crops in the foreground is considered to have low to moderate scenic quality due to the landscape elements such as Sinker Butte. Farm buildings, stockpiles, utility lines, and irrigation equipment detract from the limited views beyond the agricultural area.

KOP 572 (Figure E.2-10). This KOP is the same as described for the Segment 9 Proposed Route.

KOP 1337 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1337 represent those of recreational viewers at a scenic lookout adjacent to Swan Falls Dam looking southeast toward Sinker Butte across the Snake River. Open panoramic views of the rugged canyon terrain and meandering water feature are considered to have high scenic quality due to the variety in form, line, color, and texture as well as the scarcity of such views in the surrounding region.

Alternative 9E

Alternative 9E would diverge directly south of the Proposed Route south of where the Bruneau Dunes State Park is located traveling east of the Hot Spring Area before turning in a northwestern direction and rejoining the Proposed Route northwest of Murphy, Idaho. Alternative 9E would cross approximately 24.5 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives (Bruneau FO, Jarbidge FO, and Owyhee FO) as well as 2.3 miles of Idaho state land and 1.3 miles of private land.

The following eight KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 9E.

KOP 1137 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1137 represent the views of residences and visitors to the Hot Springs Cemetery on Hot Springs Road looking east toward the flat to undulating terrain north of Bruneau Canyon. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Numerous human-made alterations (i.e., crop cultivation) to the landscape are not dominant in this view but detract from the overall scenic quality.

KOP 1138 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1138 represent the views of residences in Hot Spring on the corner of Blackstone Grasmere and Hot Springs Road looking east toward the undulating to mountainous terrain adjacent to Seventy-one Gulch and north of Bruneau Canyon. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality due to scarce visual resources of interest (i.e., dramatic topography). The juxtaposition of human-made alterations (i.e., crop cultivation) to the landscape is not dominant in this view but slightly detracts from the scenic quality.

KOP 1140 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1140 represent the views of recreational travelers on Highway 51 adjacent to BLM-managed public lands looking north toward the undulating terrain and scattered mesa silhouettes north of Dead Man Gulch. Open panoramic views of the rolling to rugged terrain are considered to have low to moderate scenic quality due to the lack of scarce visual resources of interest (i.e., dramatic topography. Numerous human-made alterations to the landscape, dominate the middleground and background view and detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1141 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1141 represent the views of recreational drivers along the Owyhee Uplands Backcountry Byway directly north of Rock House Ranch looking northeast across the flat to rolling terrain. Open panoramic views of the flat to rolling terrain are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. The juxtaposition of human-made alterations (i.e., crop cultivation) to the landscape are not dominant in this view but detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1152 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1152 represent the views of residential and recreational visitors of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church. The view is focused to the southwest toward the rocky and angular terrain of Lead and Cinnabar Mountains, Hayden Peak, and Cavaney Hill. Open panoramic views of the rugged terrain are considered to have moderate scenic quality due to the aesthetic landscape elements in the background views; however, views of the diverse variations of form,

line, color, and texture are screened by the numerous human-made alterations and structures in the foreground, detracting from the scenic quality.

KOP 1149 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1149 represent the views of recreational travelers on Silver City Road looking southwest toward the rocky and angular terrain surrounding Cavaney and Gerdie Hills and farther to New York Summit close to Silver City. Open panoramic views of the rugged terrain are considered to have high scenic quality. Numerous aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views, diverse variations of form, line, color, and texture, and few visible human-made alterations increase the scenic quality.

KOP 1148 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1148 represent the views of residences adjacent to public lands south of Murphy, Idaho, looking southwest toward rocky and angular terrain surrounding Sand Canyon. Open panoramic views of the rugged terrain and scattered residences are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Numerous aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views, diverse variations of form, line, color, and texture add to the scenic quality, while visible human-made alterations that are subordinate and partially screened slightly detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 572 (Figure E.2-10). This KOP is the same as described for the Segment 9 Proposed Route.

Alternative 9F[2]

This alternative was proposed to avoid the Cove Non-motorized Area near the C.J. Strike Reservoir crossed by Alternative 9D.

From reference point 9n, Alternative 9F would proceed to the west, following the Proposed Route and the WWE corridor for approximately 18 miles. At reference point 9m.1, just south and west of C.J. Strike Reservoir dam, the route turns to the northeast then north for approximately 3 miles to rejoin Alternative 9D. The remainder of Alternative 9F is coincident to Alternative 9D.

Alternative 9F would cross approximately 51.0 miles of BLM-administered land, 5.2 miles managed with VRM Class II objectives, and 35.3 miles managed with VRM Class III objectives. The route would also cross 3.9 miles of Idaho State land and 12.3 miles of private land.

The following two KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 9F.

KOP 1417 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1417 represent the views of residences and Rimrock Junior and Senior High School approximately 1.0 mile southwest of the C.J. Strike Reservoir. The view is focused to the west and northwest toward middle line canal and Rim Road. Open, panoramic views of the undulating terrain and irrigated agricultural land are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Rugged terrain

[2] Alternatives 8E and 9D/9F are the same between reference points 9r.4 and 9r.5 – only one of the Route Alternatives will follow this alignment.

associated with the C.J. Strike Reservoir and distant mountainous elements add variations in form, line, color and texture, increase the scenic quality. Visible human-made alterations are subordinate but slightly detracting from the scenic quality.

KOP 1413 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1413 represent the views of recreational users at an informational kiosk at the C.J. Strike Dam, looking southwest to west toward rocky and angular terrain surrounding the Snake River. Partially screened views of the rocky terrain rising up from the Snake River Plain and scattered industrial human-made development are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground views with variations of form, line, color, and texture increase the scenic quality, while visible human-made alterations detract from the scenic quality.

Alternative 9G

Alternative 9G was developed to provide a separate alignment from Alternative 8E, which shares the same alignment as Alternatives 9D and 9F where it crosses the Snake River. The primary difference between Alternative 9G and Alternatives 9D and 9F is the alignment of the last 15 miles of the route. Alternatives 9D and 9F would take a more northerly path than Alternative 9G. Alternative 9G would not avoid the Cove Non-motorized Area, and instead would share the same alignment as Alternative 9D for that part of its route.

Alternative 9G would follow Alternative 9F for the first 41 miles, proceeding west from reference point 9n along the Proposed Route and WWE corridor. At point 9n.1, just south and west of C.J. Strike Reservoir Dam, the route would turn to the northeast then north for approximately 3 miles to rejoin Alternatives 9D and 9F. Alternatives 9D, 9F, and 9G would then follow the same path, proceeding to the northwest and following an existing 138-kV transmission line. At point 9r.1, Alternative 9G would turn to the west, crossing the Guffey Butte-Black Butte Archaeological District and the Snake River approximately 4 miles south of Sinker Butte. The route continues to the north and west to point 9p.

Alternative 9G would cross 17.9 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives, 27.6 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives, 3.9 miles of Idaho State land, and 2.9 miles of private land. The following two KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 9G.

KOP 1419 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1419 represent the views of recreational users at the BLM-administered Rabbit Creek OHV trailhead, looking southeast to southwest toward Striker Basin and Sinker Creek Butte. Open, panoramic views of the rocky terrain of buttes rising up from the Snake River Plain, with little human-made development, are considered to have moderate to high scenic quality. Aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground views have variations of form, line, color, and texture, which increase the scenic quality. Few visible human-made alterations across the landscape detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1420 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 1420 represent the views of residents at the courthouse in Murphy, Idaho, looking northwest toward the Con Shea Basin and Guffey Butte. Open, panoramic views of the undulating terrain with rising, contrasting buttes and scattered human-made development are considered to have moderate scenic quality. Aesthetic landscape elements in the middleground and background views with variations of form, line, color, and texture add to the scenic quality, while visible human-made alterations in the foreground detract from the scenic quality.

Alternative 9H

Alternative 9H would avoid the Cove Non-Motorized Area as well as provide an alternate alignment for the portion of Alternative 9D/9F that is shared with Alternative 8E. The reasons for the evaluation of Alternative 9G are the same as those discussed for those section of Alternatives 9F and 9G. Alternative 9H would share the same alignment as 9F near C.J. Strike Reservoir, thus avoiding the Cove Non-motorized Area, but would take a more southern alignment for the last 15 miles of the route, following the same alignment as Alternative 9G in that area.

From point 9n, Alternative 9H would follow the same alignment as Alternative 9D, also crossing the nonmotorized area, and then continuing northwest following an existing 138-kV transmission line to point 9r.1. Alternative 9H would then turn west and cross the Guffey Butte-Black Butte Archaeological District and the Snake River approximately 4 miles south of Sinker Butte. The route would continue north and west to point 9p following the same path as Alternative 9G.

Alternative 9H would cross approximately 11.7 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives, 26.8 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class III objectives, 3.9 miles of Idaho State land, and 12.0 miles of private land. The previous KOP locations (KOP 1419 and 1420) selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 9H are the same as Alternative 9G.

Segment 10 – Midpoint to Cedar Hill

Segment 10 would cross approximately 13.2 miles of BLM-administered land managed with VRM Class IV objectives and 20.4 miles of private land. Segment 10 has no Route Alternatives.

Proposed Route

Three KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Segment 10. The first KOP was identified as a cultural KOP and is listed below.

KOP C99 (Figure E.2-11). Views from this point are from the Minidoka National Historic Site. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 162 (Figure E.2-11). This KOP is located on the west side of U.S. Highway 93 south of Shoshone and about 1 mile southwest of the Midpoint Substation. It represents residential viewers. The terrain is generally flat, providing open panoramic views in all directions. The landscape offers little variety in form, line, or color due to

the mono-culture nature of the agricultural use. Existing transmission lines are present to the north and east, along with a view of the existing substation, detracting from the scenic quality. Overall scenic quality is considered low.

KOP 193 (Figure E.2-11). This KOP represents the view from the Hansen Bridge Scenic Overlook viewing east along the Snake River Canyon. The KOP is in an area identified as VRM Class II by the BLM. This view offers some variety in landform due to the canyon and some limited variation in vegetation. Human-made structures include the Hansen Bridge, scattered residences, and distant transmission lines, which detract from the scenic quality. Overall scenic quality is considered low outside the canyon to moderate inside the canyon.

3.2.2 Direct and Indirect Effects

This section is organized to present first construction, then operations, followed by decommissioning effects from the Proposed Route or Route Alternatives. Route Alternatives are analyzed in detail below in Section 3.2.2.3. There is a Design Variation involving use of two single-circuit structures proposed by the Proponent for Segments 2, 3, and 4 (see Section 2.2 for details), which is analyzed below in Section 3.2.2.4. The Proponents have also proposed a Schedule Variation, analyzed in Section 3.2.2.5, in which one of the two single circuits to be constructed in Segments 2, 3, and 4 and a portion of Segment 1W would be built on an extended schedule with construction beginning approximately 2.5 years after completion of the initial construction.

3.2.2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Route or Route Alternatives would not be constructed or operated. No direct or indirect impacts to visual resources would occur from this Project.

3.2.2.2 Effects Common to Action Alternatives

Construction

Construction would result in the visual intrusion of construction vehicles, equipment, materials, and a work force in staging areas, along access roads, and along the new transmission line ROW. Vehicles, heavy equipment, tower components, and workers would be visible during substation construction and modification, access and spur road clearing and grading, structure erection, conductor stringing, and cleanup and restoration. However, disturbance from construction activities would be transient and of short duration as activities progress along the transmission line route. Affected viewers would be aware of the temporary nature of Project construction impacts, which would decrease their sensitivity to the impact. The towers and cables (transmission lines) would cause the major long-term change in scenery. In addition, there would be the alteration of topography, grading for access roads and work areas, dust generation, and clearing of vegetation along the ROW that could be long-lasting in semi-arid and forested, mountain environments and would introduce potentially adverse visual change and contrast.

Operations

Towers and transmission lines, as well as existing and new permanent access roads, would be used by maintenance crews and vehicles for inspection and maintenance activities. Visual impacts would result from inspection and maintenance activities producing traffic and dust on access roads; however, these impacts would be temporary.

Increased visual contrast from the clearing and grading of staging areas and construction yards, construction of new access and spur roads, and activities adjacent to construction sites and along the ROW could be long-lasting in semi-arid and forested, mountain environments where vegetation establishment and growth are slow. Views along linear land scars or newly constructed roads would introduce visual change and contrast by causing unnatural vegetative lines and soil color contrast. Vegetation clearing would occur during construction and in some instances would remain substantially cleared for the life of the Project while other areas would be allowed to revegetate or may be planted with native plant materials. The greatest impact would occur from the long-term presence and operations of the transmission line in sensitive visual resource areas due to the cleared ROW, large vertical structures, and multiple overhead conductors.

The Proponents have incorporated two Project-wide EPMs into the project design that would help mitigate the visual contrast of the transmission line in the landscape:

VR-1 The 500-kV transmission line lattice steel towers would be specified to have a dull galvanized finish. The proposed surface finish is a galvanized finish, treated after the initial galvanizing process to produce a dulled finish to reduce surface reflectivity. This process results in an installed tower with more visual absorption and thus allows the towers to blend in better with the landscape.

VR-2 The three subconductor (500-kV) and two subconductor (230-kV) that make up the conductor bundles would be specified to have a non–specular finish. Similar to the dulled finish of the transmission structures, the conductors reduce surface reflectivity. This process results in eliminating the shiny ribbon effect often seen in older untreated transmission lines and thus allows the conductors to blend in better with the landscape.

The Proponents have identified an additional structure type that would be used to help blend the proposed transmission lines with existing transmission lines.

VR-3 The proposed 230-kV transmission lines between Windstar and Aeolus would use a steel H-frame structure configuration similar to the existing 230-kV in the same general location. The steel pole H-frame would utilize self-weathering steel. Weathering steel is manufactured from a group of steel alloys that were developed to eliminate the need for painting. This type of steel alloy forms a stable rust-like appearance if exposed to the weather for several years.

VR-4 The single-circuit 500-kV steel pole H-frame structure is more expensive than the lattice tower alternative. Table 2.6-3 compares the single-circuit lattice steel tower and single-circuit steel pole H-frame ROW configurations for several factors. The Proponents do not wish to propose this alternative as a Project-wide option, but propose that, where needed for mitigation, the H-frame tangent configuration for single-circuit 500-kV is feasible. The Proponents are unwilling to propose that H-frames be used for angle or dead-end structures, but are willing to propose them for tangent use only.

The Agencies have reviewed the Proponents' proposed action and EPMs and have identified additional mitigation measures that would be required on federal lands (and recommended on non-federal lands) to reduce adverse effects on visual resources. The following 15 mitigation measures apply on federal lands project-wide. Additional measures are site-specific or management unit-specific and are identified under the route segment where they apply.

VIS-1 No paint or permanent discoloring agents would be applied to rocks or vegetation to indicate limits of survey or construction activity.

VIS-2 To minimize ground disturbance and/or reduce scarring (visual contrast) of the landscape, the alignment of any new access roads or cross-country routes will follow the landform contours in designated areas where practicable, providing that such alignment does not impact resource values additionally.

VIS-3 To minimize sensitive feature disturbance and/or visual contrast, in designated areas structures will be placed so as to avoid sensitive features such as, but not limited to, riparian areas, water courses and cultural sites and/or to allow conductors to clearly span the features, within the limits of standard tower design.

VIS-4 To reduce visual impacts on federal land, including potential impacts on recreation values and safety, towers are to be placed at the maximum feasible distance from the highway, canyon and trail crossings within limits of standard design and to the extent practical.

VIS-5 Crossings of rivers shall be at approximately right angles where practical. Strategic placement of structures shall be done both as a means to screen views of the transmission line and rights-of-way and to minimize the need for vegetative clearing.

VIS-6 All insulators shall be made of materials that have reduced potential to reflect and refract light. Glass insulators shall be avoided when there is an alternative insulator type available with lower refractive characteristics

VIS-7 For segments of the line 1) within the 0- to 0.5-mile zone of Interstate highways where existing lines of the same voltage are paralleled and 2) within the 0- to 0.5-mile zone of residences where existing lines of the same voltage are paralleled, locate new towers to be adjacent to existing

towers, within the limits of standard transmission line design and considering the ruling span length of adjacent proposed and existing lines.

VIS-8 Site-specific "micro-siting" will be required near certain sensitive areas, as identified by the agencies, where proposed transmission facilities would be present and could impact visual quality; these situations include:

- Crossings over major highways
- Crossings of high quality historic trails
- Crossings over the North Platte Snake Rivers
- Crossing the Albion Mountains in the Sawtooth NF
- Sensitive travelways, use areas, residential areas, recreational facilities as identified by the agencies (including national recreation and scenic trails, campgrounds, recreation areas, and trailheads), and other areas identified by management plans
- Along Forest Service roads in forested areas

VIS-9 In specific areas identified by the applicable federal land manager (such as VRM Class II, erosive soils, steep slopes, areas near NHT Trails) the access road used for construction will be restored and an alternative access route for operations will be designated.

VIS-10 In areas in proximity to existing residential developments with an urban or suburban character, such as in the Kuna area, steel pole H frames or tubular steel poles may be specified to provide tower structures that are visually more appealing. Lattice steel towers will need to be specified at turning tower locations and at long spans because tubular steel poles do not have the strength to withstand the forces exerted by the conductors at these locations.

VIS-11 The lighting specified for the marshaling yards shall be the minimum required to meet safety and security standards. All light fixtures within 1,000 feet of a residence shall be hooded to eliminate any potential for glare and to prevent light from spilling off the site or up into the sky. Additionally, the fixtures shall have sensors and switches to permit the lighting to be turned off at times when it is not required.

VIS-12 Where the route would be visible on timbered slopes, limit tree removal to areas required for safety rather than from the entire ROW in order to prevent a linear feature on the landscape from clear-cutting trees. Vegetation removal requirements will consider Appendix A, "Standards and Practices for Electric System Reliability."

VIS-13 To reduce visual contrast in areas where overstory vegetation is removed for access, tower pads, or conductor clearance, specific sections of the clearing edges on federal land will be feathered to give a natural

appearance, where not in conflict with regulatory requirements (e.g., NERC, WECC, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements).

VIS-14 Crossing federal land along a transmission corridor shall require the preparation of a vegetation management plan for the utility corridor to minimize scenic impacts and plan for rehabilitation of existing impacts. This plan will be approved by the land-management agency prior to vegetation clearing.

VIS-15 To mitigate potential visual impacts on federal land, the construction and maintenance plan to be developed by the Proponents shall include measures to reduce ROW scarring and enhance restoration. The plan will be approved by the land management agency prior to ground clearing and construction.

Decommissioning

Project facilities would be removed at the end of the operational life of the transmission line. Conductors, structures, and related facilities would be removed. Foundations would be removed to below the ground surface level. There would be residual visual impacts for many years after the Project has been decommissioned and structures removed such as vegetative cutbacks, cut and fill scars from construction activities, and access roads, which all add to the visual impact, though these impacts would be at ground level. These areas would be apparent after the removal of structures but are expected to diminish over time.

3.2.2.3 Proposed Route and Alternatives by Segment

This section describes the impacts for the Proposed Route and Route Alternatives for each of the segments of Gateway West. The analysis discusses the relative impacts to visual resources of the alternatives. In all cases, after analysis of impacts was complete and where impacts were identified, measures were proposed to reduce impacts.

Assessment of potential impacts on KOPs assumed all sensitive viewers would have views toward the Proposed Route and Route Alternatives on a high-visibility day (defined as visibility of 5 miles and beyond) and that those KOPs would represent the disparate viewing conditions and viewing opportunities of the characteristic landscapes described in Section 3.2.1.5 – Existing Conditions. Based on the field inventory, more than 1,300 locations were identified and photographed. KOP locations were suggested by the BLM, Forest Service, and NPS and located through literature review within the Project area or identified in the field. Photographs were taken to document existing conditions at each KOP and were used to evaluate visual conditions and potential visibility as well as to assess the level of contrast and impacts that would result from the introduction of the Project elements. Following the inventory, 232 locations were selected as KOPs in this section. Appendix E, Figures E.2-1 through E.2-11 show the location of all points inventoried as well as the locations of chosen KOPs (both visual and cultural). An additional 147 KOPs were to document the visual impact on historical

and cultural resources as presented in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources. All the KOPs described herein are considered to represent the most sensitive viewers or are the most representative of typical views and viewing conditions along this alignment.

Visual Resource Management Class Assessment

Where the Proposed Route and Route Alternatives would cross BLM-managed lands or NFS lands, the following assumptions were made to determine whether change resulting from the Project would conform with management plans or whether an amendment would be required. Visual resources–related impacts that would lead to potential plan amendments are identified in Table 2.2-1 of Chapter 2 and discussed in detail in Appendix G:

- High-voltage transmission lines do not conform to management objectives of BLM VRM Classes I and II and Forest Service Very High, High, and Moderate (SMS) and Preservation, Retention, Partial Retention, and, in some cases, Modification (VMS) areas.
- The location of the Proposed Route or Route Alternatives across VRM Class III areas conforms with the class objectives if consideration was given to alternative alignments that would avoid the area and feasible mitigation was applied. However, in some special circumstances, crossing VRM Class III areas would not conform with the visual characteristics of the management class. Those areas received visual analysis, as described in Appendix G.
- Direction for considering visual resource values stated in RMPs, MFPs, and Forest Plans was taken into consideration. On BLM-managed land where guidelines were absent or general in nature, the management direction provide in BLM Handbook H-1601-1, *Land Use Planning,* was considered (BLM 2005a).
- Evaluating the effects of a proposed plan amendment on other resources is difficult due to the small areas of land where specific information regarding resources may not be available. Therefore, effects are discussed qualitatively.

Details regarding conformance with VRM objectives as well as plan amendments are provided in Appendix G-1. Details regarding conformance with Forest Service visual resource management are found in Appendix G-2.

The Visual Impact Assessments tables (Tables 3.2-1 through 3.2-51) listed below for each segment have abbreviated terms to represent potential viewers from each particular KOP. The abbreviated terms are listed below with appropriate definitions for each type of viewer. The viewers from each KOP can be defined as:

- RES – A single residential viewer or group of residential viewers.
- REC – A recreational viewer in broad context; more specific details would be provided in the KOP description, but recreational viewers for this analysis included Forest Service campsites and trails, NHT users, historic and scenic highway/byway users, BLM trailheads, NPS lands, and general recreational areas (e.g., RV parks, city parks, ball fields, state parks, and recreation sites).

- COMM – A commuter traveling on major highways or secondary roads not identified as having scenic protection. Often these views were considered residential if they were adjacent to an identified residence or community.
- HIST – A site identified as having historic value, often a recreational site (i.e., Oregon or California NHT users)
- CULT – A site identified as a sensitive viewing location for cultural resources yet not discussed in the Cultural Resources section. These viewers were identified on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.
- SCHOOL – A community school usually not identified as historic.
- CEM – A community cemetery usually not identified as historic.

Segment 1E – Windstar to Aeolus

Segment 1E, as proposed, would link the Windstar and Aeolus Substations in south-central Wyoming with a 100.6-mile 230-kV single-circuit transmission line. Twenty acres of the expansion of Windstar and Aeolus Substations and 0.5 acre for one regeneration site are attributed to Segment 1E. Alternative 1E-A is a 16.1-mile alternative along the north end of Segment 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. Alternative 1E-B is 21.4 miles longer than the Proposed Route but is being considered by the Proponents because it would avoid a Wyoming-designated sage-grouse core area to the east. The BLM has required the consideration of Alternative 1E-C, which parallels the proposed and rebuilt Segment 1W 230-kV lines into the Aeolus Substation (see Appendix A, Figure A-2).

Table 3.2-1 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP along the Segment 1E Proposed Route.

Table 3.2-1. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in the Segment 1E Proposed Route

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
860	RES	Private	H	H	1.0	M-H	H	H
1001	REC	Private	H	M	0.75	H	H	M-H
1015	REC	State of WY	H	L-M	0.75	M-H	M-H	L-M
105	REC	State of WY	H	L-M	0.3-0.60	M-H	L-M	L-M
983	RES	BLM VRM II	H	M-H	0.80	H	H	H
986	RES	Private	H	L-M	2.00	M	L-M	L-M
985	RES	Private	H	M-H	3.30	L-M	L-M	L-M
988	RES	Private	H	H	1.20	M-H	H	H
990	RES	State of WY	H	M	0.80	H	M-H	M-H
853	RES	Private	H	M	0.75	M-H	H	M-H
107	REC/HIST	Private	M	L	2.25	M	M	L-M
38	REC/HIST	State of WY	H	L-M	0.30	H	L-M	M
37	REC/HIST	Private	H	L-M	0.40	H	L	M
1010	RES	Private	H	L	0.50	H	M	M

1/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer. HIST – A site identified as having historic value.
2/ H High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 860 (Figure E.2-1 /Appendix G-1, Figure 5.2-1). The Project would be moderately to highly visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 860 (at a distance of 1.0 mile from the Proposed Route). The viewers would have an open view that is focused toward the Proposed Route where it crosses Long Draw with few opportunities for screening until it reaches the mountainous terrain, resulting in contrast levels that are anticipated to be high for the Proposed Route. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high for the Segment 1E Proposed Route due to the high scenic quality of the view and high contrast.

KOP 1001 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be highly visible to high-sensitivity recreational and residential viewers at KOP 1001 (at a distance of 0.75 mile from the Proposed Route). This section of the Proposed Route would not parallel any existing transmission lines or linear features, resulting in high contrast levels. Impacts on recreational and residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are anticipated to be moderate to high due to the development of a new linear feature in a relatively undisturbed landscape.

KOP 1015 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be moderately to highly visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1015 (at a distance of 0.75 mile from the Proposed Route). Few opportunities for screening result in moderate to high contrast levels. Impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be low to moderate for the Proposed Route due to the viewing distance and moderate scenic quality with vertical and horizontal human-made disturbance in the immediate vicinity.

KOP 105 (Figure E.2-1/Appendix G-2, Figure 5.1-2). KOP 105 is located approximately 2.5 miles south of the Medicine Bow-Routt NFs boundary, but this KOP represents views of the surrounding areas adjacent to the NF. KOP 105 and other adjacent viewpoints exhibit diversity in form, line, color, and texture with few human-made features. The most visible human-made feature in the surrounding area is an existing 230-kV transmission line. Segment 1E of the proposed Project would be moderately visible and screening and other mitigation efforts would not be successful at lowering impacts to scenic resources in the surrounding area. With little existing development in the area other than the existing transmission line approximately 1,500 feet to the northwest, the structures would be moderately to highly contrasting with the landscape due to backdropping effects offered by the high relief terrain. Many of the views in the surrounding area exhibit a high level of variety in form line, color, and texture, which would contrast with the addition of new human-made structures and access roads. This would not meet the Moderate SIO.

KOP 983 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be highly visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers and travelers at KOP 983 (at a distance of 0.8 mile from Proposed Route), which could skyline the view. An open view toward the Proposed Route, across the middleground ridgeline, would provide few screening opportunities and high contrast levels. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to the high visibility and high visual contrast.

KOP 986 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be moderately visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 986 (at a distance of 2.0 miles from the Proposed Route). The viewer would have a partially screened view of the Proposed Route, resulting in low to moderate contrast levels. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be low to moderate due to the low to moderate contrast and scenic quality of the view

KOP 985 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be low to moderately visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 985 (at a distance of 3.3 miles from the Proposed Route). The viewer would have a partially screened view of the Proposed Route, resulting in low to moderate contrast levels. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be low to moderate due to the low to moderate contrast and visibility.

KOP 988 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be moderately to highly visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 988 (at a distance of 1.2 miles from the Proposed Route). An open view focused toward the Proposed Route, across the Long Draw, would provide few screening opportunities and high contrast levels. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to the high scenic quality of the view and high contrast.

KOP 990 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be highly visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 990 (at a distance of 0.8 mile from the Proposed Route). An open view toward the Proposed Route with few screening opportunities and a skylined view would result in moderate to high contrast levels. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the moderate to high contrast and the possibility of skylined views or views where the Proposed Route would be visible as a silhouette above the horizon with no backdropping.

KOP 853 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be moderately to highly visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 853 (at a distance of 0.75 miles from the Proposed Route). An expansive view toward the Proposed Route would provide few screening opportunities and high contrast levels. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the viewing distance and moderate scenic quality with little human-made disturbance in the immediate vicinity.

KOP 107 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be moderately visible to moderate-sensitivity motorists and commuters traveling south along Highway 487 at KOP 107 (at a distance of 2.5 miles from where the Proposed Route would cross the highway). At KOP 107, moderate-sensitivity viewers along Highway 487 would have a moderate level of Project visibility due to middleground distances. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to the lack of screening and visible human-made alterations. Visual impacts on viewers at KOP 107 would be low to moderate due to distance and the moderate sensitivity of viewers on the highway.

Alternative 1E-A

Table 3.2-2 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 1E-A.

Table 3.2-2. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 1E-A

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
38[1/]	REC/HIST	State of WY	H	L-M	0.30	H	L-M	M
37[1/1]	REC/HIST	Private	H	L-M	0.40	H	L	M
71	RES	State of WY	H	M	300 feet	H	H	M-H
1011	RES	Private	H	M-H	1.65	M-H	L-M	M
1013	RES	Private	H	M-H	1.00	M-H	M	M

1/ Viewers at KOP would have views of Segment 1E Proposed Route and Alternative 1E-A with lower anticipated visual impacts.
2/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer. HIST – A site identified as having historic value. CULT – A site identified as a sensitive viewing location for cultural resources yet not discussed in the Cultural Resources section.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 38 (Figures E.2-1 and E.2-1). The Project would be highly visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers at this KOP 38. Foreground views of the Project have limited screening except for the vegetation along the North Platte River. Viewers at this location would be approximately 0.3 mile from Alternative 1E-A, representing a foreground view of the Project. Visual contrast levels would be low to moderate due to numerous human-made alterations within the landscape; however, the introduction of new structures within these views could draw the attention of a casual observer. Impacts to recreational viewers from KOP 38 would be moderate due to adjacent human-made alterations in the landscape.

KOP 37 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be highly visible from KOP 37 to high-sensitivity recreational viewers traveling along the Oregon NHT or visiting the historic marker erected at the site (at a distance of 0.4 mile from the proposed Alternative1E-A). The Project would be highly visible to the recreational viewers along the Oregon NHT. Numerous industrial structures in the immediate vicinity, such as the Dave Johnston Power Plant and associated transmission structures, would provide low visual contrast levels. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be moderate due to the close distance of the view.

KOP 41 (Figure E.2-1). Discussed under Segment 1W.

KOP 1011 (Figure E.2-1). Discussed under Segment 1W.

KOP 1013 (Figure E.2-1). Discussed under Segment 1W.

Alternative 1E-B

Table 3.2-3 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP of Alternative 1E-B.

Table 3.2-3. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 1E-B

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
62	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.45	H	H	M-H
991	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.25	H	M-H	M-H
993	REC	Private	H	M-H	0.75	H	H	H
995	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.60	H	M-H	M-H
999	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M-H	3.65	L-M	M	M
840	RES	Private	H	M	368 feet	H	H	H
982	RES	Private	H	M	2.75	M	M-H	M

1/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 62 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be highly visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 62 (at a distance of 0.45 mile from Alternative 1E-B). The viewer would have an expansive view toward Alternative 1E-B that would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features. The view may skyline the rocky terrain of the middleground, resulting in high contrast levels. Potential visual impacts on residences from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the development of a new linear feature in an undisturbed landscape with moderate to high scenic quality.

KOP 991 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be highly visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 991 (at a distance of 0.25 miles from Alternative 1E-B). An open view toward the Route Alternative, backdropped by mountainous terrain, would provide few screening opportunities, resulting in moderate to high contrast levels . Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the moderate to high contrast and scenic quality of the view.

KOP 993 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be highly visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 993 (at a distance of 0.75 mile from Alternative 1E-B, which would cross the scenic foreground landscape). The viewer would have an expansive and focal view toward the Route Alternative. The landscape provides few screening opportunities, resulting in broad, open, skylined views with high contrast levels. Impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to the moderate to high scenic quality of the view and high contrast. BLM has identified an alignment change, moving Alternative 1E-B to follow the rugged terrain along the foothills of Smith Mountain. This could effectively absorb the structure in many of the surrounding views.

VIS-16 Realignment of a portion of Alternative 1E-B, adjacent to the Rock Creek and Fort Fetterman Road (KOP 993), to follow the rugged terrain and foothills of Smith Mountain should be evaluated to determine absorption effectiveness.

KOP 995 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be highly visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 995 (at a distance of 0.6 mile from Alternative 1E-B). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the Route Alternative. The landscape provides few screening opportunities in the north, resulting in moderate to high contrast

levels. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the moderate to high contrast and scenic quality of the view.

KOP 999 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be low to moderately visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 999 (at a distance of 3.65 miles from Alternative 1E-B). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the Route Alternative with no opportunities for screening due to the broad open view and superior vantage point, resulting in contrast levels that are anticipated to be moderate. Impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate for the proposed realignment due to the low to moderate scenic quality of the view and moderate contrast.

KOP 840 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be highly visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 840 (at a distance of 368 feet from Alternative 1E-B). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the Route Alternative. The landscape provides few screening opportunities and the close viewing distance results in high contrast levels. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to the close distance of the view and high contrast.

KOP 982 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be moderately visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 982 (at a distance of 2.75 miles from Alternative 1E-B, which possibly skylines the view). The viewer would have an open view toward the Alternative crossing the middleground. The view may be screened by the ridgeline in the middleground, resulting in moderate to high contrast levels. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to the moderate scenic quality and moderate visibility.

Alternative 1E-C

Table 3.2-4 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP of Alternative 1E-C.

Table 3.2-4. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 1E-C

KOP	Viewers[3/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[4/]	Scenic Quality[4/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[4/]	Contrast[4/]	Impact[4/]
89 [1/]	REC	Private	H	L-M	1.86	L-M	M	L-M
86 [1/]	REC	BLM VRM III	H	L-M	0.75	M	M	M
90 [2/]	REC/CULT	State of WY	H	M	1.75	L-M	M	L-M
46	COMM	BLM VRM IV	M	L-M	0.50	H	M	M-H

1/ Viewers at KOP would have views of Segments 1W(a) and 1W(c) with lower anticipated visual impacts.
2/ KOP 90 is assessed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources (KOP C98) because it is deemed a historic structure; however, due to its location adjacent to a BLM access road, it is also being assessed here as a recreation site.
3/ REC – A recreational viewer. COMM – A commuter traveling on major highways or secondary roads. CULT – A site identified as a sensitive viewing location for cultural resources yet not discussed in the Cultural Resources section.
4/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 89 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be moderately to highly visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers accessing the Bates Creek Reservoir at KOP 89 (at a distance of 1.86 miles from the Proposed Route). Alternative 1E-C would run parallel to the existing 230-kV line (Segment 1W[a] proposed to be rebuilt until approximately 0.5 mile south of Bates Creek; south of this area, Segment 1W[c] would become the

rebuild). Segment 1W(c) would be approximately 3.0 miles from the viewpoint. Middleground distances and backdropping effects lower the visual contrast levels. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to the distance from the viewer to human-made alterations, which can mask changes to form, line, color, and texture. Backdropping helps to blend the Project into the surrounding landscape. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be low to moderate due to the middleground viewing distance and backdropping.

KOP 86 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be moderately visible for the recreational viewers at KOP 86 (at a distance of 0.75 miles from Alternative 1E-C. In this area, Alternative 1E-C would parallel an existing 230-kV transmission line (Segment 1W[c]) and the proposed 230-kV Segment 1W(a). Middleground distances and backdropping would lower visual contrast to moderate levels. Backdropping is the effect of blending in with background terrain, vegetation, and scenery. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be moderate due to the Alternative 1E-C paralleling another transmission line and moderate visibility.

KOP 90 (Figure E.2-1). KOP 90 represents recreational views from a historic cabin site (same location as KOP C98) in the Shirley Basin area of Wyoming looking east toward Alternative 1E-C. The Project would be low to moderately visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers (at a distance of 1.75 miles away). The viewers would have a broad, expansive view toward Alternative 1E-C with topographic screening in the foreground, resulting in moderate contrast levels. Potential visual impacts are expected to be low to moderate due to the distance of the transmission line and visibility.

KOP 46 (Figure E.2-1). The Project would be highly visible to viewers from KOP 46 traveling along State Highway 487 (at a distance of 0.5 mile of Alternative 1E-C). Alternative 1E-C would parallel and be partially screened by the proposed Segment 1W(a) route along the left shoulder of the highway as well as the existing 230-kV transmission line (Segment 1W[c]) on the right. Foreground distances and partial screening would lower visual contrast to moderate levels. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be moderate to high due to the tunneling effect, or framing of both sides of the roadway, that the high-voltage transmission lines would create along this portion of the roadway.

Medicine Bow National Forest

The Medicine Bow Forest Plan includes standards for utility corridors to minimize scenic impacts and plan for rehabilitation of existing impacts. It includes:

> *Scenery Management, Standard 1 (LRMP 1-56): Apply Management System (SMS) to all NFS lands. Travel routes, use areas, and water bodies determined to be of primary importance are a concern Level 1 and appropriate Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIOs) are established according to the SMS.*

The Forest Plan also includes this guideline:

> *Locate and design utility corridors and electronic sites to blend with the landscape and be compatible with scenic integrity objectives in adjacent management areas.*

The Forest has recommended measures to reduce contrast, such as preparing a site-specific vegetation management plan, feathering the ROW edges, using towers similar to the existing structures, and using material for the towers that, over time, becomes non-reflective.

Conformance with BLM VRM Classes and Forest Service VQOs

Portions of Segment 1E and its alternative routes would cross public lands managed under the Casper and Rawlins RMPs and Medicine Bow Forest Plan. The construction and operations of a transmission line along Segment 1E would conform with BLM VRM Class IV objectives where the level of change to the characteristic landscape resulting from the project can be considered high and may dominate views or be the major focus of viewer's attention. Overall, the construction and operations of a transmission line along the Segment 1E Proposed Route or Route Alternatives would conform to BLM VRM Class III objectives, which require that a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and only result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape (see KOPs 90 and 986). Portions of the Proposed and Alternative routes that cross VRM Class II lands would not conform to management objectives and amendments would be needed (see Appendices F-1 and G-1).

The construction and operations of a transmission line along Segment 1E would not be consistent with the Medicine Bow Forest Plan management objectives in all areas of the Forest crossed. Segment 1E would cross NFS lands designated as MA 3.31, Backcountry Recreation, Year-round Motorized. MA 3.31 has an SIO of Moderate. Impacts would be moderate due to screening offered by vegetation and landforms, distance of viewers, and lack of densely populated areas in this intact landscape. The area is not visible from any developed recreation area or travel way. Existing roads are closed to the public. Any new roads would also be closed. The borders of the cleared ROW would be feathered to create a more natural-appearing line, as required by the Forest Plan. Also, the towers would be made of material that, over time, becomes non-reflective. New towers would be similar to the existing towers to reduce contrast. A plan amendment would be needed (see Appendices F-2 and G-2).

Segment 1E Proposed Route – The Proposed Route would cross over 2.6 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands in the Casper FO generally between MPs 21 and 43.8, and 2.4 miles in the Rawlins FO generally between MPs 48 and 56, creating a new ROW. Crossing VRM Class II areas without paralleling an existing transmission facility would result in a noticeable change to the landscape from the increased contrast because the new facilities would represent a level of change to the landscape and basic elements that would attract the attention of the casual observer. Four such areas occur along the Segment 1E Proposed Route (see KOPs 991, 993, and 995). Amendments would likely be needed for both the Casper RMP and Rawlins RMP either changing the VRM class or allowing a one-time visually-altering action without changing the VRM classification (see Appendix G-1, Sections 5.1.2 and 5.2.1).

The effects discussed above for the following KOPs would only occur if the corresponding amendments were approved. KOPs 105 and 988 include views of BLM

Class II land that would require an amendment to the visual management direction in the RMPs in order for the project to be built. The effects discussed for additional KOPs

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

Alternative 1E-B – Alternative 1E-B would cross over 2.6 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands in the Rawlins FO generally between MPs 2.4 and 14.3, resulting in a degree of change that would attract the attention of a casual observer and therefore would conform to the RMP. An amendment would be needed if this route is selected. The proposed amendment would change VRM class designation to VRM Class III for three of the parcels that would be more visible to recreational users and retain the remaining parcels that are not easily viewed as VRM Class II. No NFS land would be crossed.

The effects analysis for KOPs 105, 986, and 988 includes areas of VRM Class II lands and thus these effects would only occur if the amendment were approved.

Alternative 1E-C – Route Alternative 1E-C would cross over 23 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II, III, and IV lands in the Casper FO and Rawlins FO. Alternative 1E-C, however, would parallel an existing line and is anticipated to conform to VRM Class II, III, and IV objectives (see KOPs 86, 89, and 105) in most areas. Where the VRM requirements would not be met (i.e., within in scattered isolated VRM Class II parcels), a one-time visually-altering action without changing the VRM classification is recommended. It is also recommended that the 630-acre VRM Class II parcel crossed by 1E, 1E-C, 1W(a), and 1W(c), north of Medicine Bow NF would be reclassified as VRM Class III (see Appendix G-1, Section 5.1.2).

Alternative 1E-C would also cross Medicine Bow-Routt NFs–managed lands designated as MA 8.3 and managed with an SIO of Moderate. The Route Alternative would neither be consistent with MA 3.31 designation nor an SIO of Moderate, thus an amendment would be needed. It is recommended that the plan be amended to change the prescription to MA 8.3 and to allow the Project without changing the SIO (see Appendix G-2 5.1.1.3). Alternative 1E-C would affect less NFS land than Segment 1E of the Proposed Route

The effects analysis for KOPs 89 and 96 may include views where the project is on BLM Class II land, thus these effects, in part, would only occur if an amendment were approved.

Segment 1E Conclusion

There are three alternatives to the Proposed Route: Alternatives 1E-A, 1E-B, and 1E-C. 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 within the town, and Alternative 1E-A being located closer to sensitive viewers mainly along Deer Creek. Impacts would be higher for the Proposed Route along this comparative segment. Overall impacts for Alternative 1E-B would be higher than for the comparison portion of the Proposed Route due to the alternative being immediately adjacent (less than 0.25 mile) to sensitive viewers along the Rock Creek and Fort

Fetterman Road. Overall, visual impacts resulting from Alternative 1E-C would be lower than the comparison segment of the Proposed Route due to the lack of sensitive viewing locations, crossing less BLM-administered land managed to conform to VRM Class II and III objectives, and paralleling existing and proposed transmission lines.

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

Segment 1W is composed of two parts, Segment 1W(a) and 1W(c), both of which would consist of a new 230-kV line for part of their length and a reconstruction of an existing 230-kV line for the remaining part. Segment 1W(a) would be about 76.5 miles long, and would extend from the Windstar Substation to the Aeolus Substation. Segment 1W(c) would be about 70.6 miles long, and would extend from the Dave Johnson Power Plant to the Aeolus Substation. Alternative 1W-A is a 16.2-mile alternative located near the town of Glenrock, which was the Proponents' initial proposal before moving the Proposed Route at the suggestion of local landowners in order to avoid the more settled area around Glenrock. Twenty acres of the proposed expansion at the Windstar and Aeolus Substations are attributed to Segment 1W(a) and 3 acres of the expansion at the Heward Substation and 17 acres of the expansion at the Windstar and Aeolus Substations are attributed to Segment 1W(c). There are no Route Alternatives proposed south of that point (see Appendix A, Figure A-2).

Proposed Route – Segment 1W(a)

Table 3.2-5 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Segment 1W(a).

Table 3.2-5. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in the Segment 1W(a) Proposed Route

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
1004	RES	Private	H	L-M	650 feet	H	H	M-H
1005	RES	Private	H	M	0.80	H	L-M	M
1008	REC	Private	H	L-M	1.50	M-H	M	M
1006	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.25	H	M-H	M-H
89[1/]	REC	Private	H	L-M	2.25	L-M	L-M	L-M
86[1/]	REC	BLM VRM III	H	L-M	0.5-1.25	M	M	M
105	REC	State of WY	H	L-M	0.3-0.60	M-H	L-M	L-M

1/ Viewers at KOP would have views of Segment 1W(c) with lower anticipated visual impacts and Alternative 1E-C with higher impacts.
2/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP C98 (Figure E.2-1). Discussed in Section 3.2.1.4, this view is looking toward Segment 1W from a historic cabin. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 1004 (Figure E.2-1). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1004 would have a high level of Project visibility at 650 feet from the Proposed Route. There are few opportunities for screening with the surrounding terrain, resulting in high contrast levels due to the possibility of skylining. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in

the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the close distance of the view and low to moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1005 (Figure E.2-1). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1005 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.8 mile from the Proposed Route). The viewer would have an expansive and panoramic view toward the Proposed Route with some opportunities for screening with large vegetation in the middleground and visible human-made structures (i.e., transmission line, communication tower, and numerous buildings). Contrast levels are anticipated to be low to moderate. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate. The close distance of the view and moderate contrast level, as well as presence of visible human-made alterations adjacent to the view, lower scenic quality.

KOP 1008 (Figure E.2-1). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1008 would have a moderate to high level of Project visibility (approximately 1.5 miles away). The viewer would have an expansive and panoramic, superior view toward the Proposed Route with some opportunities for screening. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. Impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate. The relatively close distance of the viewer and moderate contrast level, as well as presence of visible human-made alterations adjacent to the view, lower scenic quality.

KOP 1006 (Figure E.2-1). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1006 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.25 mile from the Proposed Route). The viewer would have an expansive and panoramic view toward the Proposed Route with few opportunities for screening. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high. The close distance of the view and moderate to high contrast level, as well as presence of visible human-made alterations adjacent to the view, lower scenic quality.

KOP 89 (Figure E.2-1. This KOP is discussed under Segment 1E.

KOP 86 (Figure E.2-1). This KOP is discussed under Segment 1E.

KOP 105 (Figure E.2-1). This KOP is discussed under Segment 1E.

Proposed Route – Segment 1W(c)

Table 3.2-6 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Segment 1W(c).

Table 3.2-6. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in the Segment 1W(c) Proposed Route

KOP	Viewers[4/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[5/]	Scenic Quality[5/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[5/]	Contrast[5/]	Impact[5/]
56	REC/HIST	Private	H	L-M	2.25	M	L	L-M
83[1/]	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.75	H	L-M	L-M
1013[2/]	RES	Private	H	M-H	500 feet	H	M-H	M-H
105[3/]	REC	State of WY	H	L-M	0.25	M-H	M	M
71	RES	State of WY	H	M	0.80	M-H	M	M
1011	RES	Private	H	M-H	Not in view	H	L-M	L-M

1/ Viewers at KOP 83 would have views of Alternative 1W-A with lower anticipated visual impacts.
2/ Viewers at KOP 1013 would have views of Alternative 1E-A with lower anticipated visual impacts.
3/ Viewers at KOP 105 would have views of the Proposed Route with lower anticipated visual impacts.
4/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer. HIST – A site identified as having historic value.
5/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 56 (Figure E.2-1). Viewers from KOP 56 would be high-sensitivity recreational viewers traveling along the Oregon NHT (approximately 2.25 miles from the Segment 1W(c) Proposed Route). At KOP 56, high-sensitivity recreational viewers along the Oregon NHT would have a moderate level of Project visibility due to middleground distances and existing industrial features (i.e., transmission structures, Dave Johnston Power Plant). Visual contrast levels would be low, while impacts on recreational viewers would be low to moderate due to distance and the visible industrial features within the view.

KOP 83 (Figure E.2-1). Viewers at KOP 83 would be high-sensitivity residential viewers (approximately 0.75 mile within the Proposed Route. At KOP 83, the Project would be highly visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers due to foreground distances and skyline effects created by the existing and proposed structures. Visual contrast levels would be low to moderate. Numerous human-made alterations within the middleground view would create low to moderate visual impacts on residential viewers.

KOP 1013 (Figure E.2-1). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1013 would have a high level of project visibility 500 feet from the Proposed Route. The viewer would have an expansive and focal view toward the Proposed Route with few opportunities for backdropping and/or screening. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the close distance of the view and the dominating existing transmission line.

KOP 105 (Figure E.2-1). Viewers from KOP 105 are high-sensitivity recreational viewers traveling along the BLM access road south of Medicine Bow-Routt NFs (approximately 0.25 mile from the Segment 1W(c) Proposed Route and 0.5 mile from the Segment 1W(a) Proposed Route, which would parallel the existing transmission line corridor). At KOP 105, the viewers would have a moderate to high level of Project visibility due to foreground and middleground distances and a lack of vegetative or topographic screening. Visual contrast levels would be moderate. Human-made alterations within the vicinity and backdropping effects created by the surrounding landscape help blend the proposed facilities into the landscape. Visual impacts on the

recreational viewers would be moderate due to contrast levels and existing transmission lines.

Alternative 1W-A

Table 3.2-7 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 1W-A.

Table 3.2-7. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 1W-A

KOP	Viewers[3/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[4/]	Scenic Quality[4/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[4/]	Contrast[4/]	Impact[4/]
1010[1/]	RES	Private	H	L	0.50	H	M	M
71[2/]	RES	State of WY	H	M	300 feet	H	H	M-H
1011[2/]	RES	Private	H	M-H	1.65	M-H	L-M	M
38	REC/HIST	State of WY	H	L-M	2.75	L-M	L-M	L-M
37	REC/HIST	Private	H	L-M	2.90	L	L	L
83	RES	Private	H	L-M	5.00	L-none	L-none	L-none
1013	RES	Private	H	M-H	1.60	M-H	L-M	M

1/ Viewers at KOP 1010 would have views of Segment 1E with lower anticipated visual impacts.
2/ Viewers at KOP would have views of Segment 1W(c) and Alternative 1E-A with lower anticipated visual impacts.
3/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer. HIST – A site identified as having historic value.
4/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 1010 (Figure E.2-1). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1010 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.5 mile from Alternative 1W-A). The viewer would have an expansive and panoramic view toward the proposed realignment with few opportunities for screening in a landscape cluttered with highly visible geometric and vertical human-made alterations. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate for Proposed Route 1W-A due to the close distance of the view and moderate contrast level.

KOP 71 (Figure E.2-1). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 71 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 300 feet from Alternative 1W-A of the Project). The viewer would have an expansive and panoramic view toward Alternative 1W-A with some opportunities for backdropping offered by the background terrain. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the distance of the view and high contrast level.

KOP 1011 (Figure E.2-1). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1011 would have a moderate to high level of Project visibility (approximately 1.65 miles from Alternative 1W-A and 2.5 miles from where Segments 1W[a], 1E, and 1W[c] all converge). The viewer would have an expansive but focal view toward Alternative 1W-A with opportunities for both backdropping and screening. Contrast levels are anticipated to be low to moderate. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to the distance of the view and low to moderate contrast level.

KOP 38 (Figure E.2-1). This KOP is discussed under Segment 1E.

KOP 37 (Figure E.2-1). This KOP is discussed under Segment 1E.

KOP 83 (Figure E.2-1). This KOP is discussed under Segment 1E.

KOP 1013 (Figure E.2-1). This KOP is discussed under Segment 1E.

Medicine Bow National Forest

The Medicine Bow Forest Plan includes standards for utility corridors to minimize scenic impacts and plan for rehabilitation of existing impacts. Mitigation requirements are discussed under Segment 1E.

Conformance with BLM VRM Classes and Forest Service VQOs

Overall, the construction and operations of the Segment 1W Proposed Route or Route Alternative conform to BLM VRM Class III and IV objectives. Impacts would be moderate with areas of lower to moderate impacts and isolated incidents of moderate to high impacts due to screening offered by vegetation and landforms, distance of viewers, and lack of densely populated areas in this landscape.

Segment 1W(a) Proposed Route – The Proposed Route would cross less than 0.7 mile of VRM Class II lands primarily between MPs 32.1 and 33.0 and with other small instances between MPs 39.1 and 39.8 and between MPs 42.1 and 42.2 near KOPs 89 and 105. Segment 1W(a) would parallel an existing transmission line and would be a reconstruction of an existing line between approximately MP 30 and MP 39. It is anticipated that Segment 1W(a) may conform to VRM Class II objectives because it would repeat the basic elements (form, line, color, texture) present in the landscape when considered in context with the existing transmission lines. It might, therefore, not draw the attention of the casual observer. However, because the transmission line is not part of the natural landscape, and increasing the transmission line presence through this area could cumulatively draw more attention from the casual observer, amendments to the Casper RMP have been proposed for those locations where the route crosses VRM Class II lands. Where Segments 1W(a), 1W(c), and 1E would cross a VRM Class II parcel in parallel, it is proposed that the 630-acre parcel be reclassified to VRM Class III such that the designation is more reflective of the multiple-transmission line land use (see Appendix G-1, Section 5.1.1). Proposed Route 1W(a) would also cross numerous smaller parcels where it is proposed an amendment to the Casper RMP be made to allow a one-time visually altering action without changing the VRM classification.

Segment 1W(a) would cross Medicine Bow-Routt NF-managed lands designated as MA 8.3, Utility Corridors and Electronic Sites. The corridor is managed to meet the adjacent SOI, which is Moderate. Segment 1W(a) would be a rebuild of the existing line within the Medicine Bow-Routt NFs; therefore, it would be consistent with the Forest Plan even though it would not meet the SIO of Moderate.

Effects analyses for KOPs for 1W(c) do not likely contain views including BLM-managed land; thus, an assessment of the amendment effect on KOPs for 1W(a) was not included.

Segment 1W(c) Proposed Route – This route would cross BLM-managed VRM Class II lands located in the Sensebaugh Canyon area between MPs 26.0 and 27.2.

Segment 1W(c), which would be a reconstruction of an existing transmission line to MP 23.7 and would parallel an existing transmission line from that point to MP 34, from which point it continues as a reconstruction of an existing line for the remainder of its length. It is anticipated that Segment 1W(c) would conform to VRM Class II objectives because it would repeat the basic elements (form, line, color, texture) present in the landscape when considered in context with the existing transmission lines; therefore, Segment 1W(c) would not draw the attention of a casual observer. However, it is recommended that the 630-acre parcel of VRM Class II (Area of Inconsistency [AOI] C-1, Appendix G-1, Section 5.1.1) be reclassified to VRM Class III. Where Segment 1W(c) crosses numerous small parcels south of this parcel, it is recommended that the Project be allowed as a one-time visually altering action, without changing the VRM classification.

Segment 1W(c) would be a new transmission line where it crosses the Medicine Bow-Routt NFs. It would be placed along the edge of the WWE corridor. The adjacent lands are designated as MA 3.31, Backcountry Recreation, Year-round Motorized. New developments within the utility corridor must meet the SIO of the adjacent management area. MA 3.31 has an SIO of Moderate. Segment 1W(c) would not be consistent with the SIO of Moderate and thus an amendment would be needed (see Appendices F-2 and G-2, Section 5.1.1.3).

The effects analysis for KOP 105 includes land that is currently managed as VRM Class II, thus the impacts of the project discussed for this KOP would only occur in an amendment were approved.

Alternative 1W-A – Alternative 1W-A would not cross BLM-managed or NFS lands and therefore is not subject to BLM or Forest Service visual resource management.

Segment 1W and Alternative 1W-A Conclusion

Impacts to public, private, and state lands are anticipated to be moderate with areas of low to moderate impacts. Alternative 1W-A would have less visual impact associated with views in Glenrock, Wyoming, than the comparison portion of the Proposed Route due to fewer viewers and the fact it would parallel an existing transmission line.

Segment 2 – Aeolus to Creston

Segment 2, as proposed, would link the Aeolus and Creston Substations in southeast Wyoming with two 500-kV circuits on one structure. One circuit would be operated at 230 kV during the initial phase of the Project. Its total proposed length is 96.7 miles, 36.9 miles of which are on BLM-administered land (22.9 miles VRM Class III and 14.0 miles VRM Class IV). Fifty-two acres of the expansion of the Aeolus Substation and the construction of the Creston Substation and 0.5 acre for one regeneration site are attributed to Segment 2. There are three Route Alternatives, two of which are near the community of Fort Fred Steele. Alternative 2A at 28.4 miles long is being considered by the BLM because it remains in the WWE corridor nearer the town and the state historic site. Alternative 2B, at 6.2 miles, is closer to the community than the comparison portion

of the Proposed Route[3] and was the initially proposed route before the Proponents responded to local suggestions and relocated the Proposed Route farther to the south. Alternative 2C is a 24.4-mile alternative located north of Hanna, Wyoming. It is being evaluated at the recommendation of the Wyoming Governor's office to follow a utility corridor approved by that office for minimizing effects to sage-grouse (see Appendix A, Figure A-3).

Table 3.2-8 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Segment 2.

Table 3.2-8. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in the Segment 2 Proposed Route

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
836 (east)	RES	Private	H	M-H	1.00	M-H	M-H	M-H
94	REC	Private	M	L-M	1.20	M-H	M	M
822	REC	Private	H	H	0.45	H	M-H	M-H
824	RES	Private	H	M	0.7	H	M-H	M-H
829	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.03	H	H	M-H
838	RES	Private	H	M	0.83	L-M	L	L-M

1/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP C4 (Figure E.2-2). Views from this viewpoint on Lincoln Highway are discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C3 (Figure E.2-2). Views from this viewpoint on Lincoln Highway are discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C2 (Figure E.2-2). Views from this viewpoint on Lincoln Highway are discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C1 (Figure E.2-2). Views from this viewpoint on the Rawlins to Baggs Stage Road and are discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 836-East (Figure E.2-2). Viewers within this area include high-sensitivity residential viewers on Highway 30 looking east. Viewers at KOP 836 would be approximately 1.0 mile from the Segment 2 Proposed Route, representing a foreground view. Residential viewers at this location would have a moderate to high level of Project visibility due to the surrounding terrain. The viewer would have an expansive view toward the Proposed Route with opportunities for screening and backdropping provided by the surrounding rolling to rugged terrain Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high due to the possibility of skylining in certain portions of the view. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the distance of the view and moderate to high contrast level.

[3] The portion of the Proposed Route that starts and ends at the same nodes as the Route Alternative.

KOP 94 (Figure E.2-2). Viewers from KOP 94 would be moderate sensitivity recreational viewers traveling along the Old Lincoln Highway (approximately 1.2 miles from the Segment 2 crossing). The Project would be moderately to highly visible due to middleground distances. These views, however, would be brief when travel speeds are in excess of 55 miles per hour (mph). Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to the numerous human-made alterations within the vicinity, which include a substation, transmission lines, and other structures. Visual impacts on viewers would be moderate due to visual contrast levels and the short duration of views.

KOP 822 (Figure E.2-2). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 822 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.45 mile from the Proposed Route). The view would span the Hogback across the North Platte River in the foreground, possibly even skylining the rugged terrain. The viewer would have an enclosed and focal view toward the Proposed Route with some opportunities for screening once the route crosses the river. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the distance of the view and the possibility of skylining the terrain as well as the high scenic quality. An amendment of the Rawlins RMP would be needed to allow the Project in this area (see Appendix G-1, Section 5.2.3).

KOP 824 (Figure E.2-2). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 824 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.7 mile from the Proposed Route), and a moderate level of Project visibility for Alternative 2B (approximately 1.25 miles away). The viewer would have an expansive and panoramic view toward the Proposed Route and Route Alternatives with some opportunities for screening provided by the terrain and large vegetation adjacent to the North Platte River. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high for the Proposed Route and low to moderate for Alternative 2B due to numerous visible human-made alterations. Proposed Route impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the distance of the view and moderate to high contrast level, as well as presence of visible human-made alterations adjacent to the view. Alternative 2B impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be low to moderate. The distance of the view and opportunities for screening, provided by vegetation and terrain, as well as presence of visible human-made alterations adjacent to the view detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 829 (Figure E.2-2). Viewers within this area include high-sensitivity residential viewers on Sage Creek Road Southwest of Rawlins, Wyoming. Residential viewers at KOP 829 would have a high level of Project visibility at 150 feet (0.03 mile) from the Proposed Route, representing an immediate foreground view. The viewers would have an expansive and panoramic view toward the Proposed Route with few opportunities for screening. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high for views of the Proposed Route. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high. The distance of the viewer from the Project, high contrast levels, and the presence of visible human-made alterations adjacent to the view lower scenic quality.

KOP 838 (Figure E.2-2). See discussion under Alternative 2A.

Alternative 2A

Table 3.2-9 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 2A.

Table 3.2-9. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 2A

KOP	Viewers[4/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[5/]	Scenic Quality[5/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[5/]	Contrast[5/]	Impact[5/]
838[1/]	RES	Private	H	M	0.30	H	L-M	M
836 (west)	RES	Private	H	M	1.80	L-M	M	M
9[2/]	REC	Private	H	L-M	0.50	M	M-H	M
5[3/]	REC	Private	H	L-M	0.25	M	M	M

1/ Viewers at KOP 838 would have views of the Proposed Route with lower anticipated visual impacts.
2/ Viewers at KOP 9 would have views of Alternative 2B with lower anticipated visual impacts.
3/ Viewers at KOP 5 would have views of Alternative 2B with lower anticipated visual impacts.
4/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer.
5/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 838 (Figure E.2-2). Viewers within this area included high-sensitivity residential viewers in the town of Hanna, Wyoming. Viewers at KOP 838 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.3 mile from Alternative 2A), representing a foreground view. The viewer would also have an expansive and panoramic view toward the Proposed Route (approximately 0.7 mile away) that would be screened by the Alternative 2A and two other transmission lines. Contrast levels are anticipated to be low to moderate. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate for Alternative 2A. The distance of the view, low to moderate contrast levels, and visible human-made alterations adjacent to the view lower scenic quality.

KOP 836-West (Figure E.2-2). Viewers within this area include high-sensitivity residential viewers on Highway 30 looking west-northwest. The viewer looking west (KOP-West) would have a low to moderate level of Project visibility with partially screened foreground views of Alternative 2A. The viewer looking east (KOP-East) would have an expansive though partially screened view toward the Proposed Route with opportunities for terrain screening. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP looking west-northwest to Alternative 2A are expected to be moderate due to the distance of the view, contrast levels, scenic quality, and the presence of visible human-made alterations, lowering scenic quality.

KOP 9 (Figure E.2-2). Viewers within this area include high-sensitivity recreational viewers visiting the cemetery at Fort Fred Steele. Viewers at this location would be less than 0.5 mile from Alternative 2A, representing a foreground to middleground view. From KOP 9, a moderate to high level of contrast is anticipated due to the lack of screening and the presence of two existing transmission lines. Views of the new lines would not draw the attention of a casual observer. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be moderate due to the foreground to middleground distance and existing structures. The least visual impact would occur with Alternative 2B, which would be 1.5 miles farther from Fort Fred Steele.

KOP 5 (Figure E.2-2 and Photo Simulation E.2-14). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at the Fort Fred Steele informational kiosk would have a moderate level of

Project visibility. The Project would be visible in middleground views, along with two existing transmission lines. KOP 5 is approximately 0.25 mile from Alternative 2A representing a foreground to middleground view. Visual contrast levels would be moderate for Alternative 2A but these views are not anticipated to draw the attention of a casual observer. Two existing transmission lines and other human-made features are the focal points in the view. Impacts on recreational viewers would be moderate. Use of steel pole H-frame structures similar in form to the existing transmission lines at Fort Fred Steele could reduce impacts by matching existing structures in the area. The following mitigation measure has been identified by the Agencies:

VIS-17 Single-circuit H-frame structures shall be used to reduce visual impact to Fort Fred Steele between MP 38.0 to MP 43.0 for Alternative 2B and MP 18.0 to MP 24.0 for Alternative 2A to match the existing structures.

Alternative 2B

Alternative 2B would be 6.2 miles long and would cross a checkerboard of land ownership. Approximately 2.3 miles of BLM-managed land would be crossed, all of which is managed with VRM Class III objectives. The transmission line should conform to VRM objectives. The following KOPs represent anticipated areas of visual impacts from this Alternative. KOPs 9 and 5 are discussed in the discussion on Alternative 2A. Table 3.2-10 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 2B.

Table 3.2-10. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 2B

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (mile)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
4[1/]	RES	Private	H	M	0.25	H	M	M-H
9	REC	Private	H	L-M	0.60	M	M	L-M
5	REC	Private	H	L-M	0.71	L-M	L-M	L-M

1/ Viewers at KOP 4 would have views of Alternative 2A with lower anticipated visual impacts.
2/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP C4 (Figure E.2-2). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 4, south of Fort Fred Steele, would have a high level of Project visibility in the foreground and middleground. Viewers at this location would be less than 0.25 mile from the Route Alternative, representing a foreground view. Visual contrast levels would be moderate. Views would not draw the attention of a casual observer due to the backdropping effect created by the mountainous terrain in the and the presence of two existing transmission lines. Visual impacts on residential viewers would be moderate to high due to the distance and contrast level of Alternative 2B. Use of steel pole H-frame structures would reduce visual impact (see mitigation measure above).

Alternative 2C

Alternative 2C would traverse an area of checkerboard land ownership, west of Hanna Bar Road, which consists of 11.4 miles of BLM-administered land and 12.9 miles of Wyoming state lands. BLM-administered land in this area is primarily VRM Class III (3.7 miles) and IV (7.6 miles); therefore, this alternative should conform to VRM objectives. Alternative 2C could be seen from the KOPs of Alternative 2A and the

Proposed Route due to the close proximity of the alternative to the Proposed Route from the town of Hanna, Wyoming. There is one KOP location selected to represent the most sensitive or typical views within this area of the Project.

Table 3.2-11 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 2C.

Table 3.2-11. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 2C

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (mile)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
836 (west)[1/]	RES	Private	H	M	1.0	M	M-H	M-H

1/ Viewers at KOP 836 (west) would have views of Alternative 2A with higher anticipated visual impacts.
2/ RES – A single resident.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 836-West (Figure E.2-2). Viewers within this area include high-sensitivity residential viewers on Highway 30. The viewer looking west (KOP West) would have a moderate level of Project visibility with partially screened foreground views of Alternative 2C. The viewer would have an expansive though partially screened view toward Alternative 2C with opportunities for terrain screening. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high. The distance of the view, contrast levels, and visible human-made alterations lower scenic quality.

Conformance with BLM VRM Classes

Overall, the construction and operations of the Segment 2 Proposed Route or Route Alternatives would conform to BLM VRM Class III and IV objectives. Impacts would be moderate with isolated areas of lower and higher impacts for private and state lands crossed by Segment 2 due to screening offered by vegetation and landforms, distance of viewers, and lack of densely populated areas in this landscape.

Segment 2 Proposed Route – The Proposed Route would cross VRM Class III lands in a checkerboard pattern between MPs 26.5 and 79.9 near KOPs 822 and 829. It is anticipated that because the Proposed Route does not dominate views and most impacts are moderate, it would conform to VRM Class III objectives in most areas. One area of inconsistency analyzed for this Project is a 951 acre VRM Class III parcel adjacent to the North Platte River and within the North Platte River SRMA. Crossing this parcel would likely conform to the Rawlins RMP and an amendment allowing a one-time visually altering action without changing the VRM classification may be needed if this route is selected (see Appendix G-1, Section 5.2.3).

Effects described for KOP 822 include land that is managed as VRM Class III in the North Platte River SRMA. An amendment would be needed for crossing this VRM parcel and thus the effect described would apply only if an amendment were approved.

Alternative 2A – Alternative 2A would cross BLM-managed VRM Class III lands located in a checkerboard pattern between MPs 9.4 and 27.4. It is anticipated that because Alternative 2A would not dominate any views and most impacts would be moderate, it would conform to VRM Class III objectives.

Alternative 2B – Alternative 2B would cross BLM-managed VRM Class III lands located in a checkerboard pattern along its entire length. It is anticipated that since Alternative 2B would not dominate any views and most impacts would be moderate, it would conform to VRM Class III objectives.

Alternative 2C – Alternative 2C would cross approximately 3.7 miles of BLM-managed VRM Class III and 6.5 miles of Class IV lands located in a checkerboard pattern along its entire length. It is anticipated that because Alternative 2C would not dominate any views and most impacts would be moderate, it would conform to VRM Class III and Class IV objectives.

Segment 2 – Conclusion

There are three Route Alternatives for a portion of the Proposed Route: Alternatives 2A, 2B, and 2C. Alternative 2A shares many of the same KOPs that have been described above for Alternative 2B. The shared KOPs are all within close proximity to Fort Fred Steele. Alternative 2B is approximately 1.5 miles farther from Fort Fred Steele and closer to local residences than Alternative 2A. Overall, the Proposed Route would have less visual impact than Alternatives 2A or 2B due to the increased viewing distance between Fort Fred Steele and residences located to the north of I-80. With increased view distance the facilities lack scale and spatial dominance and in some views are partially to totally screened by the foothills of the Hogback, resulting in overall low visual impacts, with a few isolated incidences of moderate to high impacts resulting from the residence and recreational access area located south of I-80. If Alternatives 2A or 2B were selected, steel pole H-frame structures would be used where noted due to the adjacent H-frame structures in the area of impact.

Alternative 2C shares KOP 836-West with Alternative 2A. At this location Alternative 2C would be closer and the visual impact would be moderate to high compared to the moderate impact from Alternative 2A. However, farther east Alternative 2A would be close to KOPs 838, C2, C3, and C4, as well as the community of Hanna. The overall visual impacts would be much greater from Alternative 2A compared to Alternative 2C.

Segment 3 – Creston to Anticline

Segment 3, as proposed, would link the Creston and Anticline Substations in southeast Wyoming with two 500-kV circuits on one structure. One circuit would be operated at 230 kV during the initial phase of the Project. Its total proposed length between those two substations is 46.7 miles. Sixty-nine acres of the construction of the Anticline and Creston Substations are attributed to Segment 3. Segment 3 would also link the Anticline and Jim Bridger Substations with a 4.3-mile 230-kV line and a 5.5-mile 345-kV line and includes the 10-acre expansion of the Jim Bridger 345-kV Substation. There are no alternatives proposed along this segment (see Appendix A, Figure A-4).

Proposed Route

Table 3.2-12 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Segment 3.

Table 3.2-12. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in the Segment 3 Proposed Route

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (mile)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
16	COMM	Private	M	L	0.75	H	M	L-M

1/ COMM – A commuter traveling on major highways or secondary roads.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 16 (Figure E.2-3). Moderate-sensitivity viewers traveling on I-80 or at the rest stop adjacent to this KOP would have a high level of Project visibility, considering the open middleground views of the Project. Viewers at this location would be less than 0.75 mile from the Project, representing a middleground view of the Project. Visual contrast levels would be moderate, and the proposed transmission line is not anticipated to dominate the view from this VRM Class III area due to the existing transmission lines and oil and gas developments. Impacts on viewers would be low to moderate due to the lower quality of the landscape resulting from the human-made alteration and the lack of variation in form, color, line, or texture.

Conformance with BLM VRM

The Proposed Route would conform to BLM VRM Class IV objectives. Visual impacts to public, private, and state lands are anticipated to be mostly low because the area is used primarily for oil, gas, and pipeline development with few residents.

Segment 3 – Conclusion

There are no proposed Route Alternatives for Segment 3 and impacts to visual resources are anticipated to be low to moderate.

Segment 4 – Anticline to Populus

Segment 4, as proposed, would link the Anticline Substation near the Jim Bridger Power Plant in southwestern Wyoming with the Populus Substation in Idaho with two 500-kV circuits on one structure. Its total proposed length is 203 miles. Eighty-nine acres of the construction of the Anticline Substation and the expansion of the Populus Substation and 1.5 acres for three regeneration sites are attributed to Segment 4. It has six Route Alternatives in the middle portion of its route but the first 52 miles to the east and the last 61 miles to the west (in Idaho) do not have any Route Alternatives. The middle section of the Proposed Route is 90.2 miles long, and its Route Alternatives vary from 85 to 102 miles long. These alternatives were proposed by the Wyoming Governor's office (4A, paralleling the existing 345-kV lines throughout); by the BLM Kemmerer FO (4B through 4E, including edits from various cooperating agencies), with the intent to avoid impacts to cultural resources to the extent practical; and by the Proponents (4F, attempting to avoid impacts to cultural resources while still remaining north of the existing lines) (see Appendix A, Figures A-5 and A-6).

Table 3.2-13 summarizes the potential visual impacts for each KOP in Segment 4.

Table 3.2-13. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in the Segment 4 Proposed Route

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership[3/]	Viewer Rating[4/]	Scenic Quality[4/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[4/]	Contrast[4/]	Impact[4/]
25	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M	0.7-1.0	H	L	L-M
23	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M	0.50	H	L	L-M
26	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M	0.25	H	H	M-H
1315	REC	BLM VRM II	H	M-H	1.90	L-M	L	L-M
1295	RES	BLM VRM IV	H	M	0.85	H	H	M-H
1288	REC	BLM VRM IV	H	M	300 feet	H	H	M-H
1292	RES	Private	H	M	0.83	H	H	M-H
1363	REC	Private	LH	M-H	<0.1	H	M-H	M-H
1326	RES	Private	H	M-H	260 ft	H	H	H
1319	REC	BLM VRM II	H	M	2.00	L-M	L-M	L-M
1359	REC	BLM VRM II	H	M-H	<0.1	H	M-H	M-H
1322	REC	BLM VRM II	H	H	0.50	M-H	M	M
635[1/]	REC	BLM VRM II	M-H	M-H	0.30	H	H	H
697	REC/ COMM	Private	H	M	1.50	M	L-M	M
705	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.50	H	L	L-M
758	REC	Forest Service MM VQO	H	M-H	0.30	M	M-H	M
757	REC	Forest Service MM VQO	H	M-H	0.50	L-M	M	L-M
746	RES/ SCHOOL	Private	H	M	0.50	H	L-M	M
778	REC	Private	H	M	0.50	H	M	M-H
691	RES	Private	H	M	0.50	H	H	H
775	REC/COMM	Private	H	L-M	2.20	M	L-M	M
770	REC	Private	H	M	0.75	H	M-H	M-H
1346	REC	Forest Service PR VQO	H	M-H	0.5	L-M	M	M-H

1/ Impacts to KOP 635 (Segment 4) would also apply to Alternative 4F because they share a portion of their alignment at this particular KOP. Most of the Alternative 4F alignment is farther away than the Proposed Route, resulting in lower impacts.
2/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer. COMM – A commuter traveling on major highways or secondary roads. SCHOOL – A community school usually not identified as historic.
3/ PR – Partial Retention; MM – Maximum Modification
4/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP C105 (Figure E.2-4). This view is looking toward Segment 4 from the McCauley's Road and Big Hill historic markers along the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 25 (Figures E.2-4 and E.2-16). High-sensitivity recreational viewers driving on U.S. Highway 191 would have a high level of Project visibility, considering the foreground views of the Project. Viewers at this location would be approximately 0.75 to 1.0 mile from the proposed 500/250-kV line. This KOP is representing a middleground view of the Project, which would parallel three existing transmission lines visible in the middleground. Visual contrast levels would be low, and these views would not draw the attention of a casual observer due to the three existing transmission lines

and backdropping effects created by the surrounding terrain. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be low to moderate for either the Proposed Route or Route Alternative 4A. The existing transmission lines, lower the contrast levels of the Proposed Route and Route Alternatives.

KOP 23 (Figures E.2-4 and E.2-15). The Project would be highly visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers, considering the middleground views of the Project and the lack of vegetative or topographic screening. Viewers at this location would be approximately 0.5 mile from the Project, representing a middleground view of the Project, which would parallel three existing transmission lines clearly visible in the middleground. Visual contrast levels would be low and these views are not anticipated to draw the attention of a casual observer due to the presence of the three existing transmission lines. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be low to moderate for the Proposed Route and Alternative 4A. Two single-circuit steel-lattice structures with matching spans would replace the proposed single double-circuit lattice structures between MP 26.0 and MP 32.0 to reduce potential visual impacts by making structures match the existing transmission lines more closely.

KOP 26 (Figures E.2-4). Highly sensitive viewers at KOP 26 would be approximately 0.25 mile from the point where the Project would cross SR 372 and the Oregon NHT with trail markers in the foreground distance zone. The Project would be 0.25 mile from and highly visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers along the Oregon NHT or accessing the North Platte River at KOP 26. The viewers would have broad, expansive views toward this segment. There would be high contrast due to few screening opportunities offered by vegetation or topography. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be moderate to high due to close views and contrast levels.

KOP 1315 (Figure E.2-4). High-sensitivity recreational viewers in the BLM's Fontenelle Reservoir campground at KOP 1315 would have a low to moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 1.9 miles away) looking southwest toward State Highway 89 in the foreground and middleground. Topography in the view toward Segment 4 would result in partial, if not full, screening of Project elements, resulting in low contrast levels. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be low to moderate due to distance and contrast levels.

KOP 1295 (Figure E.2-4). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1295 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.85 mile from Alternative 4F). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and may skyline the rolling to rugged terrain of the middleground. This would result in high contrast levels. Potential visual impacts on residences from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high. The transmission line creating a new linear feature in a disturbed landscape will detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1288 (Figure E.2-4/Appendix G-1, Figure K-1d). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1288 would have a high level of Project visibility 300 feet from the Proposed Route. The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and may skyline the

rolling terrain of the middleground. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. Potential visual impacts on recreationalists from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the transmission line creating a new linear feature in a disturbed landscape with moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1292 (Figure E.2-4). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1292 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.83 mile from Alternative 4F). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and may skyline and/or span the rolling to rugged terrain of the middleground. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. Potential visual impacts on residences from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the transmission line creating a new linear feature in a disturbed landscape with moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1363 (Figure E.2-4/Appendix G, Figure K-2d). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1363 would have a high level of Project visibility (less than 0.1 mile from the Proposed Route) until they passed under the transmission lines. The viewing threshold would be of a short duration due to viewers traveling at speeds up to 35 mph. The viewer would have an expansive view of the Proposed Route, which would be perpendicular to the surrounding ridges. Several of the towers would be above the skyline and vegetation clearing would be obvious, resulting in moderate to high contrast levels. Visual impacts are expected to be moderate to high on this varied landscape with moderate to high scenic quality.

KOP 1326 (Figure E.2-5). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1326 would have a high level of Project visibility from 260 feet away looking southeast toward Round Mountain, a foreground view. Topography in the view toward the Proposed Route would not provide screening of Project elements. Contrast levels would be high. Visual impacts on recreational and seasonal viewers would be high due to the Proposed Route being in the immediate vicinity and the resulting contrast levels.

KOP 1319 (Figure E.2-5). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1319 would have a low to moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 2.0 miles away) looking northeast. Topography in the view toward Segment 4 would result in partial if not full screening of Project elements, resulting in contrast levels that would be low to moderate. Visual impacts on recreational and seasonal viewers (hunters) would be low to moderate due to distance and contrast levels.

KOP 1359 (Figure E.2-5/Appendix G, Figure K-2b). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1359 would have a high level of Project visibility in the foreground (less than 0.1 mile away) looking north across Commissary Ridge and the East Fork of Pole Creek. Topography and vegetation would provide some partial screening, resulting in contrast levels that would be moderate to high. Visual impacts would be moderate to high due to the distance to the Project and the moderate to high scenic quality.

KOP 1322 (Figure E.2-5). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1322 would have a moderate to high level of Project visibility in the foreground (approximately 0.5 mile away) looking north toward Bear Canyon. Topography in the view toward the Proposed Route would provide some screening of Project elements, resulting in

contrast levels that would be moderate. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be moderate due to partial screening and contrast levels.

KOP 635 (Figure E.2-5 and Photo Simulation E.2-18). From this KOP, located on the southern edge of Raymond Mountain WSA and adjacent to Quealy Reservoir, moderate to high sensitivity viewers would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.3 mile away). The Proposed Route would be located in the foreground at approximately 0.3 mile from the potential viewers. Viewers would have a limited viewing distance within the surrounding terrain that includes the Project approaching from the southeast before turning west on a slope opposite the WSA in the middleground. Contrast levels would be high as a result of the near absence of existing structures and the skylined transmission towers. Visual impacts on viewers in the vicinity of this KOP would be high due to foreground distances and contrast level.

KOP 697 (Figure E.2-5). The Project would be highly visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers along U.S. Highway 30 (approximately 1.5 miles from the Project). Viewers at this location would be approximately 1.5 miles from the Proposed Route, representing a foreground to middleground view of the Project. The viewers would have a broad, expansive view toward this segment, which generally parallels an existing transmission corridor. Contrast levels would be low to moderate. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be moderate due to high visibility, which is offset by low to moderate contrast levels.

KOP 705 (Figure E.2-5). The Project would be highly visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers along a Bench Road at KOP 705 (approximately 0.5 mile away). Viewers at this location would be approximately 0.5 mile from the Proposed Route, representing a foreground view of the Project, which would parallel two existing transmission lines to the south that are highly visible due to skylining. The viewers would have an immediate foreground view toward this segment, which parallels two existing transmission lines. Contrast levels would be low. Impacts on residential viewers would be low to moderate due to contrast levels and existing transmission lines.

KOP 758 (Figure E.2-5). The Project would be moderately visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers along North Canyon Road and at the campground in the Caribou-Targhee NF (approximately 0.3 mile away). Viewers at this location would be approximately 0.3 mile from the Proposed Route representing a middleground view of the Project, which would cross the North Canyon Road. Contrast levels would be moderate to high due to dense forest vegetation and possible forest clearing for the proposed ROW. The removal of vegetation would increase contrast and draw the attention of observers. The Forest Service has identified the following mitigation measures:

KOP 757 (Figure E.2-5). The Project would be low to moderately visible from 0.5 mile away to high-sensitivity recreational viewers along a Forest Service road in the Caribou-Targhee NF. Viewers at this location would be approximately 0.5 mile from Segment 4, which would generally parallel the existing Forest Service road to the south. The viewers would have a middleground view toward this segment, which would parallel a

Forest Service road, resulting in contrast levels that would be moderated by the dense forest vegetation.

KOP 746 (Figure E.2-5). From Thatcher Elementary School, the Project (approximately 0.5 mile away) would be highly visible to the educational viewers. Viewers at this location would be approximately 0.5 mile from the Proposed Route, representing a foreground view of the Project. The Project would parallel two existing transmission lines to the south and would be highly visible due to skylining of the existing terrain. The viewers would have an expansive view toward this segment, which would parallel two existing transmission lines and would be skylined. Contrast levels would be moderate. Visual impacts on viewers would be moderate to high due to distance and contrast levels.

KOP 778 (Figure E.2-5). High-sensitivity recreational viewers in Cottonwood Valley would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.5 mile away). Viewers would be looking south toward the Proposed Route, a foreground view. Topography in the view toward the Proposed Route would result in partial screening and some backdropping of Project elements in this enclosed view. Contrast levels would be moderate. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be moderate to high.

KOP 691 (Figure E.2-5). The Project would be highly visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers along South Pratt Road (approximately 0.5 mile away). Viewers at this location would be approximately 0.5 mile from Segment 4, representing a foreground view of the Project, which would not parallel existing transmission lines and would be highly visible due to flat valley terrain. The viewers would have a broad, expansive view toward the Proposed Route, resulting in high contrast levels. Impacts on residential viewers would be high.

KOP 775 (Figures E.2-5 and E.2-19). The Project would be moderately visible to high-sensitivity viewers along U.S. Highway 91 (approximately 2.2 miles away). Viewers at this location would be approximately 2.2 miles from the Project on a new ROW, representing a middleground view. Three transmission lines are visible from this view. The viewer would have a broad, expansive view toward the Proposed Route. The view would be screened by two existing transmission lines and the geologic landscape features except for skylining opportunities along the adjacent ridgeline. Contrast levels would be low to moderate. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be moderate.

KOP 770 (Figure E.2-5). High-sensitivity recreational viewers from Downata Hotsprings would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.75 mile from the Proposed Route), representing a foreground view of the Project. The viewers would have broad, expansive views toward the Proposed Route, resulting in contrast levels that would be moderate to high. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be moderate to high.

KOP 1346 (Figure E.2-5/Appendix G, Figure CB-1b). The Project would be low to moderately visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers (approximately 0.5-mile along a Forest Service road [Highline Trail] in the Caribou-Targhee NF represented by KOP 1346). The viewers would have a middleground view toward the Proposed Route. Contrast levels would be moderated by the forest vegetation, which screens the

structures except for some open views. This area is also managed to meet a VQO of Partial Retention, which requires management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Activities may repeat form, line, color, or texture common to the characteristic landscape but not change their qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, and pattern. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high. The Proposed Route would create a new linear feature in an undisturbed landscape approximately 1.0 mile north from an existing ROW with moderate to high scenic quality and moderate contrast. The Proposed Route would not conform to the Forest Service Partial Retention classification.

Alternative 4A

Table 3.2-14 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 4A.

Table 3.2-14. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 4A

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
620	REC	BLM VRM II	H	H	1.8	H	H	H
604	COMM	BLM VRM III	L-M	L	1.50	L-M	L	L
647[1/]	RES	BLM VRM IV	H	M	1.00	M	L	L-M
627	REC	Private	H	M	0.50	H	M	M
686	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.32	H	M	M

1/ Impacts to KOP 647 (4A) would also apply to Alternative 4F because they share a portion of their alignment at this particular KOP.
2/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer. COMM – A commuter traveling on major highways or secondary roads.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP C5 (Figure E.2-4, 3.2-1). Views from this point are from the Opal Wagon Road toward Alternative 4A. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C6 (Figure E.2-4). Views from this point are from the Opal Wagon Road toward Alternative 4A. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C110 (Figure E.2-4). This view is looking toward Alternative 4A from the White Hill Historic Monument on the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C7 (Figure E.2-4). This view is looking toward Alternative 4A from the Alfred Corum Grave on the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C8 (Figure E.2-4). This view is looking toward Alternative 4A from the Nancy Hill Grave on the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C9 (Figure E.2-4). This view is looking toward Alternative 4A from Emigrant Springs on the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 620 (Figure E.2-4). Discussed under Alternative 4F.

KOP 604 (Figure E.2-4). Low to moderate sensitivity viewers at KOP 604 would have a low level of Project visibility. Alternative 4A would be located about 1.5 miles north of this viewing location, focused toward Highway 30 and generally paralleling an existing transmission line. Views of the Project to the north look through one existing transmission line and three other existing transmission lines about 1,500 feet farther north. Visual contrast levels would be low due the parallel existing transmission lines and the low overall scenic quality. Visual impact on viewers from this KOP would be low.

KOP 647 (Figure E.2-4). The Project would be moderately visible from this residential KOP. This view is a foreground view to the southwest toward Alternative 4A (approximately 1 mile away). This view is enclosed by hills in the background that would provide a backdrop for the existing and proposed alternative facilities. The level of contrast in this view is low due to the existing transmission lines and the backdrop of the hills. Impacts on viewers would be low to moderate.

KOP 627 (Figures E.2-4 and E.2-17). The Project would be approximately 0.5 mile from KOP 627 and would be highly visible to high-sensitivity recreation viewers on Kemmerer Reservoir. This is a foreground view looking south towards Alternative 4A, from a boat launch approximately 0.5 mile north of the Project. This view is enclosed by hills surrounding the reservoir and views of three existing transmission lines that are located approximately 0.6 mile to the south. The enclosed view to the south would frame the existing transmission lines and the proposed double-circuit structures. The anticipated contrast levels would be reduced by the presence of three existing transmission lines; however, the Project is expected to be noticeable in this landscape and would be located closer to the viewers than the existing lines. This would result in moderate visual contrast and a moderate visual impact.

KOP 686 (Figure E.2-4). The view from this location is looking south to southwest along Collette Avenue in West Cokeville, Wyoming, from a residential and farming area. This KOP is approximately 0.32 mile from Alternative 4A and represents a foreground view of the Project, which would parallel the three existing transmission lines that cross the foothills in the middleground of the view just before crossing the Bear River. The Project would be highly visible from 0.32 mile away to high-sensitivity residential viewers along Collette Avenue. Impacts to viewers from KOP 686 would be moderate. The transmission line would have a skylining effect as it crosses the foothills in the middleground; however, it would be paralleling existing transmission lines and would have some structural screening from irrigation structures.

Alternative 4B

Table 3.2-15 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 4B.

Table 3.2-15. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 4B

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
652	REC	BLM VRM II	H	M-H	0.7	M-H	M-H	M-H
603	REC	Private	H	L	0.25	H	M	L-M
676[1/]	REC/HIST	NPS	H	M	1.6	M	M	M
655[1/]	REC	NPS	H	M	1.5	M	M	M
673	REC	USFWS	H	M	4.7	L-M	L-M	L-M

1/ Impacts to KOP (4B) would also apply to Alternative 4C because they share a portion of their alignment at this particular KOP.
2/ REC – A recreational viewer. HIST – A site identified as having historic value.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 652 (Figure E.2-4/Appendix G, Figure K-6d). Alternative 4B would be moderate to highly visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers at this location looking to the east about 3.5 miles east of Cavanaugh Peak and south of Fossil Ridge. The KOP would have a foreground view of the moderate to highly visible Route Alternative (approximately 0.7 mile to the east). Alternative 4B would not parallel any existing transmission lines but would be backdropped by the surrounding terrain. This view does not include any apparent human-made modifications. Impacts on viewers from this KOP and in the surrounding area are moderate to high due to distance, backdropping, and contrast.

KOP 603 (Figure E.2-4). Alternative 4B would be highly visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers at this location looking to the north atop a ridge (approximately 2.5 miles east of Highway 189 and 2.2 miles south of Highway 30 near the Radiant Mine). The KOP would have a foreground view of the highly visible Project alternative approximately 0.25 mile south. The alternative alignment would not parallel any existing transmission lines though the northeast portions of the town of Kemmerer are visible in the background. This view includes fencing and the highway, which would result in moderate visual contrast. Impacts on viewers from this KOP and in the surrounding area would be low to moderate.

KOP 676 (Figure E.2-4). The Project would be moderately visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers at the Fossil Butte National Monument Historic Quarry Site. The view is to the south and Alternative 4B would be in the foreground/middleground at approximately 1.6 miles south. This enclosed view, high above the valley floor, would provide expansive views with a variety of landscape elements, including Fossil Ridge in the background, and human-made alterations, including a mine, a railroad, a highway, and an existing transmission line. The view would have moderate contrast and visual impacts on viewers would be moderate.

KOP 655 (Figures E.2-4 and E.2-20). The Project would be moderately visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers at the Fossil Butte National Monument visitor center (approximately 1.5 miles away). This alternative is located approximately 1.5 miles to the south along the base of Fossil Ridge. The enclosed view includes U.S. Highway 30, a railroad, and an existing transmission line at the base of Fossil Ridge, which provides a backdrop that tends to absorb the human-made alterations. The view would have a moderate level of contrast and visual impacts to the viewer would be moderate.

KOP 673 (Figure E.2-4). This high-sensitivity KOP is representative of recreational views from the Cokeville Meadows NWR at an informational kiosk, looking west along U.S. Highway 89 at Alternative 4B as it crosses the view (approximately 4.7 miles to the west). This represents a middleground to background view of the Project. The Project would not parallel any existing transmission lines as it crosses Red Knoll and the foothills of Red Mountain on the west side of the Bear River. This intersection is just east of the Utah and Idaho state line. This alternative would have low to moderate visibility and would not parallel existing transmission lines. Overall, contrast would be low to moderate in this moderate quality landscape with distances far enough from the viewer that it is anticipated the alternative would be absorbed into the background terrain. Impacts on viewers from KOP 673 would be low to moderate.

Alternative 4C

Table 3.2-16 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 4C.

Table 3.2-16. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 4C

KOP	Viewers[3/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[4/]	Scenic Quality[4/]	Distance (miles	Visibility[4/]	Contrast[4/]	Impact[4/]
603	REC	Private	H	L	0.25	H	M	L-M
676	REC/HIST	NPS	H	M	1.60	M	M	M
655	REC	NPS	H	M	1.50	M	M	M
632[1/]	REC/COMM	Private	M-H	L-M	0.25	H	M	L-M
1368[2/]	REC	BLM	H	M-H	<0.1	H	H	H
674	RES	USFWS	H	L-M	0.10	H	M-H	M-H
672[1/]	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.37	H	M	L-M

1/ Impacts to KOP (4C) would also apply to Alternative 4E because they share a portion of their alignment at this particular KOP.
2/ Impacts to KOP 1368 (4C) would also apply to Alternative 4E since they share a portion of their alignment at this particular KOP.3
3/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer. COMM – A commuter traveling on major highways or secondary roads. HIST – A site identified as having historic value.
4/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 603 (Figure E.2-4). Alternative 4C shares the same alignment as Alternative 4B for this portion of its route. See description under 4B.

KOP 632 (Figure E.2-4). Alternative 4C would be highly visible to moderate-sensitivity viewers traveling along this wildlife auto tour route. A pull-out site located approximately 0.25 mile west of where the alternative alignment crosses U.S. Highway 30 would be the primary viewing location. Viewers at this location would be approximately 0.25 mile from Alternative 4C, representing a foreground view of the Project, which would depart from paralleling existing transmission lines as it crosses U.S. Highway 30 from the south to the north. This enclosed view includes deer fencing, a railroad, an electric distribution line, a communication tower on the hill to the east, and the highway that results in an overall moderate visual contrast. Considering the speed of travel (55 mph), the view duration would be brief; thus, the impacts on viewers traveling along this road would be low to moderate.

KOP 1368 (Figure E.2-4/Appendix G-1, Figure K-8b). Alternative 4C would be highly visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers traveling to the numerous recreation areas in the region. Viewers at this location would be less than 0.1 mile away from the proposed alignment. Alternative 4C parallels the Oregon NHT and U.S. 30. All of the towers would be visible above the skyline of the Boulder Ridge and Tunp Range in the background. The visual contrast would be high, although the horizontal powerlines are similar to the horizontal lines of the road, fence, and topography. Impacts to viewers along this highway would be high due to the close parallel views of Alternative 4C.

KOP 672 (Figure E.2-4). Alternative 4C would be highly visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers (approximately 0.37 mile from the alternative). Views would be focused to the southwest along U.S. Highway 89, representing a foreground view of the Project. The alternative would not parallel any existing transmission lines before crossing the Bear River in the middleground to the west of this view. This partially screened view includes fencing, a railroad, an electric distribution line, and the highway that would result in an overall moderate visual contrast. Impacts on viewers from this residence and traveling along the highway would be low to moderate.

Alternative 4D

Table 3.2-17 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 4D.

Table 3.2-17. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 4D

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
603 [1/]	REC	Private	L	L	0.25	H	M-H	M
673 [1/]	REC	USFWS	H	M	4.7	L-M	L-M	L-M

1/ Impacts to KOP would also apply to Alternatives 4B, 4C, and 4E since they share a portion of their alignment at this particular KOP.
2/ REC – A recreational viewer.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 603 (Figure E.2-4) Alternative 4D shares the same alignment as 4B, 4C, and 4E at this location. This KOP is described in the discussion of Alternative 4B.

KOP 673 (Figure E.2-4) Alternative 4D shares the same alignment as Alternative 4B at this location. This KOP is described in the discussion of Alternative 4B.

Alternative 4E

Table 3.2-18 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 4E.

KOP 603 (Figure E.2-4) Alternative 4E shares the same alignment as 4B, 4C, and 4D at this location. This KOP is described in the discussion of Alternative 4B.

Table 3.2-18. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 4E

KOP	Viewers[3/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[4/]	Scenic Quality[4/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[4/]	Contrast[4/]	Impact[4/]
603[1/]	REC	Private	H	L	0.25	H	M	L-M
632[2/]	REC/COMM	Private	M-H	L-M	0.25	H	M	L-M
1368[2/]	REC	BLM VRM II	H	M-H	<0.1	H	H	H
674[2/]	RES	USFWS	H	L-M	0.10	H	M-H	M-H
672[2/]	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.37	H	M	L-M

1/ Visual impacts to KOP would be the same as those described for Alternative 4B since they share a portion of their alignment at this particular KOP.
2/ Impacts to KOP would also apply to Alternative 4C since they share a portion of their alignment at this KOP.
3/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer. COMM – A commuter traveling on major highways or secondary roads.
4/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 674 (Figure E.2-4) Alternative 4E would be highly visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers (approximately 0.1 mile from the alternative). The view would be focused to the southwest along U.S. Highway 89, representing a foreground view of the Project. The alternative would not parallel any existing transmission lines. This open view includes human-made alterations (barns, sheds, fencing) in the foreground and middleground and limited variations in the landscape elements, resulting in moderate to high visual contrast. Visual impacts on travelers and residents would be moderate to high though impacts to travelers on the highway would be temporary with a brief duration.

Alternative 4F

Table 3.2-19 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 4F.

Table 3.2-19. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 4F

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
636	REC	BLM VRM Class II	H	M-H	0.3	H	H	H
604[1/]	REC	BLM VRM III	L-M	L	1.5	H	L	L
647	RES	BLM VRM IV	H	M	1.0	M	L	L-M
621	REC	Private	H	M	5.0	H	L	L
620	REC	BLM VRM II	H	H	1.8	H	H	H
637	REC	BLM VRM III	H	H	0.6	H	M-H	M-H
635	REC	BLM VRM II	M-H	M-H	0.25	M-H	H	M-H

1/ KOP 604 would view a shared portion of the Alternative 4A alignment; thus, impacts would be the same.
2/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP C6 (Figure 3.2-2). Views from this point are from the Opal Wagon Road toward Alternative 4F. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C5 (Figure 3.2-2). Views from this point are from the Opal Wagon Road toward Alternative 4F. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C11 (Figure 3.2-2). Views from this point are from the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C110 (Figure E.2-4). This view is looking toward the Segment 4 from the White Hill Historic Monument on the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C10 (Figure E.2-4). This view is looking toward the Segment 4 from a trail marker at the Dempsey Hockaday Cutoff along the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 636 (Figure E.2-4/Appendix G-1, Figure K-5d). This view from Coke Mountain is representative of high-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 636. The KOP is located 0.3 mile north of Alternative 4F. Alternative 4A would be over 5.0 miles south of the KOP. Photographic simulations depicting potential visual impacts to the resource have been generated for this KOP (Appendix G, Figure K-5d). The simulation illustrates that the alternative would not parallel any existing transmission lines, which would result in high contrast levels at close viewing distances. Visual impact on viewers from this KOP would be high due to the high contrast level and skylined views.

KOP 604 (Figure E.2-4). This view, from a dirt access road north of U.S. Highway 30, is representative of the views available to low to moderate sensitivity viewers at KOP 64. The Project would be located about 1.5 miles north of this viewing location, generally paralleling an existing transmission line. Views of the Project to the north look through one existing transmission line and three other existing transmission lines about 1,500 feet farther north. Visual contrast levels would be low due the parallel existing transmission lines and the low overall scenic quality. Visual impact on viewers from this KOP would be low due to the numerous transmission lines present within the view.

KOP 621 (Figure E.2-4). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at the trailhead of Trail 81 would have a distant (5 miles) skylined view of the Project set against three existing transmission lines. Contrast levels would be low due to the viewing distance and the presence of existing transmission lines. Visual impacts on recreational viewers and the immediate area would be low.

KOP 620 (Figure E.2-4/Appendix G, Figure K-5b). This view from the Dempsey-Hockaday Cutoff of the Oregon/California NHT is representative of those available to high-sensitivity viewers at KOP 620. The KOP is located 4.0 miles north of Alternative 4A. Alternative 4F would be 0.2 mile east of the KOP. Photographic simulations depicting potential visual impacts to the resource have been generated for this KOP (see Appendix G, Figure K-5b). The simulation illustrates that the alternative alignment would not parallel any existing transmission lines, which would result in high contrast levels with no other visible human-made disturbance in the view. Visual impact on viewers from this KOP would be high due to high contrast levels and high scenic quality.

KOP 637 (Figure E.2-4). High-sensitivity viewers traveling on a BLM road along Dempsey ridge would pass directly under Segment 4 (approximately 0.6 mile north of this KOP). Viewers have generally open panoramic views from this ridge line. Alternative 4C is located approximately 4 miles to the southwest. Visual contrast levels would be

moderate to high in this landscape. Visual impacts on viewers would be moderate to high. There are limited options such as micrositing of structures to reduce visual impacts in this area.

Conformance with BLM VRM Classes and Forest Service VQOs

Generally the construction and operations of the Segment 4 Proposed Route or Route Alternatives would conform to BLM VRM Class III and IV objectives. In some cases the transmission facility may not conform to the RMP's VRM Class II objectives where there is no paralleling existing transmission facility or VRM Class III objectives where the level of change is considered high.

Segment 4 Proposed Route – The Proposed Route would cross over 19.1 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands in the Kemmerer FO between MPs 94.0 and 128.8, creating a new ROW. VRM Class II classification requires levels of change to be low and not attract the attention of a casual observer. The proposed transmission line would not conform to the RMP because the new facilities would represent a level of change to the landscape and basic elements that would attract the attention of the casual observer. Three such areas occur along the Proposed Route (see KOPs 635, 620, and 627). Amendments to the Kemmerer RMP would be needed, if this route is selected, to allow one-time visually altering action without changing the VRM classification (see Appendix G-1, Sections 5.4.1 to 5.4.3).

Effects discussed for KOPs 1288, 1292, 1359, 635, 1346, 1322, and 1359 include assessment of BLM Class II land and there for the Project and its associated effects described for these areas could only occur if the plan amendments were approved.

Segment 4 of the Proposed Route would also cross 0.8 mile of a 410-acre parcel of VRM Class II land managed by the Rock Springs FO between MPs 51.1 and 51.9. Crossing this parcel would require an amendment to the Green River RMP to permit a one-time allowance without changing the VRM class (see Appendix G-1, Section 5.3.1).

Effects for KOP 1353 are discussed in Appendix G-1 and would only apply if the amendment were approved.

The Segment 4 Proposed Route would cross the Caribou-Targhee NF in areas classified as having Retention and Partial Retention VQOs, which require that project elements not be visually evident and preferably be visually subordinate in the landscape and that they repeat the form, line, color, or texture common to the characteristics of the landscape. Regardless of whether one double-circuit 500-kV system or two single-circuit 500-kV lines are built, the Project would not conform to the VQOs. Two existing transmission lines cross this section of the Caribou-Targhee NF approximately 1 to 2 miles to the south of the Proposed Route. A Project-level plan amendment would be required to allow another transmission corridor and to change the land classification for the ROW to MA 8.1, Utility Corridor (see Appendix G-2, Section 5.2.1.3).

Effects described for KOPs 1346, 757, and 758 would only apply if the amendment were approved as this alignment would require an amendment to the Forest Plan.

Alternative 4A – Alternative 4A would cross 13.5 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands in the Kemmerer FO. The route parallels an existing transmission lines for much of its length. The resulting level of change is low to moderate and therefore may conform to the RMP. In areas that do not parallel an existing ROW, as is the case between MPs 50.8 and 53.3, Alternative 4A would not conform to the RMP and would require a plan amendment if Alternative 4A is selected. The proposed amendment would allow a one-time visually altering action without changing the VRM classification (see Appendix G-1, Section 5.4.4).

Effects described for KOPs 627 and 620 are dependent upon approval of the amendment as the project could not otherwise occur in this alignment.

Alternative 4B – Alternative 4B would cross 7.3 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands in the Kemmerer FO between MPs 52.3 and 63.3, creating a new ROW. This ROW occurs where the route would cross south of Fossil Butte National Monument. VRM Class II designation requires levels of change to be low and not attract the attention of a casual observer. Crossing VRM Class II areas without paralleling an existing transmission facility may not conform to the RMP because the new facilities would represent a level of change to the landscape and basic elements that would attract the attention of the casual observer. If this route is selected, it is recommended that the RMP be amended to reclassify the area around the route to VRM Class III (see Appendix G-1, Section 5.4.6).

Effects described for KOPs 676 and 655 are dependent upon approval of the amendment as the project could not otherwise occur in this alignment.

Alternative 4C – Alternative 4C would cross 12.5 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands in the Kemmerer FO between MPs 52.3 and 63.3 and MPs 66.2 to 75, creating a new ROW. VRM II designations require levels of change to be low and not attract the attention of a casual observer. Crossing VRM Class II areas without paralleling an existing transmission facility may not conform to the RMP because the new facilities would represent a level of change to the landscape and basic elements that would attract the attention of the casual observer. If this route were selected, an amendment to change the VRM Class II area south of highway 30 crossed by the joint 4B/4C alternative would be required be reclassified to VRM Class III as shown in Appendix G-1 5.4.6 may be needed. An amendment may be needed to allow a one-time visually altering action without changing the VRM classification for the parcels of VRM Class II land crossed by the joint alternative route 4C/4E west of the area recommended for reclassification (see Appendix G-1, Sections 5.4.6 to 5.4.8).

Effects described for KOPs 676, 655, 1368, and 632 are dependent upon approval of the amendment as the project could not otherwise occur in this alignment.

Alternative 4D – Alternative 4D would cross approximately 4.3 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands in the Kemmerer FO between MPs 52.3 and 55.7, and 63 to 63.3, creating a new ROW. VRM Class II designation requires levels of change to be low and not attract the attention of a casual observer. Crossing VRM Class II areas without paralleling an existing transmission facility may not conform to the RMP because the new facilities would represent a level of change to the landscape and basic

elements that would attract the attention of the casual observer. If this route is selected, it is recommended that the RMP be amended to reclassify the VRM Class II area crossed from MP 52.3 to MP 54.8 and from MP 63 to MP 63.3 to VRM Class III and to permit a one-time allowance from MP 54.8 to MP 55.7 without changing the VRM classification (see Appendix G-1, Sections 5.4.6 and 5.4.9).

Effects described for KOP 603 is dependent upon approval of the amendment as the project could not otherwise occur in this alignment.

Alternative 4E – Alternative 4E would cross approximately 9.5 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands in the Kemmerer FO between MPs 52.3 and 63.3 as well as between MPs 66.2 and 75. Part of this route would result in creating a new ROW through these VRM Class II areas that would require levels of change to be low and not attract the attention of a casual observer. Crossing VRM Class II areas without paralleling an existing transmission facility may not conform to the RMP because the new facilities would represent a level of change to the landscape and basic elements that would attract the attention of the casual observer. If Alternative 4E is selected, it is recommended that the RMP be amended to reclassify the VRM Class II area crossed from MP 52.3 to MP 54.8 and from MP 63 to MP 63.3 to VRM Class III and allow a one-time visually altering action without changing the VRM classification between MPs 66.2 and 75 (see Appendix G-1, Sections 5.4.6 to 5.4.8).

No effects were specifically described for KOPs that were dependent upon an amendment for this alignment.

Alternative 4F – Alternative 4F would cross approximately 16.4 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands in the Kemmerer FO in multiple locations between MPs 49.5 and 74.2. A new ROW would be created through these VRM Class II areas, which would require levels of change to be moderate and not attract the attention of a casual observer. Crossing VRM Class II areas without paralleling an existing transmission facility may not conform to the RMP because the new facilities would represent a level of change to the landscape and basic elements that would attract the attention of the casual observer. If this alternative is selected, an amendment allowing a one-time visually altering action without changing the VRM classification may be needed (see Appendix G-1, Sections 5.4.3 and 5.4.5).

Effects described for KOPs 636, 637, 620, and 621 are dependent upon approval of the amendment as the project could not otherwise occur in this alignment.

Segment 4 – Conclusion

Segment 4 Proposed Route – It is anticipated that visual impacts to public, private, and state lands would be moderate to moderate-high. There would be several potential high visual impact areas including the area of the Sheep Creek Hills close to U.S. Highway 30. The Proposed Route would cross the Oregon NHT/Bear Lake Scenic Byway approximately 2.5 miles west of Montpelier, Idaho, and the Pioneer Historic Byway south of Thatcher in the Gentile Valley. Where historic or scenic byways would be crossed, it is encouraged to cross perpendicular to roads and, where practicable, use vegetative screening and other mitigation to help blend the power lines with the

surrounding landscape. This segment would also cross the Big Springs Scenic Byway twice (once adjacent to Kemmerer Reservoir and a second time north of Cokeville).

Alternative 4A – The impacts to public, private, and state lands resulting from Alternative 4A would be moderate.

Alternative 4B – The visual impacts to public, private, and state lands resulting from construction and operation of Alternative 4B would be moderate. Additionally, Alternative 4B would cross the south end of the Cokeville Meadows NWR, although not lands managed by the USFWS, and would result in moderate to high visual impacts in the refuge due to the impact on pristine refuge land with little human-made elements apparent from most views.

Alternative 4C – Impacts to public, private, and state lands, including the areas along Highway 30 where there are numerous residences in the Boulder Ridge Area, resulting from Alternative 4C would be moderate. Additionally, this alternative parallels Highway 89 for approximately 13 miles, representing moderate-high visual impacts. The alternative crosses the north end of the Cokeville Meadows NWR boundary, but not lands managed by the USFWS, about 1.75 miles south of the Cokeville Airport. The crossing of the Cokeville Meadows NWR would represent moderate to high visual impacts to the landscape in the refuge due to the impact on refuge land, with little human-made elements apparent from most views.

Alternative 4D – The construction of Alternative 4D would result in moderate visual impacts due to its close proximity to Highway 30 where there are numerous residences in the Boulder Ridge area. Additionally, Alternative 4D would cross the south end of the Cokeville Meadows NWR, although not lands managed by the USFWS, which would result in moderate to high visual impacts in the refuge due to the impact on pristine refuge land with little human-made elements apparent from most views.

Alternative 4E – The construction of Alternative 4E would result in low to moderate visual impacts due to its close proximity to U.S. Highway 30/89 where there are residences in the Boulder Ridge area. Additionally, this alternative parallels U.S. Highway 89 for approximately 13 miles representing moderate visual impacts. The alternative crosses the north end of the Cokeville Meadows NWR boundary, but not lands managed by the USFWS, about 1.75 miles south of the Cokeville Airport. The crossing of the Cokeville Meadows NWR would represent moderate visual impacts to the landscape in the refuge due to the impact on refuge land with little human-made elements apparent from most views.

Alternative 4F – The construction of Alternative 4F would result in low to moderate visual impacts due to its close proximity to dispersed residences in the Dempsey Basin area.

Alternatives Comparison

Overall, Alternative 4D would provide the lowest anticipated visual impacts over the comparison portion of the Proposed Route. Alternatives 4D and 4E would avoid more VRM Class II lands than the other alternatives with the exception of 4A, which although shorter would use more of Segment 4 in an area where cultural landscape setting concerns exist. Alternative 4D would impact fewer recreational or culturally sensitive

viewers than the other routes. There are no specific viewing areas on the south end of the refuge and it is currently closed to public access, lowering the potential for visual impacts. Overall, the Proposed Route would have the highest impacts to visual resources of all the alternatives proposed due to crossing over 12.0 miles of VRM Class II land, which would represent a development that would not conform to class objectives.

Segment 5 –Populus to Borah

Segment 5, as proposed, would link the Populus and Borah Substations with a 54.6-mile single-circuit 500-kV line. Forty-four acres of the expansion of the Populus and Borah Substations are attributed to Segment 5. There are five Route Alternatives including two proposed by the BLM to avoid the Deep Creek Mountains (5A and 5B; 8 miles and 19 miles longer than the comparison portion of the Proposed Route), one preferred by Power County that crosses the Fort Hall Indian Reservation (5C; 6 miles shorter than the comparison portion of the Proposed Route), one originally proposed by the Proponents (5D; 2 miles shorter than the comparison portion of the Proposed Route but located within more agricultural lands), and one proposed by Power County as an alternative approach to the Borah Substation (5E) (see Appendix A, Figure A-7).

Proposed Route

Table 3.2-20 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Segment 5.

Table 3.2-20. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in the Segment 5 Proposed Route

KOP	Viewers[4/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[5/]	Scenic Quality[5/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[5/]	Contrast[5/]	Impact[5/]
907	REC	BLM VRM II	H	H	1.5	L	M-H	M-H
185[1/]	SCHOOL	Private	H	L	0.10	L	L-M	L-M
242[2/]	REC	State of ID	H	M-H	0.35	H	M-H	M-H
1302[3/]	RES	Private	H	M	0.50	H	L-M	M
1304	REC	Private	H	H	0.15	H	M-H	H
260	REC	BLM VRM II	H	M	0.15	H	M	M

1/ KOP 185 would view portions of Segment 7 Proposed Route but it is anticipated to have the same impacts as Segment 5 Proposed Route.
2/ KOP 242 would view portions of the Segment 5 Proposed Route but is anticipated to have lower impacts compared to Alternative 5D.
3/ KOP 1302 would view portions of Alternative 5E, which is anticipated to have lower impacts compared to the Proposed Route.
4/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer. SCHOOL – A community school usually not identified as historic.
5/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP C25 (Figure E.2-6). This view is looking toward the Segment 5 Proposed Route from a portion of the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 907 (Figure E.2-6/Appendix G, Figure M-1/M-3b). This KOP represents high-sensitivity recreational viewers at a lookout point on a BLM trail in the Deep Creek Mountains. Viewers would have a low-visibility, partially screened view of the alignment as it crosses the Deep Creek Mountains. Viewers would be approximately 1.5 miles

from Segment 5. Contrast levels would be moderate to high due to the partial screening and visibility. Visual impacts on recreational viewers and the immediate area would be moderate to high due to the very high scenic quality and moderate to high contrasts.

KOP 185 (Figure E.2-6). This KOP, representing high-sensitivity viewers from the Arbon Elementary School, has a partially screened view of the Segment 5 Proposed Route (approximately 0.1 mile to the south), and the Segment 7 Proposed Route (approximately 0.4 mile also to the south). Visibility and contrast levels from close to the school building and the playground area would be low and low to moderate, respectively, due to the screening from trees along the south property line of the school. Visual impacts on viewers would be low to moderate due to the partial screening and the low scenic quality landscape.

KOP 1302 (Figure E.2-6). KOP 1302 represents high-sensitivity residential viewers on Mayer Road looking north toward American Falls and the American Falls Reservoir. This KOP has open panoramic views of the Proposed Route (approximately 0.5 mile to the south) resulting in high visibility. Contrast levels would be low to moderate due to the numerous transmission lines which cross the middleground. Visual impacts on viewers would be moderate due to the low to moderate contrast levels in the moderate scenic quality landscape.

KOP 1304 (Figure E.2-6). KOP 1304 represents high-sensitivity residential viewers in the Riverbend Estates looking southeast toward Bannock Peak and White Quartz Mountain. This KOP has open yet focal views of the Proposed Route about 0.15 mile to the south resulting in high visibility. Contrast levels would be moderate to high due to the distance of the Proposed Route and the few human-made features present within the view. Visual impacts on viewers would be moderate to high due to moderate to high contrast levels and high scenic quality.

KOP 260 (Figure E.2-8). The Segment 5 Proposed Route would be highly visible to recreational viewers in the pipeline crossing park on the Snake River 0.15 mile to the west. The viewers would have an open but framed view of the Proposed Route in a modified landscape. The combination of human-made alterations and scenic landscape elements would result in a moderate contrast level. Adjacent industrial elements detract from the natural scenery of the scenic Snake River Canyon. Impacts on viewers from this KOP and in the surrounding area would be moderate.

Alternative 5A

Table 3.2-21 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 5A.

Table 3.2-21. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 5A

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
305	REC	BLM VRM IV	H	M	1.5	H	M	M-H
903	RES	Private	H	M	0.6	H	M-H	M-H
920	REC	BLM VRM II	H	H	1.5	H	H	H
242[1/]	REC	State of ID	H	M-H	0.2	M-H	M-H	M-H

1/ KOP 242 would view portions of the Segment 5 Proposed Route but is anticipated to have lower impacts compared to 5D.
2/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 305 (Figures E.2-8 and E.2-23). Alternative 5A would be highly visible to recreational viewers in the Hawkins Reservoir area (approximately 1.5 miles south of the alternative). The viewers would have an open but somewhat enclosed view of Alternative 5A in a mostly unmodified landscape; however, immediately to the north, opposite this view, an existing transmission line crosses the landscape. This situation results in a moderate contrast level due to the adjacent scenery. Impacts on viewers would be moderate to high.

KOP 903 (Figure E.2-6). High-sensitivity residential viewers at a church along Church Road would have a high-visibility open view of the alternative as it crosses agricultural lands in the Arbon Valley. Viewers would be approximately 0.6 mile from Alternative 5A. Contrast levels would be moderate to high due to the viewing distance and lack of human-made modifications. Visual impacts on residential viewers and the immediate area would be moderate to high.

KOP 920 (Figure E.2-6). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at a trailhead on BLM-administered land in the Deep Creek Mountains would have a high-visibility open view of the alternative as it crosses Warner Flat. Viewers would be approximately 1.5 miles from Alternative 5A. Contrast levels would be high due to the viewing distance and lack of human-made modifications. Visual impacts on residential viewers and the immediate area would be high due to the very high scenic quality.

Alternative 5B

Table 3.2-22 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 5B.

Table 3.2-22. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 5B

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
305	REC	BLM VRM IV	H	M	1.50	H	M	M-H
912	RES	Private	H	M	0.60	H	M	M
916	RES	Private	H	M-H	2.40	M	M	L-M
898	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.75	H	M-H	M-H
887	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.40	H	M	M

1/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 305 (Figures E.2-8 and E.2-23). Alternatives 5A and 5B share the same alignment at this location. This KOP is described in 5A.

KOP 912 (Figure E.2-6). Alternative 5B would be highly visible to residential viewers along Daniels Road viewing the alternative from 0.6 mile to the southeast. The viewers would have an open semi-panoramic view of Alternative 5B in a modified landscape with moderate scenic quality. This situation would result in a moderate contrast level due to the adjacent scenery. Impacts on viewers would be moderate.

KOP 916 (Figure E.2-6). High-sensitivity residential viewers on 10800 West Road would have a moderate-visibility open view of the alternative as it crosses agricultural lands and mountainous terrain in the Arbon Valley. Viewers would be approximately 2.4 miles from Alternative 5B. Contrast levels would be moderate due to the viewing

distance and presence of human-made modifications. Visual impacts on residential viewers and the immediate area would be moderate due to the distance of the viewer.

KOP 898 (Figure E.2-6). High-sensitivity residential viewers on the Arbon Valley Highway would have a high-visibility open view of Alternative 5B as it crosses agricultural lands backdropped by the mountainous terrain of the Deep Creek Range. Viewers would be approximately 0.75 mile from the alternative. Contrast levels would be moderate to high due to the viewing distance and scenic quality. Visual impacts on residential viewers and the immediate area would be moderate to high due to the distance of the viewer, scenic quality, and contrast levels.

KOP 887 (Figure E.2-6). High-sensitivity residential viewers on Groom Road would have a high-visibility open view of Alternative 5B as it crosses agricultural lands in the Rockland Valley. Viewers would be approximately 0.4 mile from the alternative. Contrast levels would be moderate due to the viewing distance and presence of human-made modifications. Visual impacts on residential viewers and the immediate area would be moderate.

Alternative 5C

Table 3.2-23 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 5C.

Table 3.2-23. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 5C

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
1298	RES	BIA - Reservation	H	M	0.40	H	L	L-M
1304	REC	Private	H	M-H	0.15	H	M-H	M-H
1308	RES	BIA - Reservation	H	M-H	0.30	H	L-M	M-H
1309	RES	BIA - Reservation	H	M	1.40	M	L	L-M
1311	CULT	BIA - Reservation	H	M	1.60	M	L	L-M
1313	CULT	BIA - Reservation	H	L-M	0.35	H	M	M
1314	RES	Private	H	M	1.00	M-H	L-M	M
1299	CULT	BIA - Reservation	H	M	12.0	L	L	L

1/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer. CULT – A site identified as a sensitive viewing location for cultural resources yet not discussed in the Cultural Resources section.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 1298 (Figure E.2-6). Viewers at KOP 1298 include residents of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation on the Arbon Valley Highway. Viewers would see Alternative 5C to the south from approximately 0.4 mile away. At KOP 1298, the viewers would have a high level of Project visibility due to near-distance and open views of the valley terrain in the middleground. Visual contrast levels would be low due to numerous human-made alterations, including four high-voltage transmission lines, visible in the foreground and middleground of this KOP. Visual impacts on viewers would be low to moderate due to lack of contrast, distance, and moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1308 (Figure E.2-6). Viewers at KOP 1308 include residents of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation on the Arbon Valley Highway. Viewers would see Alternative 5C to the southwest, approximately 0.3 mile away. At KOP 1308, the viewers would have a high level of Project visibility due to near distances and open views of the valley terrain in the middleground. Visual contrast levels would be low to moderate due to numerous

human-made alterations, including four high-voltage transmission lines, visible in the foreground and middleground of this KOP (some are directly behind the viewer at this location). Visual impacts on viewers would be moderate to high due to the distance, moderate to high scenic quality, and due to the fact that the viewer would be surrounded by transmission structures.

KOP 1309 (Figure E.2-6). Viewers at KOP 1309 include residents of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation on the Arbon Valley Highway. Viewers would see Alternative 5C, approximately 1.4 miles to the south. At KOP 1309, the viewers would have a moderate level of Project visibility due to distances and open views of the valley terrain in the middleground where transmission structures are scattered around in numerous directions. Visual contrast levels would be low due to numerous human-made alterations, including numerous high-voltage transmission lines, visible in the middleground of this KOP. Visual impacts on viewers would be low to moderate due to lack of contrast, distance, and moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1311 (Figure E.2-6). Viewers from KOP 1311 include residents of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation on Moonshine Road, which leads to a traditional use area. Viewers would see Alternative 5C approximately 1.6 miles to the northeast. At KOP 1311, the viewers would have a moderate level of Project visibility due to distance and partially screened views. Visual contrast levels would be low due to numerous human-made alterations, including three high-voltage transmission lines, visible in the foreground and middleground. Visual impacts on viewers would be low to moderate due to lack of contrast, distance, and moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1313 (Figure E.2-6). Viewers from KOP 1313 are high-sensitivity residential viewers on an existing transmission line access road at a traditional use area within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. West views focus on Alternative 5C, approximately 0.35 mile away. At KOP 1313, the viewers would have a high level of Project visibility due to close-distances and the possibility of skylining. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to numerous human-made alterations, including four high-voltage transmission lines, above the viewer from this KOP. Visual impacts on viewers would be moderate due to moderate contrast and low to moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1314 (Figure E.2-6). Viewers from KOP 1314 are high-sensitivity residential viewers on Sunbeam Rd directly west of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. North views focus on Alternative 5C, approximately 1.0 mile away. At KOP 1314, the viewers would have a moderate to high level of Project visibility due to near-distances and partial screening offered by the rolling terrain in the middleground. Visual contrast levels would be low to moderate due to numerous human-made alterations, including high-voltage transmission lines, visible in the foreground and background of this KOP. Visual impacts on viewers would be moderate due to lack of contrast and moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1299 (Figure E.2-6). Viewers from KOP 1299 are high-sensitivity viewers within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation at a traditional cultural location, looking southwest, approximately 12.0 miles from Alternative 5C. At KOP 1299, the viewers would have a low level of Project visibility due to the far distance of the view. Visual contrast levels

would be low because the Project would not be visible from this location. Visual impacts on viewers would be low due to lack of contrast and distance of view.

Alternative 5D

Table 3.2-24 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 5D.

KOP 242 (Figures E.2-6 and E.2-21). High-sensitivity viewers at this KOP would have enclosed views to the east that focus on Alternative 5D, which would head directly toward the KOP (less than 185 feet north) and nearly pass over a recreation area (a sportsmen's access). The expected contrast levels would be high due to the co-dominant to dominant nature of the Project in an area lacking existing transmission lines. Impacts on recreational viewers would be high.

Table 3.2-24. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 5D

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
242[1/]	REC	State of ID	H	M-H	<0.10	H	H	H
241	REC	State of ID	H	M	0.25	H	H	H
257	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.70	H	H	H
263	REC	Private	H	M-H	0.10	H	H	H
260	REC	BLM VRM II	H	M	1.0	L-M	L-M	L-M

1/ KOP 242 would view portions of the Segment 5 Proposed Route as well as Alternatives 5A and 5B, which all have lower impacts compared to 5D.
2/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 241 (Figures E.2-6). High-sensitivity recreational viewers would have moderate visibility from this sportsmen's access area and would have an enclosed, upslope view of Alternative 5D from less than 0.25 mile away. Contrast levels would be high because the proposed transmission towers would be skylined and no existing transmission lines are visible in this view. Impacts on viewers would be high.

KOP 257 (Figures E.2-6). High-sensitivity residential viewers would have high visibility of the Alternative Route, including open, focal views of the dramatic terrain from less than 0.7 mile away. Contrast levels would be high because the proposed transmission towers could possibly be skylined and there are no existing transmission lines or other human-made features visible in this view. Impacts on viewers would be high.

KOP 263 (Figures E.2-6 and E.2-22). This segment would be highly visible to high-sensitivity viewers at the Snake River Vista, a BLM recreation area 500 feet away. Segment 5 would be located about 800 feet to the east of this KOP. The generally open panoramic view has skylined existing transmission lines, and a partially screened residential area that would result in a moderate visual contrast level. Visual impacts on recreational viewers at this KOP would be moderate to high due to the close viewing distance and open views.

KOP 260 (Figure E.2-8). Alternative 5D would be low to moderately visible to recreational viewers in the pipeline crossing park on the Snake River, approximately 1.0

mile to the west of the alternative. The viewers would have a partially screened view of Alternative 5D in a modified landscape. The combination of human-made alterations and scenic landscape elements would result in a low to moderate contrast level due to the adjacent industrial elements, detracting from the natural scenery of the scenic Snake River. Impacts on viewers from this KOP and in the surrounding area would be low to moderate.

Alternative 5E

Table 3.2-25 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 5E.

Table 3.2-25. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 5E

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
1302 [1/]	RES	Private	H	M	0.75	M	L	L-M

1/ KOP 1302 would view the Segment 5 Proposed Route and would be a KOP for that alignment as impacts are anticipated to be higher compared to Alternative 5E.
2/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 1302 (Figure E.2-6). KOP 1302 represents high-sensitivity residential viewers on Mayer Road looking north toward American Falls and the American Falls Reservoir. This KOP has partially screened views of Alternative 5E, about 0.75 mile to the north, resulting in moderate visibility. Contrast levels would be low due to the numerous transmission lines that partially screen the alternative in the foreground and middleground. Visual impacts on viewers would be low to moderate due to the low contrast levels in the moderate scenic quality landscape.

Conformance with VRM Classes and Forest Service VQOs

Generally the construction and operations of the Segment 5 Proposed Route or Route Alternatives would conform to BLM VRM Class III and IV objectives. In some cases the transmission facility may be inconsistent with the RMP's VRM Class II objectives where there is no paralleling existing transmission facility or VRM Class III objectives where the level of change is considered high.

Proposed Route Segment 5 – The Proposed Route would cross over 1.6 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands designated by the Malad MFP between MPs 30.8 and 32.3 and MPs 52.7 to 52.8 creating a new ROW. VRM Class II areas require levels of change to be low and not attract the attention of a casual observer. Crossing VRM Class II areas without paralleling an existing transmission facility would conform to the Malad MFP because the new facilities would represent a level of change to the landscape and basic elements that would attract the attention of the casual observer (see KOP 920). Amendments would be needed if this route is selected. One amendment would be needed allowing a one-time visually altering action without changing the VRM classification for the Deep Creek area. The crossing of the Pipeline recreation area was originally included as an area needing an amendment, the Pocatello FO determined am amendment was not necessary because the area that would be crossed by the Project is inundated. See Appendix F-1 for proposed amendment language and Appendix G-1 for visual analyses.

Effects for KOP 907 would only apply if an amendment to the VRM requirements were approved because the Project would not otherwise be permitted with the current alignment.

Where Segment 5 would create a new ROW in areas managed under the Malad MFP, an amendment of the current land use plan allowing an new ROW outside designated corridors is needed. While this amendment is required to be consistent with the current MFP, the new land use plan being developed for this area does not contain the ROW requirement. Effects for all KOPs discussed for the Proposed Route and its alternatives would be dependent upon approval of the amendment to the ROW requirements or approval of a new plan that does not carry the ROW restriction forward.

Alternative 5A – Alternative 5A would cross over 6 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the Malad MFP between MPs 19.2 and 25.5, creating a new ROW that requires a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and only result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape. Most areas can conform to VRM Class III and IV objectives (see KOPs 912 and 305). The creation of a new ROW require an amendment to the current MFP allowing a new ROW outside designated corridors. All effects for KOPs viewing BLM-managed land outside the designated ROW would be dependent upon approval of an amendment to the existing plan or approval of a new plan that does not carry the ROW restriction forward.

Alternative 5B – Alternative 5B would cross approximately 2.9 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the Malad MFP between MPs 25.1 and 31.5, creating a new ROW that requires a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and only result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape. Most areas can conform to VRM Class III and IV objectives (see KOPs 898 and 1282). The creation of a new ROW require an amendment to the current MFP allowing a new ROW outside designated corridors. All effects for KOPs viewing BLM-managed land outside the designated ROW would be dependent upon approval of an amendment to the existing plan or approval of a new plan that does not carry the ROW restriction forward.

Alternative 5C – Alternative 5C would not cross any BLM-administered land. Alternative 5C would cross the Fort Hall Indian Reservation parallel to an existing 345-kV transmission line.

Alternative 5D – Alternative 5D would not cross any BLM-administered land. Alternative 5D would cross mostly private agricultural land, which has the highest concentration of viewers and thus the highest impacts when compared to the other alternatives.

Alternative 5E – Alternative 5E would not cross any BLM-administered land with a designated VRM management class. Alternative 5E would cross mostly private agricultural land and is an alternative crossing of the Snake River south of American Falls. This alternative would have lower visual impacts when compared to the other alternatives.

Segment 5 – Conclusion

Proposed Route – Visual impact to public, private, and state lands resulting from the construction and operations of the Proposed Route is anticipated to be mostly moderate, with some areas of high impact in the Arbon Valley area and the Indian Springs area where residences occur. The majority of the area that would be crossed by the Proposed Route is an agricultural setting with dispersed residences, which is where higher impacts would occur.

The Proposed Route is shorter than Alternatives 5A and 5B, contributing to more impact in a generally high-quality landscape. However, the Proposed Route would cross a large, intact VRM Class II portion of the Deep Creek Mountains. On balance, the Proposed Route would have an overall higher visual impact than Alternatives 5A and 5B.

Alternative 5A – Visual impact to public, private, and state lands resulting from the construction and operations of Alternative 5A is anticipated to be mostly moderate to high especially in the Arbon Valley area where residential areas occur in this segment. The majority of the area that would be crossed by Alternative 5A is the mountainous terrain of the Deep Creek Mountains with agriculture and dispersed residential areas in the Arbon and Rockland Valleys, where higher impacts would occur.

Alternative 5B – Visual impact to public, private, and state lands resulting from the construction and operations of Alternative 5B is anticipated to be mostly moderate with some areas of high impact in the Arbon Valley area and from the Rockland Highway where residential areas occur in this segment. The majority of the area that would be crossed by Alternative 5B is the foothills of the Deep Creek Mountains with agriculture and dispersed residential areas in the Arbon and Rockland Valleys, which is where higher impacts would occur.

Alternative 5C – Visual impact to public, private, Native American, and state lands resulting from the construction and operations of Alternative 5C is anticipated to be mostly low to moderate, with some areas of high impact on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation where residential areas occur in this segment. The majority of the area that would be crossed by Alternative 5C is the foothills of the Cedar Mountain and Bannock Peak with dispersed residential areas in the Arbon Valley around Pauline, Idaho, which is where higher impacts would occur. This alternative was sited because it follows more of a direct route to the Borah Substation, traverses more gentle terrain, and avoids public lands that are managed as VRM Class II areas by following a series of existing high-voltage transmission lines.

Alternative 5D – Visual impact to public, private, and state lands resulting from the construction and operations of Alternative 5D is anticipated to be mostly high due to open views from numerous residences in the Rockland Valley and closer to American Falls. The majority of the area crossed by Alternative 5D is the foothills of the Deep Creek Mountains with dispersed residential areas in the Rockland Valley. Photos in Figure 3.2-5 looking toward this alternative show existing conditions at KOPs in Power County.

KOP 252

KOP 243

KOP 249

KOP 253

Figure 3.2-5. Existing Conditions at Power County KOPs

Alternative 5E – Visual impact to public, private, and state lands resulting from the construction and operations of Alternative 5E is anticipated to be mostly low to moderate due to the numerous areas of human-made disturbance south of American Falls, Idaho.

Alternatives Comparison

Alternative 5C, the Fort Hall crossing, is anticipated to offer the lowest overall visual impact when compared to the other alternatives in Segment 5. Alternative 5B would avoid more VRM Class II lands as well as the recreation areas associated with the Deep Creek Mountains while impacting a similar number of scattered residences in the Arbon and Rockland Valleys. The Proposed Route and Alternative 5D would both cross VRM Class II lands. When comparing the Proposed Route and Route Alternatives for Segment 5, Alternative 5C would have the least viewers, lowest viewer impacts, and least impact to sensitive VRM classes.

Segment 6 – Borah to Midpoint

Segment 6 is an existing transmission line linking the Borah and Midpoint Substations; it is now operated at 345 kV but would be changed to operate at 500 kV. This segment has no Route Alternatives. Existing support structures would be used and impacts

would be limited to within approximately one-quarter mile from each substation to allow for moving the entry point into the substation to the new 500-kV bay. Thirty-one acres of the expansion of the Borah and Midpoint Substations are attributed to Segment 6. Changes in the two substations would allow it to be operated at 500 kV (see Appendix A, Figure A-8).

The use of an existing transmission line would not produce noticeable changes to the existing visual conditions and thus no KOPs were required for the analysis.

Segment 7 – Populus to Cedar Hill

Segment 7, as proposed, would link the Populus and Cedar Hill Substations with a 118.1-mile single-circuit 500-kV line. Forty-two acres of the expansion of the Populus and the construction of the Cedar Hill Substations and 1 acre for two regeneration sites are attributed to Segment 7. In addition to the Proposed Route, which is principally on private lands, Route Alternatives have been proposed by the BLM to avoid the Deep Creek Mountains (7A and 7B; which are 5 miles and 11 miles longer than the comparison portion of the Proposed Route), by local landowners (7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, and 7G, which all represent minor adjustments proposed to address local issues), by local landowners to avoid private agricultural lands (7I or the State Line Route, which is 55 miles longer than the Proposed Route and would require 0.5 acre for an additional regeneration site), and by the Proponents to avoid the State Line Route (7H, which is 10 miles longer than the Proposed Route). Alternative 7J, which is a variant of the State Line Route also proposed by local landowners, would not terminate at the Cedar Hill Substation. This alternative, referred to as the Rogerson Alternative, would require a different substation be constructed near a 345-kV existing transmission line (approximately 24 miles southwest of the Cedar Hill Substation; see Appendix A, Figure A-9). The tables and discussion in this document comparing 7J (202 miles) with the corresponding portion of Segment 7/9 (168.1 miles of Segment 7 and 25.8 miles of Segment 9, for a total of 143.9 miles). All other Segment 7 alternatives are compared to Segment 7 of the Proposed Route (118.1 miles) only.

Proposed Route

Table 3.2-26 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP along the Proposed Route.

Table 3.2-26. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in the Segment 7 Proposed Route

KOP	Viewers[3/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[4/]	Scenic Quality[4/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[4/]	Contrast[4/]	Impact[4/]
907	REC	BLM VRM II	H	H	1.0	H	H	H
305 [1/]	REC	BLM VRM IV	H	M	0.15	H	M	M-H
185 [2/]	SCHOOL	Private	H	L	0.43	L	L-M	L-M
247	RES	Private	H	M	0.5	H	M	M
301	RES	Private	H	L-M	1.3	M-H	L-M	L-M
303	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.25	M-H	M	M
310	RES	Private	H	L	0.1	H	M	M
131	RES	Private	H	L	0.75	H	L-M	M

Table 3.2-26. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in the Segment 7 Proposed Route (continued)

KOP	Viewers[3/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[4/]	Scenic Quality[4/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[4/]	Contrast[4/]	Impact[4/]
140	REC	State of ID	L	L	1.5	M	L	L
315	RES	Private	H	M	0.9	H	M	M-H
221	RES	Private	H	M	0.75	M-H	M	M

1/ KOP 305 would view portions of Alternatives 7A, 7B, 7H, and 7I, which all have lower impacts compared to the Segment 7 Proposed Route resulting from shared corridors or distance from viewer.
2/ KOP 185 would view portions of Segment 5 Proposed Route but it is anticipated to have the same impacts as the Segment 7 Proposed Route.
3/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer. SCHOOL – A community school usually not identified as historic.
4/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP C25 (Figure E.2-6). Views from this point are from a portion of the Oregon NHT and are described in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C63 (Figure E.2-8, Photo Simulation Figure E.3-29). This view is looking toward Segment 7 from the "Parting Of The Ways" site along the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 907 (Figure E.2-8/Appendix G, Figure M-1/M-3d). The Proposed Route would be highly visible to high-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 907, a lookout point on a BLM trail in the Deep Creek Mountains. Viewers would have a high-visibility, open view of the alignment as it crosses the Deep Creek Mountains. Viewers would be approximately 1.0 mile from the Proposed Route. Contrast levels would be high due to the lack of other human-made disturbance within the view with high scenic quality. Visual impacts on recreational viewers and the immediate area would be high due to the high scenic quality, visibility, contrast, and close distance to the Project.

KOP 305 (Figures E.2-8 and E.2-23). The Proposed Route would be highly visible to recreational viewers in the Hawkins Reservoir area viewing the Project from 0.15 mile to the south. The viewers would have an open but somewhat enclosed view of the Proposed Route in an unmodified landscape; however, immediately to the north, opposite this view, an existing transmission line crosses the landscape. This situation results in a moderate contrast level due to the adjacent scenery. Impacts on viewers would be moderate to high.

KOP 185 (Figure E.2-8). The Proposed Route as viewed is consistent with the description provided for the Segment 5 Proposed Route. Viewing distance would increase from 0.10 to 0.43 mile but the visual impact would still be low to moderate.

KOP 247 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers would have high Project visibility from KOP 247 (approximately 0.5 mile away from the Project). The viewers would have a panoramic view of Segment 7 crossing the Rockland Valley. In this agricultural setting there are many structures and pivot irrigation equipment, resulting in moderate contrast in this moderate scenic quality area. Visual impacts would be moderate.

KOP 301 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers would have moderate to high Project visibility from just over 1 mile away. The viewers would have a panoramic view of the Proposed Route at the base of the hills. In this agricultural setting there are many structures and pivot irrigation equipment, resulting in low to moderate contrast in this low to moderate scenic quality area. Visual impacts would be low to moderate.

KOP 303 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers would have moderate to high Project visibility from 0.25 mile away. The viewers would have a partially screened and inferior (low-elevation) view of the Proposed Route crossing the dominant hills in the foreground. In this rural residential setting there are many scattered residential structures resulting in moderate contrast in this low to moderate scenic quality area. Visual impacts would be moderate due to the distance of the viewer.

KOP 310 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at this KOP would have high Project visibility from a distance of 0.1 mile to the southeast. The view is partially screened and inferior (low-elevation) and scenic quality is low, resulting in a moderate overall contrast level. Visual impacts would be moderate due to the distance of the view which may skyline or be screened by the terrain.

KOP 315 (Figure E.2-8). At KOP 315 high-sensitivity residential viewers would view the Proposed Route approximately 0.9 mile to the southeast and Alternative 7F approximately 1.8 miles also to the southeast. At KOP 315, the viewers would have a high level of Project visibility due to the open landscape with little screening in the middleground. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to human-made alterations visible in the foreground and background of this KOP. Impacts on viewers would be moderate to high due to the close viewing proximity and moderate contrast levels.

KOP 131 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at this KOP would have high Project visibility from a distance of 0.75 mile to the south. One residence, on 400 West just north of 900 South, would view the Sawtooth NF to the east and the Proposed Route approximately 0.75 mile to the south. The view is open and panoramic and scenic quality is low with some vertical structures, resulting in low to moderate contrast. Visual impacts on would be moderate.

KOP 140 (Figure E.2-8). Low-sensitivity viewers, at this BLM/IDFG–managed wildlife area located in a low scenic quality VRM Class III area, would have generally open and panoramic views. The Proposed Route would be moderately visible from a distance of about 1.5 miles. The combination of this viewing distance, low scenic quality, and the presence of existing structures results in generally low visual contrast. Visual impacts would be low.

Alternative 7A

Table 3.2-27 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 7A.

Table 3.2-27. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 7A

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
903	RES	Private	H	M	0.35	H	M-H	M-H
920	REC	BLM VRM II	H	H	6.3	L	L	L
887	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.3	H	M	M
917 [1/]	REC	Private	H	M-H	0.5	H	H	H

1/ KOP 917 would view a shared portion of Alternatives 7A and 7B; thus, impacts would be the same.
2/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 903 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at a church along Church Road would have a high-visibility, open view of the Alternative as it crosses agricultural lands in the Arbon Valley. Viewers would be approximately 0.35 mile from Alternative 7A. Contrast levels would be moderate to high due to the viewing distance and lack of human-made modifications. Visual impacts on residential viewers and the immediate area would be moderate to high.

KOP 920 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers, at a trailhead on BLM-managed land in the Deep Creek Mountains, would have a low-visibility open view of the alternative approximately 6.3 miles from Alternative 7A. Contrast levels would be low due to the viewing distance of the viewer, and visual impacts on recreational viewers and the immediate area would also be low due to the viewing distance.

KOP 887 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers on Groom Road would have a high-visibility, open view of the alternative as it crosses agricultural lands in the Rockland Valley. Viewers would be approximately 0.3 mile from Alternative 7A. Contrast levels would be moderate due to the viewing distance and presence of human-made modifications. Visual impacts on residential viewers and the immediate area would be moderate.

KOP 917 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at a seasonal RV campground would have a high-visibility, open view of the alternative as it crosses rugged mountainous terrain and the foothills of the Sublette Range outside of the Sawtooth NF. Viewers would be approximately 0.5 mile from Alternative 7A. Contrast levels would be high due to the viewing distance and lack of human-made modifications. Visual impacts on residential viewers and the immediate area would be high.

Alternative 7B

Table 3.2-28 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 7B.

Table 3.2-28. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 7B

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
912	RES	Private	H	M	0.35	H	M	M
916	RES	Private	H	M-H	2.10	M	M	M
898	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.43	H	H	H
917	REC	Private	H	M-H	0.50	H	H	H
893	RES	Private	H	M-H	1.30	M-H	L-M	L-M

1/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 912 (Figure E.2-8). Alternative 7B would be highly visible to residential viewers, along Daniels Road, viewing it from KOP 912 (approximately 0.36 mile to the southeast). The viewers would have an open semi-panoramic view of Alternative 7B in a modified landscape with moderate scenic quality. This situation would result in a moderate contrast level due to the adjacent scenery. Impacts on viewers would be moderate.

KOP 916 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers on 10800 West Road would have a moderate-visibility, open view of the alternative as it crosses agricultural lands and mountainous terrain in the Arbon Valley. Viewers would be approximately 2.1 miles from Alternative 7B. Contrast levels would be moderate due to the viewing distance and presence of human-made modifications. Visual impacts on residential viewers and the immediate area would be moderate due to the distance of the viewer.

KOP 898 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers on the Arbon Valley Highway would have a high-visibility, open view of the alternative as it crosses agricultural lands, backdropped by the mountainous terrain of the Deep Creek Range. Viewers would be approximately 0.43 mile from Alternative 7B. Contrast levels would be high due to the viewing distance and scenic quality. Visual impacts on residential viewers and the immediate area would be high due to the distance of the viewer and contrast levels.

KOP 893 (Figure E.2-6). Alternative 7B would be moderately to highly visible to residential viewers adjacent to Colson Canyon (approximately 1.3 miles to the west). The viewers would have a semi-panoramic and focal view of Alternative 7B in a modified landscape with moderate to high scenic quality. This situation would result in a low to moderate contrast level due to the adjacent scenery and the distance of the viewer. Impacts on viewers would be low to moderate since views of the transmission line may be partially screened by the rugged terrain in the middleground.

Alternative 7C

Table 3.2-29 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 7C.

Table 3.2-29. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 7C

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (mile)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
282	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.75	H	M-H	M-H

1/ RES – A single resident.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 282 (Figure E.2-8). Viewers from KOP 282 would be high-sensitivity residents on North Yale Road looking north 0.75 mile to where Alternative 7C would span the valley. At KOP 282, high-sensitivity viewers would have a high level of Project visibility due to the open landscape views with little screening in the middleground. Visual contrast levels would be moderate to high due to the human-made alterations visible in the foreground and background of this KOP. Visual impacts on viewers would be moderate to high. KOP 275 and KOP 289 were also selected as sensitive viewpoints but are related to historic trails as discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

Alternative 7D

Table 3.2-30 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 7D.

Table 3.2-30. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 7D

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (mile)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
296	RES	Private	H	M	0.7	H	M	M

1/ RES – A single resident.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 296 (Figure E.2-8). Viewers from KOP 296 are high-sensitivity residential viewers along Skaggs Ranch Road looking southeast approximately 0.70 mile from the Proposed Route and 0.5 mile from Alternative 7E. At KOP 296, viewers would have a high level of Project visibility due to near distances and lack of screening in the middleground. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to numerous human-made alterations visible in the foreground and background of this KOP. Visual impacts on viewers would be moderate due to lack of contrast and moderate scenic quality.

Alternative 7E

Table 3.2-31 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 7E.

Table 3.2-31. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 7E

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
304	REC	Private	H	M	0.9	M	M-H	M-H
311	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.1	H	H	M-H

1/ RES – A single resident. REC – A recreational viewer.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 304 (Figure E.2-8). This KOP is the same as described for Alternative 7F.

KOP 311 (Figure E.2-8). Viewers from KOP 311 would be high-sensitivity residences looking southeast approximately 0.1 mile from where Alternative 7E would cross the linear perspective of the view. At KOP 311, high-sensitivity viewers would have a high level of Project visibility due to skylined topography in the foreground (approximately 0.1 mile from the viewer). Visual contrast levels would be high due to the lack of human-made alterations visible in the foreground and mountainous terrain in the background. Visual impacts would be moderate to high due to skylined views and low to moderate scenic quality. It should also be noted that from this KOP parts of the Proposed Route would be visible, approximately 100 feet behind the viewer.

Alternative 7F

Table 3.2-32 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 7F.

Table 3.2-32. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 7F

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (mile)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
304[1/]	REC	Private	H	M	0.9	M	M-H	M-H

1/ KOP 304 would view a shared portion of Alternative 7E; thus, impacts would be the same.
2/ REC – A recreational viewer.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 304 (Figure E.2-8). Viewers from KOP 304 would be high-sensitivity recreational drivers looking northwest (approximately 0.9 mile from where Alternative 7F would cross the view). This KOP is located on lands managed by the BLM to meet VRM Class II objectives. At KOP 304, high-sensitivity viewers would have a moderate level of Project visibility due to partially screening by topography in the middleground. Visual contrast levels would be moderate to high due to the lack of human-made alterations visible in the foreground and background. Visual impacts would be moderate to high due to partial screening and moderate scenic quality. Moderate to high impacts resulting from elevated visibility and contrast levels on public lands would not conform to VRM Class II objectives.

Alternative 7G

Table 3.2-33 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 7G.

Table 3.2-33. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 7G

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (mile)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
221[1/]	RES	Private	H	M	0.5	H	M-H	M-H

1/ Viewers at KOP 221 would have views of the Proposed Route and Alternative 7H alignments with lower anticipated visual impacts.
2/ REC – A recreational viewer.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 221 (Figure E.2-8). At KOP 221 there would be high-sensitivity residential viewers looking south (approximately 0.5 mile to where Alternative 7G would cross the view 0.75 mile from the Proposed Route). At KOP 221, high-sensitivity viewers would have a high level of Project visibility due to the open landscape views with little screening in the middleground. Visual contrast levels would be moderate to high due to the human-made alterations visible in the foreground and background. Impacts on viewers would be moderate to high due to the close viewing proximity and moderate contrast levels.

Alternative 7H

Table 3.2-34 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 7H.

Table 3.2-34. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 7H

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership[3/]	Viewer Rating[4/]	Scenic Quality[4/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[4/]	Contrast[4/]	Impact[4/]
305 [1/]	REC	BLM VRM IV	H	M	0.50	H	M	M-H
912[1/]	RES	Private	H	M	0.35	H	M	M
916[1/]	RES	Private	H	M-H	2.10	M	M	M
898[1/]	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.43	H	H	H
1282[1/]	RES	Private	H	H	0.25	H	H	H
1278[1/]	RES	Private	H	M	1.25	M	M-H	M
1273[1/]	REC	Forest Service M VQO	H	H	0.30	H	H	H
1270[1/]	REC	Forest Service M VQO	H	M-H	0.65	H	H	H
1267[1/]	REC	Forest Service MM VQO	H	M-H	100 ft	H	H	H

Table 3.2-34. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 7H (continued)

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership[3/]	Viewer Rating[4/]	Scenic Quality[4/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[4/]	Contrast[4/]	Impact[4/]
1207	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.25	H	H	M-H
1252	RES	BLM VRM III	H	M-H	0.30	H	M-H	M-H
1255	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M	1.30	M	M	M
1246	RES	Private	H	M	0.35	H	M-H	M-H
1241	REC	Private	H	M-H	0.95	H	M-H	M-H
1224	RES	Private	H	M-H	1.00	H	M	M-H
1239	RES	Private	H	M-H	1.00	H	M-H	M-H
1235	REC	BLM VRM IV	H	H	83 ft	H	H	H
1234	REC	Forest Service M VQO	H	H	73 ft	H	H	H
1231	REC	Forest Service PR VQO	H	H	0.15	H	H	H
1228	REC	Forest Service PR VQO	H	M-H	0.43	H	H	H
1226	REC	Forest Service PR VQO	H	M-H	0.3	H	H	H
1184	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.75	H	M-H	M
1180	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.25	H	H	H
1175	RES	Private	H	M	0.6	H	H	M-H
1173	REC	BLM VRM IV	H	M	1.1	H	M-H	M-H
1171	RES	Private	H	M	0.5	H	M-H	M
1435	REC	Forest Service PR VQO	H	H	3.8	L	M	M
221	RES	Private	H	M	0.5	H	M-H	M-H

1/ Viewers at KOP would have views of Alternative 7I with equal anticipated visual impacts due to a shared corridor between both alternatives.
2/ KOP would also be used in the discussion of Alternative 7I because this is a shared portion of the corridor.
3/ PR – Partial Retention; M – Modification; MM – Maximum Modification
4/ REC – A recreational viewer. RES – A single resident.
5/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 305 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Segment 5.

KOP 912 (Figure E,2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7B.

KOP 898 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7B.

KOP 916 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7B.

KOP 221 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Proposed Route.

KOP 1282 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1282 would have a high level of Project visibility 0.25 mile from Alternative 7H. The viewer would have an open and panoramic view toward the alignment that would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and may screen views of the scenic terrain of the Deep Creek Mountains. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. Potential visual impacts on residential users from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to high contrast and the creation of a new linear feature in a landscape with few visible human-made disturbances.

KOP 1278 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1278 would have a moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 1.25 miles from Alternative 7H). The viewer would have an open and panoramic view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and may skyline the terrain of Buck Peak in the middleground. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on residential users from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate. The alternative would create a new linear feature in a landscape with numerous visible human-made disturbances and moderate to high contrast.

KOP 1207 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1207 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.25 mile from Alternative 7H). The viewer would have an expansive panoramic view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and would likely skyline the views toward the Chapin Mountains. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. Potential visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to high contrast and the creation of a new linear feature in a disturbed landscape with low to moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1252 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1252 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.3 mile from Alternative 7H). The viewer would have an open view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features. The scene would be backdropped by the mountainous terrain, resulting in contrast levels that are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the closeness of the view. The alternative would create a new linear feature in an undisturbed landscape with moderate to high contrast, detracting from the scenic quality.

KOP 1255 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1255 would have a moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 1.3 mile from Alternative 7H). The viewer would have a broad open view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be backdropped by the mountainous terrain. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate because the alternative would create a new linear feature in a disturbed landscape with moderate contrast.

KOP 1246 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1246 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.35 mile from Alternative 7H). The viewer would have a focal view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be backdropped by the mountainous terrain. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high because the alternative would create a new linear feature in an undisturbed landscape with moderate to high contrast.

KOP 1241 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1241 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.95 mile from Alternative 7H). The viewer would have an open and panoramic view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be backdropped by the mountainous terrain. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high because the alternative would create a new linear feature in an undisturbed landscape with moderate to high contrast.

KOP 1224 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1224 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 1.0 mile from Alternative 7H). The viewer would have an expansive panoramic view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but may be backdropped by the Pomerelle Mountains. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. Potential visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to moderate contrast and the development of a new linear feature in a disturbed landscape with moderate to high scenic quality.

KOP 1239 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1239 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 1.0 mile from Alternative 7H). The viewer would have an open and panoramic view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be backdropped by the mountainous terrain. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high because due to the development of a new linear feature in an undisturbed landscape with moderate to high contrast.

KOP 1235 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1235 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 85 feet from Alternative 7H, an immediate foreground view). The viewer would have a focal and enclosed view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and may cause vegetation removal and landscape scarring. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. The area is directly adjacent to lands managed for Modification by the Sawtooth NF, which allows for activities that may visually dominate the original characteristic landscape. Activities that alter vegetation and landforms must borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture, and structures must remain visually subordinate to the proposed composition. The ROS for this area directly adjacent to this KOP is listed as RN. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high because the alternative would create a new linear feature in an undisturbed landscape with high contrast. Alternative 7H would conform to the Forest Service Modification classification as well as the ROS of RN even though this particular KOP is directly adjacent to lands managed by the Sawtooth NF.

KOP 1234 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1234 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 73 feet from Alternative 7H, an immediate foreground view). The viewer would have an expansive, panoramic, and superior (high-elevation) view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any

existing alignments or linear features and may skyline the mountainous terrain. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. The area is managed for Modification by the Sawtooth NF, which allows for activities that may visually dominate the characteristic landscape. Activities which alter vegetation and landforms must borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture, and structures must remain visually subordinate to the proposed composition. The ROS for this area is listed as RN. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to high contrast and the development of a new linear feature in an undisturbed landscape with high scenic quality. Alternative 7H would conform to the Forest Service Modification classification as well as the ROS of RN.

KOP 1231 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1231 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.15 mile from Alternative 7H, an immediate foreground view). The viewer would have an expansive, panoramic, and inferior (low-elevation) view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and may skyline the mountainous terrain. The Project may cause landscape scarring through clearing activities, resulting in contrast levels that are anticipated to be high. The area is managed for Partial Retention by the Sawtooth NF, which requires management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Activities may repeat form, line, color, or texture common to the characteristic landscape but not change qualities such as size, amount, intensity, direction, and pattern. The ROS for this area is listed as RN. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high because the alternative would create a new linear feature in an undisturbed landscape with high scenic quality and high contrast. Alternative 7H would not conform to the Forest Service Partial Retention classification but would conform to the ROS of RN.

KOP 1228 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1228 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.43 mile from Alternative 7H). The viewer would have an expansive, panoramic, and inferior (low-elevation) view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and may skyline the mountainous terrain. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. The area is managed for Partial Retention by the Sawtooth NF, which requires management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Activities may repeat form, line, color, or texture common to the characteristic landscape but not change qualities such as size, amount, intensity, direction, and pattern. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high because the alternative would create a new linear feature in an undisturbed landscape with moderate to high scenic quality and high contrast. Alternative 7H would not conform to the Forest Service Partial Retention classification.

KOP 1226 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1226 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.3 mile from Alternative 7H). The viewer would have an expansive, panoramic, and inferior (low-elevation) view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and may skyline the mountainous terrain. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. The area is managed for Maximum Modification by the Sawtooth NF, which allows for

vegetative and landform alterations that may dominate the characteristic landscape. When viewed in the foreground, the Project may not appear to completely borrow from naturally established form, color, line, or texture. Alterations could be out of scale or contain detail that is incongruent with natural occurrences as seen in the foreground. The ROS for this area is listed as RN. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to high contrast and the development a new linear feature in an undisturbed landscape with moderate to high scenic quality. Alternative 7H would conform to the Forest Service Maximum Modification classification as well as the ROS of RN.

KOP 1184 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1184 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.75 mile from Alternative 7H). The viewer would have an expansive panoramic, though partially screened, view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and would likely skyline the views toward Oakley, Idaho, and across the Magic Valley. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to the development of a new linear feature in a disturbed landscape with low to moderate scenic quality and partial screening.

KOP 1180 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1180 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.25 mile from Alternative 7H). The viewer would have an expansive panoramic view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and would likely skyline a portion of the views of Walker Hollow and the Lower Goose Creek Reservoir. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. Potential visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high. The development of a new linear feature in a disturbed landscape with moderate to high scenic quality and the high contrast levels would detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1175 (Figures E.2-8 and E.2-24). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1175 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.6 mile from Alternative 7H). The viewer would have an expansive panoramic view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and would likely skyline the views of Walker Hollow. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. Potential visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high. The development of a new linear feature in a disturbed landscape, with moderate scenic quality and high contrast, would detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1173 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1173 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 1.1 miles from Alternative 7H). The viewer would have an expansive panoramic view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and would skyline the views of the valley. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to moderate to high contrast and the development of a new linear feature in a disturbed landscape with moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1171 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1171 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.5 mile from Alternative 7H). The viewer would have an expansive and focal view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be backdropped by the rocky terrain. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on residences from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to the development of a new linear feature in a disturbed landscape, with moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1435 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1435 would have a low level of Project visibility 3.8 miles from Alternative 7H. The viewer would have an expansive, panoramic, and superior (high-elevation) view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be backdropped by the mountainous terrain. The resulting contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. The area is managed for Partial Retention by the Sawtooth NF, which requires management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Activities may repeat form, line, color, or texture common to the characteristic landscape but not changes in their qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, and pattern. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate because the alternative would create a new linear feature in an undisturbed landscape with high scenic quality and moderate contrast at a far distance. Alternative 7H would conform to the Forest Service Partial Retention classification due to it being visually subordinate in the characteristic landscape from this particular viewpoint.

Alternative 7I

Table 3.2-35 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 7I.

Table 3.2-35. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 7I

KOP	Viewers[3/]	Land Ownership[4/]	Viewer Rating[5/]	Scenic Quality[5/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[5/]	Contrast[5/]	Impact[5/]
1079	REC	Forest Service M VQO	M	M	0.1	H	H	H
1081	REC	Forest Service MM VQO	M	M	0.1	H	H	H
305	REC	BLM VRM IV	H	M	0.50	H	M	M-H
912	RES	Private	H	M	0.35	H	M	M
916	RES	Private	H	M-H	2.10	M	M	M
898	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.43	H	H	H
1282	RES	Private	H	H	0.25	H	H	H
1278	RES	Private	H	M	1.25	M	M-H	M
1273 [1/]	REC	Forest Service MM VQO	H	H	0.30	H	H	H
1270 [1/]	REC	Forest Service MM VQO	H	M-H	0.65	H	H	H
1267 [1/]	REC	Forest Service MM VQO	H	M-H	100 feet	H	H	H
1204	RES	Private	H	M-H	2.00	M	M	M
1190	RES	Private	H	M-H	1.00	H	M	M

Table 3.2-35. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 7I (continued)

KOP	Viewers[3/]	Land Ownership[4/]	Viewer Rating[5/]	Scenic Quality[5/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[5/]	Contrast[5/]	Impact[5/]
1097	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M-H	3.80	L-M	L-M	L-M
1101	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M-H	3.75	L	L-M	L
1159	REC	NPS	H	M	2.30	L	L	L
1103	REC	NPS	H	M	2.50	L	L-M	L
1160	REC	BLM VRM III	H	H	1.00	M-H	M-H	M-H
1104	REC	NPS	H	M-H	2.00	M	M	M
1105	REC	Private	H	M	0.85	H	M	M-H
1091[2/]	RES	Private	H	M-H	1.10	M	M-H	M-H
1086[2/]	REC	Private	H	M-H	2.00	L-M	M	M
1078	REC	Forest Service MM VQO	H	M-H	0.20	H	H	H
1052	RES	BLM VRM IV	H	L-M	2.30	L-M	M	M
1047	REC	Private	H	L	1.10	L	L-M	L-M

1/ Viewers at KOP would have views of Alternative 7H with equal anticipated visual impacts due to a shared corridor between both alternatives.
2/ Viewers at KOP would have views of Alternative 7J with equal anticipated visual impacts due to a shared corridor.
3/ REC – A recreational viewer. RES – A single resident.
4/ PR – Partial Retention, M – Modification, MM – Maximum Modification
5/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 305 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Segment 5.

KOP 912 (Figure E,2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7B.

KOP 898 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7B.

KOP 916 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7B.

KOP 1282 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7H.

KOP 1278 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7H.

KOP 1079 (Figure E.2-8/Appendix G, Figure ST-3b). The visibility of Alternative 7I would be high for recreational viewers at KOP 1079 (approximately 900 feet from this alignment). The viewers would have an open view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing linear features and may skyline when crossing the rolling terrain in the middleground and background, resulting in high contrast levels. The area is managed for Modification by the Sawtooth NF, which allows activities that may dominate the characteristic landscape but will, at the same time, use naturally established form, line, color, and texture. It should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as middleground, which the Project would not conform to from this viewpoint. Potential visual impacts on recreational users from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to the development of a new linear feature in a landscape with little visible disturbance, high contrast, and a close view. Alternative 7I would not conform to the Forest Service Modification objectives.

KOP 1081 (Figure E.2-8/Appendix G, Figure ST-3d). The visibility of Alternative 7I would be high for recreational viewers at KOP 1081 (approximately 0.1 mile from the alignment). The viewers would have an open view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing linear features and would skyline when crossing the rolling

terrain in the middleground and background, resulting in high contrast levels. The area is managed for Maximum Modification by the Sawtooth NF, which allows for vegetative and landform alterations that may dominate the characteristic landscape. When viewed as foreground, the Project may not appear to completely borrow from naturally established form, color, line, or texture. Alterations may also be out of scale or contain detail that is incongruent with natural occurrences as seen in the foreground, which the Project would conform to from this viewpoint. Potential visual impacts on recreational users from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to the development of a new linear feature in a landscape with little visible disturbance, high contrast, and a close view. Alternative 7I would conform to the Forest Service Maximum Modification objectives.

KOP 1273 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1273 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.3 mile from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have an open and elevated view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and may span the rugged terrain in the middleground and background. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. The area is managed for Maximum Modification by the Sawtooth NF, which allows for vegetative and landform alterations that may dominate the characteristic landscape. When viewed as foreground, the Project may not appear to completely borrow from naturally established form, color, line, or texture. Alterations may also be out of scale or contain detail that is incongruent with natural occurrences as seen in the foreground. The ROS for this area is listed as both RN and SPM. Potential visual impacts on recreational users from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to the development of a new linear feature in a landscape with little existing visible disturbance, high contrast, and high scenic quality. Alternative 7I would conform to the Forest Service Maximum Modification classification as well as the ROS of RN, but not SPM where structures are supposed to be rare and isolated.

KOP 1270 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1270 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.65 mile from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have an enclosed view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing linear features and may span the rugged terrain in the middleground and background, resulting in high contrast levels. The area is managed for Maximum Modification by the Sawtooth NF, which allows for vegetative and landform alterations that may dominate the characteristic landscape. When viewed as foreground, the Project may not appear to completely borrow from naturally established form, color, line, or texture. Alterations could be out of scale or contain detail that is incongruent with natural occurrences as seen in the foreground. The ROS for this area is listed as both RN and SPM. Potential visual impacts on recreational users from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to the development of a new linear feature in a landscape with little visible disturbance, high contrast, and a close view. Alternative 7I would conform to the Forest Service Maximum Modification classification as well as the ROS of RN, but not SPM.

KOP 1267 (Figure E.2-8). Visibility of Alternative 7I would be high for recreational viewers at KOP 1267 (approximately 100 feet from this alignment). The viewers would have an enclosed view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing

linear features and may skyline when crossing the rolling and rugged terrain in the middleground and background, resulting in high contrast levels. The area is managed for Maximum Modification by the Sawtooth NF, which allows for vegetative and landform alterations that could dominate the characteristic landscape. When viewed as foreground, the Project may not appear to completely borrow from naturally established form, color, line, or texture. Alterations may also be out of scale or contain detail that is incongruent with natural occurrences as seen in the foreground. The ROS for this area is listed as both RN and SPM. Potential visual impacts on recreational users from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high because the alternative would create a new linear feature in a landscape with little visible disturbance, high contrast, and the closeness of the view. Alternative 7I would conform to the Forest Service Maximum Modification classification but would not conform to the ROS of RN due to the high visibility of the alternative from the roadway.

KOP 1204 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1204 would have a moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 2.0 miles from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be backdropped by the rocky terrain in the middleground and background. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. Potential visual impacts on residences from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate because the alternative would create a new linear feature in a landscape with visible disturbance and moderate contrast.

KOP 1190 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1190 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 1.0 mile from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be backdropped by the rocky terrain in the background. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. Potential visual impacts on residences from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate because the alternative would create a new linear feature in a disturbed landscape with moderate contrast.

KOP 1097 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1097 would have a low to moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 2.8 miles from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have an expansive and focal view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be backdropped by the rocky terrain. Contrast levels are anticipated to be low to moderate. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be low to moderate. Opportunities for backdropping and low to moderate contrast levels would detract from views focused on the Alternative 7I, while the development of a new linear feature in a relatively undisturbed landscape would detract from the scenic quality.

KOP 1101 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1101 would have a low level of Project visibility (approximately 3.75 miles from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have an open view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be backdropped by the rolling and rugged terrain in the middleground and background. Contrast levels are anticipated to

be low to moderate. Potential visual impacts on recreational users from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be low due to the development of a new linear feature in a landscape with visible disturbance and the distance of the view.

KOP 1159 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1159 would have a low level of Project visibility (approximately 2.3 miles from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have a partially to fully screened view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be screened by the rolling terrain in the middleground. Contrast levels are anticipated to be low. Potential visual impacts on recreational users from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be low due to the distance of the view and screening opportunities offered by the terrain.

KOP 1103 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1103 would have a low level of Project visibility (approximately 2.5 miles from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have a partially screened view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be partially screened by the rolling terrain in the middleground. Contrast levels are anticipated to be low to moderate. Potential visual impacts on recreational users from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be low due to the distance of the view and screening opportunities offered by the terrain.

KOP 1160 (Figures E.2-8 and E.2-25). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1160 would have a moderate to high level of Project visibility (approximately 1.0 mile from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have a partially screened view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be partially screened by the rolling and rugged terrain in the foreground, middleground, and background. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on recreational users from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the distance of the view and screening opportunities offered by the terrain.

KOP 1104 (Figures E.2-8 and E.2-26). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1104 would have a moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 2.0 miles from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have an open panoramic view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be located beyond the visible transmission line. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. Potential visual impacts on recreational users from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to the distance of the view and existing human-made alterations.

KOP 1105 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1105 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.85 mile from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have an open panoramic and somewhat focal view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be located adjacent to the visible transmission line. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. Potential visual impacts on recreational users from this KOP and in the

general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the distance of the view and existing human-made alterations.

KOP 1091 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1091 would have a moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 1.1 mile from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have a focal and somewhat enclosed view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be either screened or back dropped by the rocky terrain in the middleground and background. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on residences from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high because the alternative would create a new linear feature in a relatively undisturbed landscape with moderate to high contrast.

KOP 1086 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1086 would have a low to moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 2.0 miles from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have an open panoramic view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing transmission alignments. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to the development of a new industrial linear feature in a relatively undisturbed landscape with moderate to high scenic quality.

KOP 1078 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1078 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.2 mile from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have an open panoramic view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing transmission alignments. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. The area is managed for Maximum Modification by the Sawtooth NF, which allows for vegetative and landform alterations which may dominate the characteristic landscape. When viewed as foreground, the project may not appear to completely borrow from naturally established form, color, line, or texture. Alterations may also be out of scale or contain detail that is incongruent with natural occurrences, as seen in the foreground. The ROS for this area is listed as both RN and SPM. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to the development of a new industrial linear feature in a relatively undisturbed landscape with moderate to high scenic quality. Alternative 7I would conform to the Forest Service Maximum Modification classification but would not conform to the ROS of RN due to the high visibility of the alternative from the roadway.

KOP 1052 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1052 would have a low to moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 2.3 miles from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have an expansive and inferior (low elevation) view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing transmission alignments. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. Potential visual impacts on residences from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to the development of a new industrial linear feature in an undisturbed landscape with low to moderate scenic quality and low to moderate visibility. Alternative 7I has the possibility to skyline the foothills of the background terrain but at a distance great enough that atmospheric conditions may absorb the form of the structures.

KOP 1047 (Figure E.2-8). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1047 would have a low level of Project visibility (approximately 1.1 miles from Alternative 7I). The viewer would have a partially screened view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing transmission alignments. Contrast levels are anticipated to be low to moderate. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be low to moderate due to the development of a new industrial linear feature in a disturbed landscape with low scenic quality and partially screened views.

Alternative 7J

Table 3.2-36 summarizes the potential visual impact for each of the KOPs in Alternative 7J.

Table 3.2-36. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 7J[1/]

KOP	Viewers[3/]	Land Ownership[4/]	Viewer Rating[5/]	Scenic Quality[5/]	Distance (mile)	Visibility[5/]	Contrast[5/]	Impact[5/]
305	REC	BLM VRM IV	H	M	0.50	H	M	M-H
912	RES	Private	H	M	0.35	H	M	M
916	RES	Private	H	M-H	2.10	M	M	M
898	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.43	H	H	H
1282	RES	Private	H	H	0.25	H	H	H
1278	RES	Private	H	M	1.25	M	M-H	M
1273[2/]	REC	Forest Service MM VQO	H	H	0.30	H	H	H
1270[2/]	REC	Forest Service MM VQO	H	M-H	0.65	H	H	H
1267	REC	Forest Service MM VQO	H	M-H	100 Feet	H	H	H
1204	RES	Private	H	M-H	2.00	M	M	M
1190	RES	Private	H	M-H	1.00	H	M	M
1097	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M-H	3.80	L-M	L-M	L-M
1101	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M-H	3.75	L	L-M	L
1159	REC	NPS	H	M	2.30	L	L	L
1103	REC	NPS	H	M	2.50	L	L-M	L
1160	REC	BLM VRM III	H	H	1.00	M-H	M-H	M-H
1104	REC	NPS	H	M-H	2.00	M	M	M
1105	REC	Private	H	M	0.85	H	M	M-H
1091	RES	Private	H	M-H	1.10	M	M-H	M-H
1086	REC	Private	H	M-H	2.00	L-M	M	M
1410	RES	Private	H	L	0.9	M-H	M	L-M
1401	REC	BLM	H	M-H	5.0	L	L	L
1409	RES	Private	H	L-M	1.6	M	M	M

1/ Alternative 7J connects with Segment 9 approximately 25.8 miles west of the proposed Cedar Hill Substation, which is the western terminus of Segment 7 and the beginning point for Segment 9. This table compares 7J (202 miles) with the corresponding portion of Segment 7/9 (118.1 miles of Segment 7 and 25.8 miles of Segment 9, for a total of 143.9 miles). All other Segment 7 alternatives are compared to Segment 7 of the Proposed Route (118.1 miles) only.
2/ Viewers at KOPs would have views of Alternatives 7H and 7I with equal anticipated visual impacts due to a shared corridor between both alternatives.
3/ REC – A recreational viewer. RES – A single resident.
4/ M – Modification, MM – Maximum Modification
5/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 305 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Segment 5.

KOP 912 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7B.

KOP 898 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7B.

KOP 916 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7B.

KOP 1079 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1273 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1267 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1270 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1267 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1204 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1190 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1197 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1101 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1159 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1103 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1160 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1104 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1105 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1091 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1086 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1052 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1047 (Figure E.2-8). See discussion under Alternative 7I.

KOP 1410 (Figure E.2-8). KOP 1410 represents high-sensitivity residential viewers looking northeast (approximately 0.9 mile from where Alternative 7J would cross the view). At KOP 1410, high-sensitivity residential viewers would have a moderate to high level of Project visibility due to the close distance of the Project alternative. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to the presence of human-made alterations visible in the foreground and middleground of this KOP. Visual impacts would be low to moderate due to low scenic quality and moderate contrast.

KOP 1401 (Figure E.2-8). KOP 1401 represents high-sensitivity recreational viewers looking northeast (approximately 5.0 miles from where Alternative 7J would cross the view). At KOP 1401, high-sensitivity recreational viewers would have a low level of

Project visibility due to the distance of the Project alternative. Visual contrast levels and visual impacts would be low due to the distance and visibility, low scenic quality, and low contrast.

KOP 1409 (Figure E.2-8). KOP 1409 represents high-sensitivity residential viewers looking south (approximately 1.6 miles from where Alternative 7J would cross the view). At KOP 1409, high-sensitivity residential viewers would have a moderate level of Project visibility due to the distance of the Project alternative and partial screening by the topography. Visual contrast levels and visual impacts would be moderate due to surrounding structures, low to moderate scenic quality, and moderate contrast.

Segment-Specific Mitigation

The Agencies have identified the following mitigation measures in addition to those recommended for all federal land (see Section 3.2.2.2).

VIS-18 If Alternative 7I were to be constructed, H-frame single-circuit structures would be required in the Nevada portion of the alternative as requested by the Wells FO.

VIS-19 If any of Alternatives 7H, 7I, or 7I were to be constructed, H-frame single-circuit structures would be required in the Sawtooth NF.

Conformance with BLM VRM Classes and Forest Service VQOs

Proposed Route – The Proposed Route would cross over 1.3 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands designated by the Malad MFP between MPs 31.2 and 32.5 and MPs 83.0 to 83.1, creating a new ROW that requires levels of change to be low and not attract the attention of a casual observer. It is assumed that crossing VRM Class II areas without paralleling an existing transmission facility may be inconsistent with the Malad MFP because the new facilities would represent a level of change to the landscape and basic elements that would attract the attention of the casual observer (see KOP 920). The Proposed Route would also cross over 2.7 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the Malad MFP between MPs 28.2 and 35.5 as well as from MPs 113.5 to 117.7, creating a new ROW that requires that a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and only result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape. It is assumed that crossing VRM Class III areas without paralleling an existing transmission facility may be inconsistent with the Malad MFP in the Deep Creek Mountains (see KOP 920) due to the level of change anticipated. Most areas can conform to VRM Class IV objectives (see KOP 279). An amendment would be needed, if this route is selected, to allow a one-time visually altering action without changing the VRM classification in the Deep Creek area. See Appendix F-1 for proposed amendment language and Appendix G-1 for visual analyses.

The effects analysis for KOP 907 would only apply if an amendment permitting the project were approved. See Appendix G-1 for effects analyses of additional KOPs related to this amendment.

An amendment to the Malad MFP would be needed to allow construction of a new ROW outside of existing utility corridors for the Proposed Route and its Alternatives within the Malad MFP planning area. It is worth noting, however, that a new RMP is currently being developed for this area that does not carry over the ROW restriction.

All effects for KOPs viewing BLM-managed land outside the designated ROW would be dependent upon approval of an amendment to the existing plan or approval of a new plan that does not carry the ROW restriction forward.

Alternative 7A – Alternative 7A would cross land managed by the Malad MFP without paralleling an existing transmission facility, which may be inconsistent with the Malad MFP. Alternative 7A would cross approximately 6.0 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the Malad MFP in three separate areas between MPs 19.0 and 26.0, creating a new ROW that requires a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and only result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape (see KOP 917). Most areas can conform to VRM Class III and IV objectives, and no AOIs were identified.

All effects for KOPs viewing BLM-managed land outside the designated ROW would be dependent upon approval of an amendment to the existing plan or approval of a new plan that does not carry the ROW restriction forward.

Alternative 7B – Alternative 7B would cross approximately 3.8 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the Malad MFP between MPs 25.1 and 32.1, creating a new ROW that requires a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape. The majority of areas can conform to VRM Class III and IV objectives (see KOPs 898 and 893), and no AOIs were identified.

All effects for KOPs viewing BLM-managed land outside the designated ROW would be dependent upon approval of an amendment to the existing plan or approval of a new plan that does not carry the ROW restriction forward.

Alternative 7C – Alternative 7C would cross approximately 7.2 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class IV lands between MPs 10.0 and 47.0. Most areas can conform to VRM Class IV objectives (see KOPs 282 and 289). There are no BLM-administered lands managed to conform with VRM Class I, II, or III objectives along Alternative 7C.

Alternative 7D – Alternative 7D would cross approximately 0.1 mile of BLM-administered VRM Class IV lands between MP 0.0 and 0.1. Most areas can conform to VRM Class IV objectives (see KOP 296). There are no BLM-administered lands managed to conform with VRM Class I, II, or III objectives along Alternative 7D.

Alternative 7E – Alternative 7E would cross over 0.3 mile of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands designated by the Cassia RMP between MPs 3.6 and 3.9 without paralleling an existing transmission facility, which may be inconsistent with the Cassia RMP because the new facilities would represent a level of change to the landscape and basic elements that would attract the attention of the casual observer (see KOPs 304 and 311). An amendment would be needed, reclassifying this area to VRM Class IV, if

this route is selected. See Appendix F-1 for proposed amendment wording and Appendix G-1 for visual analyses. Alternative 7E would also cross approximately 1.6 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class IV lands between MPs 0.6 and 2.4. Most areas can conform to VRM Class IV objectives.

Effects described in this section for KOP 311 would only apply if an amendment were approved. Additional KOPs are discussed in Appendix G-1. All effects for KOPs viewing BLM-managed land outside the designated ROW would be dependent upon approval of an amendment to the existing plan or approval of a new plan that does not carry the ROW restriction forward.

Alternative 7F – Alternative 7F would cross approximately 4.4 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class IV lands in three different areas between MPs 0.7 and 10.3. Most areas can conform to VRM Class IV objectives (see KOP 304). There are no BLM-administered lands managed to conform to VRM Class I, II, or III objectives along Alternative 7F.

Alternative 7G – Alternative 7G would cross approximately 1.8 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the Cassia RMP between MPs 0.3 and 3.2 creating a new ROW, which requires a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and only result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape (see KOP 221). It is anticipated due to backdropping that Alternative 7G would conform to VRM Class III objectives and no AOIs are anticipated. All effects for KOPs viewing BLM-managed land outside the designated ROW would be dependent upon approval of an amendment to the existing plan or approval of a new plan that does not carry the ROW restriction forward.

Alternative 7H – Alternative 7H would cross over 0.9 mile of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands designated by the Cassia RMP between MPs 78.3 and 80.2 without paralleling an existing transmission facility, which may be inconsistent with the Cassia RMP because the new facilities would represent a level of change to the landscape and basic elements that would attract the attention of the casual observer (see KOP 1246). An amendment would be needed, reclassifying this area to VRM Class III, if this route is selected. See Appendix F-1 for proposed amendment wording and Appendix G-1 for visual analyses. Alternative 7H would also cross over 2.9 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the Cassia RMP in numerous areas between MPs 33.8 and 127.2, creating a new ROW that requires a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and only result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape (see KOPs 1171, 1173, and 1252). Most areas can conform to VRM Class III and IV objectives.

Additionally, Alternative 7H would cross over 11.35 miles of NFS lands in the Sawtooth NF. Most of the NFS land crossed is managed as Modification VQO and Maximum Modification VQO. Much of the NFS land between the communities of Oakley and Elba is managed to conform to Partial Retention VQO. This management classification would require the proposed alternative to remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape and repeat the form, line, color, or texture common to the characteristic landscape. This portion of Alternative 7H is further restricted in location

due to being bordered by a roadless area to both the north and south, which effectively limits many mitigation strategies (such as micrositing) from taking advantage of vegetative or topographic screening. The Proposed Route would be visible from the Mt. Harrison lookout.

Visual impacts identified for areas classified as Partial Retention would also be a concern in areas classified as Modification and, in some cases, even Maximum Modification. KOPs 1228, 1231, 1234, 1226, 1273, 1270, and 1267 were all identified in areas managed as Maximum Modification by the Sawtooth NF, which allows for vegetative and landform alterations to dominate the characteristic landscape. The area is also managed under MA 6.1, Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis, with shrubland and grassland landscapes. When viewed within a foreground distance zone, the Project would not appear to borrow from naturally established form, color, line, or texture. Alterations would be out of scale and contain detail that is incongruent with natural occurrences as seen in the foreground. Alternative 7H would be congruent with the ROS of RN and RM including the areas adjacent to KOPs 1228, 1231, 1234, 1226, 1273, 1270, and 1267; however, it would not be consistent for the portion of the route in the Albion Division that crosses SPM-designated land.

Effects discussed for KOPs 1273, 1270, 1226, 1228, 1231, 1243, and 1435 would only apply if corresponding amendments that would permit the Project were approved. Discussion of additional KOPs can be found in Appendices G-1 and G-2. All effects for KOPs viewing BLM-managed land outside the designated ROW would be dependent upon approval of an amendment to the existing plan or approval of a new plan that does not carry the ROW restriction forward.

Alternative 7I – Alternative 7I would cross 0.6 mile of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands designated by the Cassia RMP and Twin Falls MFP between MPs 115.1 and 115.2 (Cassia RMP) and MPs 169.6 and 169.9 (Twin Falls MFP) without paralleling an existing transmission facility. These crossings would not conform with the Cassia RMP and Twin Falls MFP because the new facilities would represent a level of change to the landscape and basic elements that would attract the attention of the casual observer (see KOP 410). Amendments would be needed for the Cassia RMP and Twin Falls MFP, reclassifying this area to VRM Class III, if this route is selected. See Appendix F-1 for proposed amendment wording and Appendix G-1 for visual analyses.

Alternative 7I would also cross over 8.7 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the Cassia RMP and 6.7 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by Twin Falls MFP in numerous areas between MPs 33.8 and 173.1, creating a new ROW that requires a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and only result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape (see KOPs 1100, 1101, and 1159). Most areas can conform to VRM Class III and IV objectives.

Alternative 7I would cross 8.7 miles of BLM-managed land in the Wells FO. Of the 8.7 miles, 0.3 mile is managed with VRM Class II objectives and 8.4 miles are managed with VRM Class III objectives. These lands are designated VRM Class II and III, respectively, by the 1985 Wells RMP. As with other alternatives, lands managed by the BLM to conform to VRM Class II objectives should be avoided if possible through

realignment or micrositing. An amendment would be needed to either allow a one-time exception or reclassify the area to VRM Class III if this route is selected. See Appendix F-1 for proposed amendment wording and Appendix G-1 for visual analyses.

Additionally, Alternative 7I would cross 27.7 miles of NFS land in the Sawtooth NF. This NFS land is managed to conform to Maximum Modification VQO (17.6 miles) and Modification VQO (9.2 miles), which allows management activities of vegetative and landform alterations to dominate the characteristic landscape. The alternative would also cross an area managed as Partial Retention VQO (0.84 mile), which would be more restrictive and require management activities to remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. KOPs 1078, 1273, 1270, and 1267 were all identified in areas managed as Maximum Modification by the Sawtooth NF, which allows for vegetative and landform alterations to dominate the characteristic landscape. When viewed as foreground, the Project may not appear to completely borrow from naturally established form, color, line, or texture. Alterations may also be out of scale or contain detail that is incongruent with natural occurrences as seen in the foreground. The ROS for this area includes RN and SPM, which is more restrictive than RN because structures are supposed to be rare and isolated. Alternative 7I would be consistent with the ROS of RN but not SPM because of the distances to sensitive viewers at KOPs 1273, 1270, 1261, and 1078.

Effects discussed for KOPs 1079, 1091, 1273, and 1270 would only apply if amendments to the visual and scenic resources in the BLM and Forest Service land use plans were approved. Discussion of additional KOPs is provided in Appendices G-1 and G-2. All effects for KOPs viewing BLM-managed land outside the designated ROW would be dependent upon approval of an amendment to the existing plan or approval of a new plan that does not carry the ROW restriction forward.

Alternative 7J – Alternative 7J would cross approximately 25.2 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands creating a new ROW, which requires a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and only result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape (see KOPs 1401 and 1410). It is anticipated that Alternative 7J would conform to VRM Class III objectives due to backdropping.

Where Alternative 7J has the same alignment as Alternative 7I, it would cross 0.6 mile of BLM-administered VRM Class II land managed under the Cassia RMP and Twin Falls MFP. Amendments to reclassify these areas to VRM Class III would be needed.

Alternative 7J would cross the Sawtooth NF for 12.9 miles. Impacts would be the same as under Alternative 7I for the Sublett Division. For the Cassia Division, Alternative 7J would cross approximately 2.2 miles of Modification VQO and around 6 miles of Maximum Modification VQO. Visual impacts identified for Partial Retention would also be a concern in areas classified as Modification and, in some cases, even Maximum Modification. The Project would not be consistent with the Sawtooth NF Forest Plan and a forest plan amendment would be needed.

Effects discussed for KOPs 1091, 1273, and 1270 would only apply if amendments to BLM land use plans were approved to permit the Project. Additional KOPs are discussed for this route in Appendices G-1 and G-2. All effects for KOPs viewing BLM-

managed land outside the designated ROW would be dependent upon approval of an amendment to the existing plan or approval of a new plan that does not carry the ROW restriction forward.

Segment 7 – Conclusion

Proposed Route – Visual impacts resulting from the construction of the Proposed Route would be mostly moderate with some areas of moderate-high impact in the East Fork Canyon Sportsman's Access area, in dispersed residential areas outside of Rockland, Idaho, and interspersed throughout the immediate area of, and in close proximity to, trail-related cultural resources. However, the Proposed Route would cross a large intact VRM Class II portion (approximately 3.0 miles) of the Deep Creek Mountains.

Alternative 7A – Visual impacts resulting from the construction of Alternative 7A would be mostly moderate to high due to areas being nearer trail-related cultural resources and dispersed residences.

Alternative 7B – Visual impacts resulting from the construction of Segment 7B would be mostly moderate to high.

Alternative 7C – Visual impacts resulting from the construction of Alternative 7C would be mostly moderate to high with a section of high impact located at the southwest end of this alternative in close proximity to residences.

Alternative 7D – Visual impacts resulting from the construction of Alternative 7D would be mostly moderate with some areas of moderate-high impact associated with adjacent residences.

Alternative 7E – Visual impacts from the construction of Alternative 7E would be moderate because the majority of the area is primarily characterized as an agricultural setting resulting in moderate visual impacts. Some areas with dispersed residences would experience higher visual impacts.

Alternative 7F – Visual impacts resulting from the construction of Alternative 7F would be mostly moderate to high due to the short length of the alternative and isolated terrain crossed by the alignment. The majority of the area crossed by Alternative 7F is in a mountainous setting with agriculture in the surrounding valleys and dispersed residences that would experience higher visual impacts than some of the more remote areas crossed by other alternatives.

Alternative 7G – Visual impacts resulting from the construction of Alternative 7G would be mostly moderate to high. The majority of the area crossed by Alternative 7G is in an agricultural setting with numerous dispersed residences that would experience higher visual impacts than some of the more remote areas crossed by other alternatives.

Alternative 7H – Visual impacts resulting from the construction of Alternative 7H would be mostly high. The majority of the area crossed by Alternative 7H is in a rural agricultural setting with numerous dispersed residences and recreational areas that would experience higher visual impacts than some of the more remote areas crossed

by other alternatives. Alternative 7H would cross the Sawtooth NF on land managed to meet the VQOs of Partial Retention, Modification, and Maximum Modification. The alternative would meet the objectives for Maximum Modification and some Modification; however, the alternative would not meet the objectives of Partial Retention and many of those for Modification. Alternative 7H would not be consistent with the Sawtooth NF Forest Plan and a forest plan amendment would be required.

Alternative 7I – Visual impacts resulting from the construction of Alternative 7I would be mostly moderate to high with areas of higher impacts where residences are located close to the alternative. The majority of the area crossed by Alternative 7I is in a rural agricultural setting with numerous dispersed residences and recreation areas that would experience higher visual impacts than some of the more remote areas crossed by other Alternatives. Alternative 7I would be the only alignment that has the potential to impact viewers in the City of Rocks National Reserve as well as from local sensitive viewing areas such as Sparks Basin, Granite Pass, or along the California NHT. Impacts would be considered moderately high to high for this alternative.

Alternative 7I would cross the Sawtooth NF on land managed to meet the VQOs of Partial Retention, Modification, and Maximum Modification. The alternative would meet the objectives for Maximum Modification and some of those for Modification; however, the alternative would not meet the objectives of Partial Retention and many of those for Modification. Alternative 7I would not be consistent with the Sawtooth NF Forest Plan and a forest plan amendment would be required.

Alternative 7J – Visual impacts resulting from the construction of Alternative 7J would be similar to those for Alternative 7I. The increased length of Alternative 7J through primarily flat agricultural land would be offset by the location of Alternative 7I within the hilly terrain crossed in the Sawtooth NF.

Alternative Comparisons

In the eastern portion of Segment 7, the routes generally connect route reference points 7a.0 to 7d (see Figure E.2-8). In this area, Alternative 7A is anticipated to offer the lowest overall visual impact when compared to the comparison portion of the Proposed Route or Alternative 7B due to distance of viewers from the alignment and avoidable VRM Class II crossings. Alternative 7B would avoid more VRM Class II lands than the comparison portion of the Proposed Route and Alternative 7A as well as avoiding the recreation areas east of Rockland while impacting a similar number of scattered residences in the Arbon and Rockland Valleys; however, with the alignment being longer than the comparison portion of the Proposed Route and Alternative 7A, it can be assumed that it would impact more viewers overall.

For the area around Heglar Canyon, generally the connection of route reference points 7e to 7g, the routes for consideration are the Proposed Route and Alternative 7C. Overall in this area, Alternative 7C would offer lower visual impacts than the comparison portion of the Proposed Route due largely to fewer residential viewers and increased distance from “The Parting of the Ways,” a visually sensitive cultural and recreational resource.

For the area south of I-86 and west of I-84, generally the connection of route reference points 7g and 7h, the routes to compare are the Proposed Route and Alternative 7D (see Figure E.2-8). In this area, Alternative 7D offers a reduction in visual impact by keeping the transmission line off of topographic features and preventing the skylining of transmission towers. This alternative would also bring the Project closer to the few residential viewers in the area; however, because the alternative would provide the opportunity for topographic backdropping, this reduced view distance is not anticipated to raise visual impact levels.

In the area generally represented by the connection of route reference points 7h and 7m, the range of alternatives includes the Proposed Route, Alternative 7E, and Alternative 7F. The comparison portion of the Proposed Route and Alternative 7E would be in very close proximity, in some cases less than 0.15 mile, to residential viewers, an issue not completely addressed by either the Proposed Route or Route Alternative. Overall, Alternative 7F would be potentially viewed by fewer residential viewers than the other two options. Although it would cross 0.3 mile of VRM Class II land and a scenic backcountry byway (City of Rocks), Alternative 7F would ultimately be the farthest from viewers by following the foothills of the eastern side of the Albion Mountains and Pine Knob. The result would be lower impacts for Alternative 7F than the comparison portion of the Proposed Route or Alternative 7E in this area by lowering impacts to the town of Albion and the valley south of Burley, Idaho.

The three southern alternatives, 7H, 7I, and 7J, would connect the alignment reference point 7a2, from Alternative 7B, to the Cedar Hill Substation. These three alternatives would share a portion of their alignment south of the Sublette Range until crossing I-84. Alternative 7H would travel north of Elba, through the Albion District of the Sawtooth NF, and south of Oakley, Idaho, before rejoining the Proposed Route south of Artesian City. Alternatives 7I and 7J would continue on a shared alignment farther south of the Jim Sage Mountains as well as south of Almo and the City of Rocks National Reserve while following the Nevada state line before turning north around the western boundary of the Sawtooth NF. Where Alternative 7I would turn northwest, to continue a route through the Cassia Division of the Sawtooth NF, 7J would turn west through mostly private lands. Alternative 7I would continue northwest and then turn east back to the Cedar Hill Substation. Alternative 7J would continue northwest through private land for approximately 16 miles to a point where, if this alternative were selected, the Rogerson Substation (as an alternative to the Cedar Hill Substation) would be located. From this point, the alternative would split into two routes; one would head northeast to join with the Proposed Route Segment 7, while the other would head northeast to join with Proposed Route Segment 9. It is anticipated that Alternatives 7H, 7I, and 7J would be located in more pristine viewing conditions and closer to numerous sensitive viewing areas where contrast and impacts to viewers would be higher than comparison portions of the Proposed Route.

Finally, at the western end of Segment 7 near the Cedar Hill Substation, the area of route reference point connection 7s.1 to 7z is the comparison portion of the Proposed Route and Alternative 7G. It is anticipated that Alternative 7G, located parallel but north of the comparison portion of the Proposed Route, would be closer to sensitive viewers within the Pleasant Valley, thus resulting in higher impacts to visual resources.

Segment 8 – Midpoint to Hemingway

Segment 8, as proposed, would link the Midpoint and Hemingway Substations. This 131-mile single-circuit 500-kV transmission line would stay north of the Snake River until crossing through the SRBOP parallel to an existing 500-kV transmission line before ending at the Hemingway Substation. Thirteen acres of the expansion of the Midpoint Substation and 0.5 acre for a regeneration site are attributed to Segment 8. There are five Route Alternatives: 8A, which follows the WWE corridor but crosses the Snake River and I-84 twice (while the Proposed Route would stay north of this area); 8B and 8C, which represent the old routes originally proposed by the Proponents but that have now been changed to avoid the cities of Kuna and Mayfield, respectively; 8D, which represents a small revision involving a rebuild of the existing transmission line to move both away from the National Guard Maneuver Area; and 8E, which was proposed by the BLM in order to avoid crossing the Halverson Bar non-motorized portion of the Guffey Butte-Black Butte Historical Area (see Appendix A, Figure A-10).

Proposed Route

Table 3.2-37 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in the Segment 8 Proposed Route.

Table 3.2-37. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in the Segment 8 Proposed Route

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
1222	RES	Private	H	L	0.60	H	L	L-M
356	COMM	Private	H & M	L	0.75	M	L	L
353	COMM	Private	H	L	0.75	M	L	L
1350	REC	State of ID	L	L	0.1	H	M	L
1208	RES	Private	H	L-M	1.20	H	M	M
1126[1/]	RES/COMM	Private	M	L	0.23	M	M-H	M
1118	RES	Private	H	L	0.50	H	M	L-M
1142	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M-H	2.00	M	L-M	M
563	REC	BOR VRM II	H	M-H	2.50	L-M	L-M	L
561	RES/REC	BLM VRM III	H	M-H	0.5	H	M-H	M-H
1145	REC	BOR VRM IV	H	M	550 ft	H	M-H	M

1/ Viewers at KOP 1126 would have views of Alternatives 8B and 8C with equal anticipated visual impacts due to a shared corridor between both Alternatives and the Proposed Route.
2/ REC – A recreational viewer. RES – A single resident. COMM – A commuter traveling on major highways or secondary roads.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP C100 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this point are the looking toward the Segment 8 Proposed Route from Canyon Creek Stage Station historic site. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C101 (Figure E.2-9, Simulation Figure E.2-32). Views from this point are the looking toward the Segment 8 Proposed Route from the Pioneer Reservoir on the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C102 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this point are the looking toward the Segment 8 Proposed Route from the Rattlesnake Station historic site on the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 1222 (Figure E.2-9). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1222 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.6 mile from the Proposed Route). The viewer would have an expansive and elevated view toward the alignment, which would parallel two existing transmission alignments and be considered co-dominant with the existing structures. Contrast levels are anticipated to be low. The addition of a new industrial linear feature in a disturbed landscape with low scenic quality would create a "forested" visual effect and result in low to moderate visual impacts.

KOP 356 (Figures E.2-9). High-sensitivity residential viewers and moderate sensitivity motorists traveling south on South 1900E Road would have an open panoramic view of the Proposed Route as it parallels a smaller transmission line. The Proposed Route would be located approximately 0.75 mile to the south and Alternative 9A approximately 3.25 miles to the south. Project visibility from this area is generally moderate at a viewing distance of about 0.75 mile. Travel speeds of 55 mph would result in short viewing durations for travelers making impacts temporary in nature. Visual contrast levels would be low due to the viewing distance, travel speed, and the existing transmission lines in a low scenic quality area. Impacts on viewers would be low.

KOP 353 (Figures E.2-9). The Proposed Route would be moderately visible to high-sensitivity residential viewers located along Highway 26 (approximately 0.75 mile away). Views would be considered short in duration at speeds in excess of 45 miles per hour. The views to the west and south are open and panoramic and would include the Proposed Route. Alternative 9A would be located approximately 6 miles south of this KOP. This segment parallels an existing but smaller transmission line in a low scenic quality landscape resulting in generally low contrast. Impacts on viewers would be low due to the low contrast levels and the temporary nature of the views.

KOP 1350 (Figure E.2-9/Appendix G, Figure J-5b). Low-sensitivity recreational viewers traveling south on Bennett Mountain Road would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.1 mile away from this KOP). The viewer would have an expansive view of the proposed towers and lines until passing beneath them. The Proposed Route is at various angles to the three existing transmission lines and would be considered co-dominant with them. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers are expected to be low due to a horizontal landscape with low scenic quality and the presence of other transmission lines.

KOP 1208 (Figure E.2-9). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1208 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 1.2 miles from the Proposed Route). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be considered co-dominant with the existing wind generation towers. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. Potential visual impacts on residences from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to the development of a new linear feature in a disturbed landscape with moderate contrast and low to moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1126 (Figure E.2-9). High- and moderate-sensitivity residential viewers and drivers at KOP 1126 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.23 mile from the proposed Project alignment). The viewer would have an expansive view

toward the alignment, which would parallel the existing transmission alignment visible in the middleground view. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to the Project paralleling an existing linear feature and the low scenic quality of the landscape.

KOP 1118 (Figure E.2-9). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1118 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.5 mile from the Proposed Route). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would parallel the existing transmission alignment visible in the foreground view. The existing transmission line may screen the Proposed Route, resulting in moderate contrast levels. Potential visual impacts on viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be low to moderate due to the Project paralleling an existing linear feature and the low scenic quality of the landscape.

KOP 1142 (Figure E.2-9). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1142 would have a moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 2.0 miles from the Proposed Route). The viewer would have an expansive, high elevation view toward the Project, which parallels an existing transmission alignment and could be absorbed through backdropping. Contrast levels are anticipated to be low to moderate. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to partial screening by a linear feature in a previously disturbed landscape, which exhibits moderate to high scenic quality.

KOP 563 (Figure E.2-9). Viewers from KOP 563 would be high-sensitivity recreational viewers visiting the Celebration Archeological Park and, more particularly, examining a lookout point at the entrance to the park (approximately 2.5 miles from the Proposed Route across the Snake River). At KOP 563, high-sensitivity viewers would have a low to moderate level of Project visibility due to distance from this KOP, as well as screening provided by adjacent landscape elements. Visual contrast levels would be low to moderate due to human-made alterations and screening elements within the surrounding area of this KOP. These elements include large natural geologic elements and mountainous terrain as well as houses and other human-made structures. Impacts on viewers would be low.

KOP 561 (Figures E.2-9/ Appendix G, Figures BOP-3b and BOP-3c). The Segment 8 Proposed Route would be highly visible to high-sensitivity recreational hikers and residential viewers located adjacent to Marsing Murphy Road (approximately 0.5 mile away). The views are open and panoramic with strong horizon lines and mountainous silhouettes, as well as uninterrupted views of the Proposed Route. Alternative 9D, which is visible from this KOP, would be located over 2.5 miles south of this KOP. The Proposed Route would not parallel an existing transmission line in a moderate to high scenic quality landscape. Contrast levels are expected to be moderate to high. The Proposed Route would interrupt the viewshed of this scenic landscape. Screening or other mitigation efforts would be less successful at lowering impacts to scenic resources in the surrounding area. Impacts on viewers would be moderate to high due to the contrast levels and the scenic quality of the landscape within the view. KOP 561

would not conform to BLM VRM Class II objectives, which is discussed further in Appendix G-1.

KOP 1145 (Figure E.2-9). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1145 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 550 feet from the Proposed Route). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would parallel an existing alignment that it screens, and has a high potential to skyline the view. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on recreational users from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to the Project creating a dominant linear feature in a landscape with existing human-made disturbance.

Alternative 8A

Table 3.2-38 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 8A.

Table 3.2-38. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 8A

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
358	RES	Private	H	L	0.60	M-H	L	L-M
1220	RES	Private	H	L	0.50	H	L	L-M
1213	RES	Private	H	L-M	1.50	M-H	M-H	M-H
1211	RES	Private	H	L-M	2.10	M	L-M	L-M
791	REC	Private	H	H	0.27	H	M-H	M-H
803	RES	Private	H	H	0.27	H	M-H	M-H
810	REC	BLM VRM Class I	H	L-M	1.2	M-H	M	M
783	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.83	H	L-M	L-M
1339	REC	State	H	M-H	2.5	L-M	L	L-M

1/ REC – A recreational viewer. RES – A single resident. COMM – A commuter traveling on major highways or secondary roads.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

The following two KOPs have cultural as well as visual resource impacts and are analyzed in the Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C107 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this point are the looking toward Alternative 8A from a portion of the Oregon NHT.

KOP C108 (Figure E.2-9). Views from this point are the looking toward Alternative 8A from a portion of the Oregon NHT.

The following nine KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views and were analyzed for potential impacts on visual resources for Alternative 8A.

KOP 358 (Figure E.2-9). High-sensitivity residential viewers on the west side of U.S. 93 near the existing Midpoint Substation have an open panoramic view to the north that includes an existing transmission line. Views to the north include an existing transmission line near Alternative 8A (approximately 0.6 mile away). Viewing distance to Alternative 8A would be approximately 0.6 mile, resulting in moderate to high Project visibility. Visual contrast levels would be low due to the existing transmission lines and overall low scenic quality. Visual impacts on viewers at this location would be low to moderate.

KOP 1220 (Figure E.2-9). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1220 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.5 mile from Alternative 8A. The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would parallel two existing transmission alignments and would be considered co-dominant with the existing structures. Contrast levels are anticipated to be low. Potential visual impacts on residences from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be low to moderate due to the alternative creating a co-dominant linear feature in a disturbed landscape from a close distance to the viewer.

KOP 1213 (Figure E.2-9). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1213 would have a moderate to high level of Project visibility (approximately 1.5 miles from Alternative 8A). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would parallel an existing co-dominant transmission line. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on residences from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the alternative creating a co-dominant linear feature in a disturbed landscape with moderate to high contrast and low to moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1211 (Figure E.2-9). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1211 would have a moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 2.1 miles from Alternative 8A). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would parallel an existing, co-dominant transmission line and be partially screened by the structures. Contrast levels are anticipated to be low to moderate. Potential visual impacts on residences from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be low to moderate due to the alternative creating a co-dominant linear feature in a disturbed landscape with low to moderate contrast and low to moderate scenic quality.

KOP 791 (Figure E.2-9). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 791 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.27 mile from Alternative 8A). The view would cross the Thousand Springs Scenic Highway, representing a foreground to middleground view of the Project. The viewer would have a framed, superior view toward the alternative alignment, which would be partially screened by the adjacent vegetation. Contrast levels would be moderate to high. Visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high for Alternative 8A due to the distance of view and high scenic quality. Siting considerations for scenic highway crossings would include crossing the road at a perpendicular angle. There are no specified mitigation guidelines for the Thousand Springs Scenic Highway. KOP 791 would also represent viewers in the adjacent Billingsley Creek Wildlife Management Area.

KOP 803 (Figure E.2-9). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 803 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.27 mile from Alternative 8A). The Project would not parallel the highly visible existing transmission line and the viewer would have a foreground view of the Project. The viewer would have an expansive but inferior view toward the Proposed Route that would be partially screened by topography. Contrast levels would be moderate for Alternative 8A due to the numerous visible transmission lines in the area adjacent to the view. Visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity would be moderate due to

the distance of the view, numerous human-made alterations in the view, and the moderate to high scenic quality.

KOP 810 (Figure E.2-9/Appendix G, Figure J-4d). High-sensitivity recreational viewers on Black Mesa have an open panoramic view to the north that includes numerous existing transmission lines and the Snake River Canyon, though the river itself is not apparent. Viewing distance to Alternative 8A would be approximately 1.2 miles and thus would result in moderate to high Project visibility. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to the numerous existing transmission lines and overall low to moderate scenic quality. Visual impacts on viewers at this location would be moderate.

KOP 783 (Figure E.2-9). High-sensitivity residential viewers along Black Mesa Road at KOP 783 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.83 mile from Alternative 8A in the middleground). The Project would parallel two existing transmission lines. The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alternative alignment, which would parallel two existing transmission lines, resulting in contrast levels that are anticipated to be low to moderate. Visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be low to moderate for the alternative due to it paralleling the two existing alignments.

KOP 1339 (Figures E.2-9 and E.2-28). High-sensitivity recreational viewers visiting the Three Island Crossing State Park at KOP 1339 would have a low to moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 2.5 miles away looking east toward Alternative 8A, a middleground view). The presence of the existing transmission line in the view toward Alternative 8A would result in co-dominant Project elements. Contrast levels would be low. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be low to moderate due to distance and contrast levels.

Alternative 8B

Table 3.2-39 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 8B.

Table 3.2-39. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 8B

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
1126	RES/COMM	Private	M	L	0.2	M	M-H	M
329	REC	Private	H	L	3.0	L-M	L	L-M
362	REC	Private	H	M	0.2	H	H	H
591	REC	Private	H	M	0.5	H	M	M-H
338	RES	Private	H	L-M	100 ft	H	M	M-H
328	RES/CEM	Private	H	L-M	0.4	H	H	H
1333	RES	Private	H	L-M	1.0	H	H	M-H
1334	RES	Private	H	L	1.0	H	M-H	M-H

1/ REC – A recreational viewer. RES – A single resident. COMM – A commuter traveling on major highways or secondary roads. CEM – A community cemetery usually not identified as historic.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP C88 (Figure E.2-9). As discussed in Section 3.2.1.4, views from this point are the views looking toward Alternative 8C from Walter's Ferry historic site. This viewpoint is further discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 1126 (Figure E.2-9). This KOP is discussed under Segment 8, Proposed Route.

KOP 329 (Figures E.2-9). Viewers from KOP 329 would be high-sensitivity recreationists at Kuna's athletic fields(approximately 3 miles from Alternative 8B). At KOP 329, high-sensitivity viewers would have a low to moderate level of Project visibility due to the numerous human-made alterations in the view. Visual contrast levels would be low due to human-made alterations, which include houses, cell phone towers, and other structures. Impacts on viewers would be low to moderate.

KOP 362 (Figure E.2-9). Viewers from KOP 362 would be high-sensitivity recreational viewers traveling along Highway 45 or stopped at the lookout point (approximately 0.2 mile from Alternative 8B). At KOP 362, the viewers would have a high level of Project visibility because of its proximity to this KOP. Visual contrast levels would be high due to the openness of the area and the lack of human-made alterations within the vicinity. Visual impacts on viewers would be high due to the close proximity from this KOP.

KOP 591 (Figures E.2-9 and E.2-27). Viewers from KOP 591 would be high-sensitivity recreational drivers and residents along the Snake River Canyon Scenic Byway. KOP 591 would be about 0.5 mile from Alternative 8B. At KOP 591, high-sensitivity viewers would have a high level of Project visibility due to the close proximity to the Project. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to the presence of human-made alterations, including houses, transmission poles, and other structures. Visual impacts on viewers would be moderate to high.

KOP 338 (Figure E.2-9). Viewers from KOP 338 would be high-sensitivity residents located along the Owyhee Highway viewing across agricultural land 100 feet from Alternative 8B. At KOP 338, the viewers would have a high level of Project visibility due to open foreground views. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to the presence of human-made alterations within the vicinity of this KOP and the close proximity of the viewer. Visual impacts would be moderate to high due to distance and numerous human-made alterations in the immediate vicinity of the view.

KOP 328 (Figure E.2-9). Viewers from KOP 328 would be high-sensitivity residential viewers visiting Wilson Cemetery (approximately 0.4 mile from Alternative 8B). Due to foreground distances from this particular KOP, lack of screening, and skylining, Alternative 8B would be highly visible from this KOP. Visual contrast levels would be high due to the lack of human-made alterations within the vicinity of this KOP and the close proximity of the viewer. Visual impacts on viewers would be high.

KOP 1333 (Figures E.2-9 and E.2-30). High-sensitivity residential viewers on Kuna Butte at KOP 1333 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 1.0 mile from Alternative 8B in the foreground looking south. The lack of human-made modifications and the possibility of the alignment to skyline the foreground views would result in high contrast levels. Visual impacts on residential viewers would be moderate to high due to distance, contrast levels, and scenic quality.

KOP 1334 (Figures E.2-9 and E.2-31). High-sensitivity residential viewers east of Kuna Butte at KOP 1334 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately

1.0 mile from Alternative 8B in the foreground looking south. The alternative would be partially screened by the human-made modifications, such as the transmission line and sewage disposal ponds located in the southwestern viewing direction, but would skyline the foreground views resulting in moderate to high contrast levels. Visual impacts on residential viewers would be moderate to high due to distance, contrast levels, and scenic quality.

Alternative 8C

Table 3.2-40 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 8C.

Table 3.2-40. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 8C

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
1126	RES/COMM	Private	M	L	0.23	M	M-H	M
336	RES/COMM	BLM VRM III	M	L	1.25	M	L-M	L-M
337	RES/COMM	Private	M	L	0.30	H	M	M

1/ RES – A single resident. COMM – A commuter traveling on major highways or secondary roads.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 1126 (Figure E.2-9). This KOP is discussed under the Segment 8 Proposed Route.

KOP 336 (Figure E.2-9). Moderate-sensitivity residences and commuters traveling on I-84 and stopping at the Sinclair gas station near the Indian Creek Reservoir would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.3 mile from Alternative 8C). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would parallel the existing transmission alignment visible within the view. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. Potential visual impacts on viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to the alternative paralleling an existing linear feature and the landscape being of low scenic quality.

KOP 337 (Figure E.2-9). Moderate-sensitivity residences and commuters traveling on I-84 near the Indian Creek Reservoir would have a moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 1.5 miles from Alternative 8C). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would parallel the existing transmission alignment visible within the view, which is interrupted by numerous retail signs. contrast levels are anticipated to be low to moderate. Potential visual impacts on viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be low to moderate due to the alternative paralleling an existing linear feature and the landscape being of low scenic quality.

Alternative 8D

Table 3.2-41 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 8D.

Table 3.2-41. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 8D

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
331	RES	BLM VRM IV	H	L-M	1.3	M	L-M	L-M

1/ RES – A single resident.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 331 (Figure E.2-9). Viewers from KOP 331 would be high-sensitivity residential viewers traveling south on Pleasant Valley Road (approximately 1.3 miles from Alternative 8D). Due to foreground distances from this particular KOP, lack of screening, and existing disturbance, Alternative 8D would be moderately visible from this KOP. Visual contrast levels would be low to moderate due to the highly visible existing transmission line, which skylines the view and adjacent human-made alterations. Visual impacts on viewers would be low to moderate due to low to moderate scenic quality and contrast.

Alternative 8E

Table 3.2-42 summarizes the potential visual impact for each of the KOPs in Alternative 8E.

Table 3.2-42. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 8E

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
1423	REC	BLM VRM II	H	M-H	2.8	L-M	M	L-M
1425	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M	0.8	M-H	H	M-H
1428	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M	0.5	H	M	M

1/ REC – A recreational viewer.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

The following KOP location was selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 8E of the Project west of the Snake River.

KOP 1423 (Figure E.2-9). Viewers from KOP 1423 would be high-sensitivity recreational viewers at Celebration Park (approximately 2.8 miles from Alternative 8E). Due to middleground distances from this particular KOP, partial screening, and pristine landscape conditions, Alternative 8E would be low to moderately visible from this KOP. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to the lack of adjacent human-made alterations within the vicinity of this KOP and the distance of view. Visual impacts on viewers would be low to moderate due to visibility and contrast.

The following KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 8E of the Project east of the Snake River.

KOP 1425 (Figure E.2-9). Viewers from KOP 1425 would be high-sensitivity recreational viewers at Dedication Point Overlook at the Snake River (approximately 0.8 mile from Alternative 8E). Due to foreground distances from this particular KOP, lack of screening, and pristine landscape conditions, Alternative 8E would be moderately to highly visible from this KOP. Visual contrast levels would be high due to the lack of adjacent human-made alterations within the vicinity of this KOP and distance of the view. Visual impacts on viewers would be moderate to high due to visibility and contrast.

KOP 1428 (Figure E.2-9). Viewers from KOP 1428 would be high-sensitivity recreational viewers on the Western Heritage Historic Byway looking east (approximately 0.5 mile from Alternative 8E). Due to foreground distances from this particular KOP, lack of screening, and existing human-made development, Alternative 8E would be highly visible from this KOP though contrast levels would be moderate due

to these same factors and the distance of the view. Visual impacts on viewers would be moderate due to scenic quality and contrast resulting from the co-dominant nature of the Route Alternative and the existing high-voltage transmission line.

Conformance with BLM VRM Classes and Forest Service VQOs

Proposed Route – The Proposed Route would cross 3.2 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class I lands designated by the Jarbidge RMP between MPs 45.3 and 50.7. All but 0.7 mile of the 3.1 miles is parallel to an existing 138-kV transmission line. This segment of the Proposed Route would not conform to the Jarbidge RMP because the objective of VRM Class I is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. Only natural ecological changes can occur on lands managed as VRM Class I and the level of change to the characteristic landscape must not attract attention. An amendment would be needed, if this route is selected, to reclassify areas impacted by the Project to VRM Class III. See Appendix F-1, Section 3.8 for amendment language and Appendix G-1, Section 5.8 for visual analyses.

Effects discussed in this chapter for KOPs 1350, 563, and 561 would only apply if amendments to the visual resource management requirements for the Jarbidge and SRBOP RMPs were approved to permit the Project. Project effects for additional KOPs are discussed in Appendix G-1.

The Proposed Route would also cross 12.3 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands designated by the Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP and the SRBOP RMP between MPs 30.6 and 44.8 and another between MPs 119.2 and 123.3 partially paralleling an existing 138-kV transmission line. It may be not in conformance with, and thus require an amendment to, the Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP and the SRBOP RMP because new facilities would represent a level of change to the landscape and basic elements that would attract the attention of the casual observer (see KOP 347 and Appendix G-1). Most areas can conform to VRM Class III and IV objectives due to paralleling existing transmission lines.

Effects for KOP 347 are discussed in Appendix G-1 and would only apply if an amendment were approved to permit the Project.

Alternative 8A – Alternative 8A would cross approximately 6.8 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class I lands designated by the Jarbidge RMP in numerous areas between MPs 24.6 and 53.0 partially paralleling an existing 138-kV transmission line. This same area is also designated a WWE corridor. Alternative 8A would not conform with the Jarbidge RMP. Only natural ecological changes can occur on lands managed as VRM Class I and the level of change to the characteristic landscape must not attract attention (see KOP 815). An amendment would be needed to reclassify the VRM Class I areas associated with the Oregon NHT to VRM Class III where the Project crosses. If this route were selected, areas where the Project crosses within the WWE corridor as well as those areas adjacent to existing ROWs would be reclassified to VRM Class III. See Appendix F-1, Section 3.8 for amendment language and Appendix G-1, Section 5.8.4 for visual analyses.

Effects discussed in this section for KOPs 810 and 1339 would be directly related to approval of land us plan amendments because the Project could not cross areas viewed from these KOPs without an amendment to the land use plan's visual resource management classification.

Alternative 8A would also cross over 2.1 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the Monument RMP in four separate areas between MPs 0.3 and 15.3, paralleling an existing ROW, which require that a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and only result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape (see KOP 812). Impact areas along Alternative 8A are anticipated to conform to VRM Class III and IV objectives.

Alternative 8B – Alternative Route 8B would cross over 7.3 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the SRBOP RMP in several separate areas between MPs 0.0 and 27.0, creating a new ROW, which requires a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and only result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape (see KOP 591). Alternative 8B is anticipated to conform to VRM Class III objectives where those lands are crossed by the route.

All effects for KOPs viewing BLM-managed land outside the designated ROW would be dependent upon approval of an amendment to the existing plan or approval of a new plan that does not carry the ROW restriction forward.

Alternative 8C – Alternative 8C would also cross over 2.3 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the Kuna MFP in several separate areas between MPs 0.0 and 6.4, paralleling an existing 138-kV transmission line ROW. VRM Class III management requires that a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and only result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape (see KOP 337). Alternative 8C is anticipated to conform to VRM Class III objectives where those lands are crossed.

Alternative 8D – Alternative Route 8D would cross over 2.5 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the SRBOP RMP in four separate areas between MPs 0.4 and 8.0, paralleling an existing transmission line ROW. VRM Class III management requires that a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and only result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape (see KOP 331). Alternative 8D would conform to VRM Class III objectives where those lands are crossed on the SRBOP.

All effects for KOPs viewing BLM-managed land outside the designated ROW would be dependent upon approval of an amendment to the existing plan or approval of a new plan that does not carry the ROW restriction forward.

Alternative 8E – Alternative 8E would cross 2.4 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands, and 15.6 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands. Approximately 9.8 miles of the route that crosses VRM Class III would parallel an existing transmission line ROW. VRM Class III management requires that a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and only result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape (see KOP 1428). Alternative 8E would conform to VRM Class III objectives where those lands are crossed on the SRBOP. If this route

is selected, an amendment would be needed to change the VRM Class II to VRM Class III where the route crosses the Sinker Butte AOI.

Effects of the Project for additional KOPs are provided in Appendix G-1.

Segment 8 – Conclusion

Proposed Route – The Proposed Route would be located in a generally agricultural area, and would parallel an existing transmission line for most of the alignment with numerous other transmission lines, radio towers, and other vertical elements in its vicinity. The route is sited to cross the north and western portions of the SRBOP in the western portion of the Treasure Valley as well as the Snake River south of Guffey Butte and Celebration Park, which is used by recreational viewers and is where many of the more moderate visual impacts are concentrated. Visual impacts to public, private, and state lands resulting from the construction of the Proposed Route would be mostly low to moderate with areas of moderate visual impact concentrated toward the western end where there are dispersed residences that would be in close proximity and where scenic byways would be crossed close to the Snake River (Western Heritage, Snake River Canyon).

Alternative 8A – The majority of the area crossed by Alternative 8A is used for agricultural production with numerous dispersed residences that would experience higher visual impacts. Alternative 8A would cross Thousand Springs Scenic Byway, which does not have specific visual requirements at this time, but would be considered a scenic roadway with highly sensitive viewers. Many management plans for scenic roadways require a perpendicular crossing for utilities to minimize visual impacts. Alternative 8A would cross the Thousand Springs Scenic Byway at a perpendicular angle to conform to this standard. Alternative 8A would be located directly north of the Billingsley Creek Wildlife Management Area, which is open year-round to recreational viewers; however, there are no current visual management objectives identified by the IDFG. Visual impacts to public, private, and state lands resulting from the construction of Alternative 8A would be mostly low to moderate.

Alternative 8B – Visual impact to public, private, and state lands resulting from the construction and operations of Alternative 8B is anticipated to be mostly moderate to high with some areas of high impact due to the alternative being close to dispersed residential areas and the towns of Kuna and Melba, Idaho, where concentrated residential and visual nonconformance areas occur. Alternative 8B would not conform to the Kuna Comprehensive Land Use Plan where it crosses Kuna Butte and would be visible to the residents of Kuna, Idaho. Kuna Butte is identified in the Kuna Comprehensive Land Use Plan as an important visual attribute (City of Kuna 2009b). The City's Plan identifies the need to protect this land feature from visually intruding obstacles because its presence helps define the community's sense of place.

Alternative 8C – Visual impact to public, private, and state lands resulting from the construction and operations of Alternative 8C is anticipated to be mostly moderate with some areas of lower impact. This is due to the alternative following a WWE corridor and paralleling an existing 500-kV transmission line before crossing I-84 at a more perpendicular angle than the comparison portion of the Proposed Route.

Alternative 8D – Visual impact to public, private, and state lands resulting from the construction and operations of Alternative 8D is anticipated to be mostly low with some areas of moderate impact due to the variation being closer to residences within and north of the SRBOP.

Alternative 8E – Alternative 8E would follow an existing transmission line for much of its route. Higher visual impacts would occur where it crosses VRM Class II lands, west of the Snake River and the Guffey Butte-Black Butte Archaeological District where it would follow the same alignment as Alternative 9D and then the Proposed Route.

Alternatives Comparison

On the eastern end of Segment 8, in the area bounded by route points 8 and 8c.1, there would be two possible connections, the Proposed Route or Alternative 8A (see Figure E.2-9). In this area, the comparison portion of the Proposed Route would have proportionally less of a visual impact than Alternative 8A due largely to lower overall visual impacts and crossing less VRM Class I area. Alternative 8A would be in close proximity to the communities of Hagerman, at the eastern crossing of the Snake River, and Glenns Ferry, at the western crossing of the Snake River in this area. Additionally, Alternative 8A would be located 0.25 mile from the northern boundary of the Hagerman Fossil Beds and the Billingsley Creek Wildlife Management Area. Alternative 8A would need a perpendicular crossing for the Thousand Springs Scenic Highway in the area of KOP 791. Also, micrositing of structures to take advantage of screening offered by the surrounding terrain would be required in the area of KOP 803 under Alternative 8A.

At the western end of Segment 8, there are several Route Alternatives: Alternative 8B, Alternative 8C, Alternative 8D, and Alternative 8E. These alternatives are in the area bounded by route reference points 8j and 11 (see Figure E.2-9). This area is largely open, with undeveloped lands within the SRBOP and adjacent agricultural areas that have a number of dispersed residential units resulting in each alternative being within general proximity of residences. Alternatives 8A and, especially, 8B would have a greater effect on residential viewers than the comparison portion of the Proposed Route or the other alternatives.

Segment 9 – Cedar Hill to Hemingway

Segment 9, as proposed, would link the Cedar Hill and Hemingway Substations with a 161.7 mile single-circuit 500-kV transmission line which skirts the Jarbidge and Owyhee Military Operating Areas to the north, then follows the WWE corridor just north of the Saylor Creek Air Force Range, passing through Owyhee County before entering into the Hemingway Substation. Fifteen acres of the construction of the Cedar Hill Substation and 1 acre for two regeneration sites are attributed to Segment 9. There are eight Route Alternatives proposed, including 9A, which was the Proponents' Proposed Route until moving to avoid the Hollister area; 9B, which is being considered by the BLM because it follows the WWE corridor and parallels existing utility corridors; 9C, which was the Proponents' Proposed Route until moving to avoid the Castleford area; and 9D and 9E, proposed by the Owyhee County Task Force, that cross more public lands north and south of the Proposed Route, respectively, than the Proposed Route. Most of Alternative 9D would be within the SRBOP. Alternatives 9F, 9G, and 9H were proposed by BLM to avoid an area designated for nonmotorized access in the Guffey

Butte/Black Butte Archaeological District. Alternatives 9F, 9G, and 9H were proposed to avoid crossing the nonmotorized area south of C.J. Strike Reservoir. Alternatives 9G and 9H provide an alternate route location south of Alternative 8E (see Appendix A, Figure A-11).

Proposed Route

Table 3.2-43 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Segment 9.

Table 3.2-43. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in the Segment 9 Proposed Route

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
372	RES	Private	H	M	0.6	M-H	M-H	M-H
410	REC	Private	H	M	0.5	L	M	L-M
452	RES	Private	H	M	1.0	M	L-M	H
407	RES	BLM VRM IV	H	M	0.9	M-H	M-H	M-H
1067	REC	BLM VRM II	H	M-H	400 feet	H	H	H
1068	REC/RES	BLM VRM II	H	M-H	0.75	M-H	M-H	M-H
1069	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.30	H	M-H	M-H
387	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M-H	1.00	H	M-H	M
401	REC	Private	H	M-H	4.00	L	M	L-M
599	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.25	M	M	M
602	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.50	M-H	M	L-M
592	REC	BLM VRM IV	M-H	L-M	2.25	L	L	L
566	HIST	Private	H	M	1.00	M	L-M	L-M
1114	REC	BLM VRM IV	H	H	2.50	M-H	H	H
572[1/]	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M-H	0.50	H	M-H	M-H

1/ Viewers at KOP 572 would have views of Alternatives 9D and 9E with less anticipated visual impacts due to the distance of both alternatives and the Proposed Route.
2/ REC – A recreational viewer. RES – A single resident. HIST – A site identified as having historic value.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP C101 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this point are from the historic Hollister School. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP C109 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this point are from the Owyhee County Courthouse. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 372 (Figure E.2-10/ Appendix G, Figure J-2b). Viewers from KOP 372 would be high-sensitivity residential viewers south of the Snake River, Sparlin Island, and the town of Hammett, Idaho. Viewers would be approximately 0.6 mile from where the Proposed Route would cross the ridge top in the middleground. At KOP 372, visibility of the Proposed Route would be moderate to high due to the partial screening effect of the closest rolling ridge top in the middleground of the view and the fact that the Proposed Route would skyline the terrain in the background. Visual contrast levels would be moderate to high due to the lack of apparent human-made alterations in the middleground and background. Impacts on viewers would be moderate to high.

KOP 410 (Figure E.2-10). Viewers from KOP 410 would be high-sensitivity recreational viewers traveling along the BLM access road (approximately 0.5 mile from

where the Proposed Route would cross the ridge top in the middleground). KOP 410 is located over 6 miles from where Alternative 9A rejoins the Proposed Route. At KOP 410, visibility of the Proposed Route would be low due to the screening effect of the closest ridge top in the middleground of the view. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to the human-made alterations in the middleground and background. Impacts on viewers would be low to moderate.

KOP 452 (Figure E.2-10). Viewers from KOP 452 would be high-sensitivity residential viewers on North 3100 East Road (approximately 1.0 mile from where the Proposed Route would cross the foreground blocking views of the rugged terrain). From KOP 452, the Proposed Route would be moderately to highly visible to the viewers. For a comparison, the existing monopole transmission line visible within the view is approximately 2.6 miles from this KOP (1.6 miles farther than the Proposed Route). Existing human-made alterations such as linear structures impact the viewers from KOP 452 and would reduce the contrast of the Proposed Route with the existing landscape to a rating of moderate to high. Impacts on viewers would be moderate to high due to contrast and the close proximity of the viewer.

KOP 407 (Figure E.2-10). Viewers from KOP 407 would be high-sensitivity residential viewers on East 2900 North Road (approximately 0.9 mile from where the Proposed Route would cross the foreground, blocking views of the rugged terrain and skylining views where backdropping terrain is not present). From KOP 407, the Proposed Route would be highly visible to the viewers due to skylining the middleground terrain. Existing human-made alterations would not screen views of the Proposed Route and visual contrast levels are anticipated to be high due to the lack of linear human-made alterations within the foreground and middleground of the view. Impacts on viewers would be high due to the contrast level of skylined views and the distance of the viewer.

KOP 1067 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1067 would be traveling across the Lower Salmon Creek Falls Canyon on Lily Grade Road (approximately 400 feet from where the Proposed Route would span the canyon ridge top in the foreground). At KOP 1067, visibility of the Proposed Route would be high due to the distance of where the alignment would span the canyon. Visual contrast levels would be high due to the few human-made alterations in the foreground and middleground. Impacts on viewers would be high.

KOP 1068 (Figure E.2-10). Moderate and high-sensitivity residential and recreational viewers at KOP 1068 would be traveling on Lily Grade Road (approximately 0.75 mile from where the Proposed Route would span the canyon ridge top and cross the foreground). Lily Grade is the transition between the WSA to the south and the eligible wild and scenic river segment to the north. North of Lily Grade is also an ACEC (see Section 3.17.2). At KOP 1068, visibility of the Proposed Route would be moderate to high due to the distance to the alignment. Visual contrast levels would be moderate to high due to the human-made alterations visible in the foreground, middleground, and background. Impacts on viewers from KOP 1068 and in the surrounding area would be moderate to high due to contrast levels and distance of the Project from the viewer.

KOP 1069 (Figure E.2-10). Viewers from KOP 1069 would be high-sensitivity residential viewers on Balanced Rock Road (approximately 0.3 mile from where the Proposed Route would cross the foreground blocking views of the rugged terrain). From KOP 1069, the Proposed Route would be highly visible to the viewers. Existing human-made alterations would not partially screen views of the Proposed Route but visual contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high due to the human-made alterations within the foreground and middleground. Impacts on viewers would be moderate to high due to contrast and distance of the viewer.

KOP 387 (Figures E.2-10). Viewers from KOP 387 would be hikers traveling along the Centennial Trail approximately (approximately 1.0 mile from where the Proposed Route would cross the trail in the middleground). KOP 387 is located on BLM-administered lands managed to conform to VRM Class III objectives and is approximately 1.5 miles from Alternative 9A. Due to the open landscape with little screening, the proposed transmission facilities would be highly visible from KOP 387. Visual contrast levels would be moderate to high due to the man-made alterations visible in the background. Impacts on viewers would be moderate.

KOP 401 (Figure E.2-10). Viewers from KOP 401 would be high-sensitivity recreational viewers traveling along the Bruneau Dunes Road(4.0 miles from where the Proposed Route would cross the middleground). At KOP 401, high-sensitivity viewers would have a low level of Project visibility due to the screening effects of the dominant sand dunes in the middleground of the view. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to the human-made alterations in the middleground. Impacts on viewers would be low to moderate.

KOP 599 (Figure E.2-10). Viewers from KOP 599 would be high-sensitivity residential viewers living and traveling along Mud Flat Road (approximately 0.25 mile from where the Proposed Route would cross the road in the middleground). At KOP 599, high-sensitivity viewers would have a moderate level of Project visibility due to partial screening of existing human-made alterations and distance from this KOP. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to the human-made alterations in the middleground distance. Impacts on viewers would be moderate.

KOP 602 (Figures E.2-10). Viewers from KOP 602 would be high-sensitivity residential and moderate-sensitivity motorists along Mud Flat Road (approximately 0.5 mile from where the Proposed Route would cross the road and valley in the middleground). From KOP 602, the Proposed Route would be moderately to highly visible to the viewers. Existing human-made alterations would partially screen views of the Proposed Route from this KOP. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to the human-made alterations within the foreground and middleground. Impacts on viewers would be low to moderate.

KOP 592 (Figures E.2-10). Viewers from KOP 592 would be high- and moderate-sensitivity recreational viewers traveling along Highway 78 (Murphy Grandview Road) (2.25 miles from the Proposed Route). At KOP 592, viewers traveling on the highway or at the historic marker would have a low level of Project visibility due to middleground distances and existing vegetation screening. Also these views would be brief due to

travel speeds in excess of 55 mph. Visual contrast levels would be low due to screening and the numerous human-made alterations in the vicinity of this KOP, which include transmission lines, houses, and other structures as well as screening from vegetation. Visual impacts on viewers would be low.

KOP 566 (Figures E.2-10). Viewers from KOP 566 would be high-sensitivity viewers visiting the historic Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church (approximately 1.0 mile south from the Proposed Route). At KOP 566, high-sensitivity viewers would have a moderate level of Project visibility due to distance from this particular KOP, as well as screening provided by adjacent landscape elements. Visual contrast levels would be low to moderate due to the human-made alterations and screening elements in the surrounding area of this KOP, which include a school, transmission lines, and other structures. Visual impacts on viewers would be low to moderate.

KOP 1114 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1114 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.25 mile from the Proposed Route). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and could skyline in the case of the Proposed Route. Contrast levels that are anticipated to be high. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to it creating a new linear feature in an undisturbed landscape with high scenic quality.

KOP 572 (Figure E.2-10). Viewers from KOP 572 are high-sensitivity recreational viewers traveling along the BLM Rabbit Creek Trail (less than 0.5 mile from where the Proposed Route would cross the trail and hills in the foreground and middleground). At KOP 572, high-sensitivity viewers would have a high level of Project visibility, and visual contrast levels would be moderate to high due to the few human-made alterations within the view. The rolling topography in the vicinity may offer opportunities for backdropping, which could absorb the lattice structures and lower contrast levels. Visual impacts on viewers would be moderate to high.

Alternative 9A

Table 3.2-44 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 9A.

Table 3.2-44. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 9A

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (mile)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
454	RES	Private	H	M	0.1	H	L-M	M
414	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.2	H	H	M-H
440	RES	BLM VRM IV	H	L	0.9	M	M-H	M

1/ RES – A single resident.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 454 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 454 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 570 feet from Alternative 9A, representing a foreground view of the Alternative). Views from KOP 454 represent the views of a residence looking south toward Alternative 9A and a highly visible existing

monopole transmission line that skylines the view. The visible transmission line is located approximately 1,500 feet from Alternative 9A. Viewers would have a focal view toward the proposed alternative with few opportunities for screening, resulting in contrast levels that would be low to moderate due to the existing transmission line. Visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate for Alternative 9A due to the distance of the view as well as the presence of visible human-made alterations adjacent to the view, which lower scenic quality.

KOP 414 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 414 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.2 mile from Alternative 9A, representing a foreground view of the alternative). Views from KOP 414 represent the views of a residence on North 3000 Road looking south toward Alternative 9A south of Hub Butte. Viewers would have an expansive and panoramic view toward the alternative with few opportunities for screening, resulting in contrast levels that would be high. Visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high for Alternative 9A due to the distance of the view, as well as the presence of visible human-made alterations adjacent to the view, which lower scenic quality.

KOP 440 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 440 would have a moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 0.9 mile from Alternative 9A, representing a foreground view of the alternative). Views from KOP 440 represent the views of a residence looking north toward Alternative 9A, south of Hub Butte. Viewers would have an expansive and panoramic view toward the Alternative with few opportunities for screening. Contrast levels would be moderate to high. Visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate for Alternative 9A due to the distance of the view, as well as the presence of visible human-made alterations adjacent to the view, which lower scenic quality.

Alternative 9B

Table 3.2-45 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 9B.

Table 3.2-45. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 9B

KOP	Viewers[2/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[3/]	Scenic Quality[3/]	Distance (mile)	Visibility[3/]	Contrast[3/]	Impact[3/]
810	REC	BLM VRM Class I	H	M	0.7	M	M	M
419 [1/]	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.50	H	M-H	M-H
793	RES	Private	H	L	0.10	H	H	H
798	RES	Private	H	L	0.45	H	M	M
801	RES	Private	H	M	0.21	H	H	M-H

1/ Viewers at KOP 419 would have views of Alternative 9C with equal anticipated visual impacts due to a shared corridor between both alternatives.
2/ REC – A recreational viewer. RES – A single resident.
3/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP C106 (Figure E.2-10). Views from this point are the looking toward Alternative 9A as well as 8A from a portion of the Oregon NHT. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 810 (Figure E.2-10/Appendix G, Figure J-4d). High-sensitivity recreational viewers on Black Mesa have an open panoramic view to the south with little human-made development. Viewing distance to Alternative 9B would be approximately 0.7 mile and would be partially screened by the terrain, which would result in moderate Project visibility. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to the partial screening by the terrain and overall moderate scenic quality. Visual impacts on viewers at this location would be moderate.

KOP 419 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 419 represent the views of a residence looking northwest toward the Alternative 9A alignment directly east of the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon, which is not visible from this KOP. Viewers at this location would be approximately 0.5 mile from Alternative 9B, representing a foreground view of the Alternative. High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 419 would have a high level of Project visibility located 0.5 mile from Alternative 9B. The viewers would have a panoramic view toward Alternative 9B with few opportunities for screening and the opportunity to skyline the view. Contrast levels would be moderate to high. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the distance of the view and the low to moderate scenic quality.

KOP 798 (Figure E.2-10). Views from KOP 798 represent the views of a residence looking east toward Alternative 9A directly west of the Snake River and Sinking Canyon. Viewers at this location would be approximately 0.45 mile from Alternative 9B, representing a foreground view of the alternative. High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 798 would have a high level of Project visibility located 0.45 mile from Alternative 9B. The viewers would have a panoramic view toward Alternative 9B with few opportunities for screening but parallel to an existing transmission alignment, resulting in moderate contrast levels. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate for Alternative 9B due to the distance of the view and moderate contrast level.

KOP 801 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 801 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.21 mile from Alternative 9B, representing a foreground view of the alternative). Views from KOP 801 represent the views of a residence looking southwest toward Alternative 9B, east of the Twenty-Mile Butte and directly west of the Snake River Canyon. Viewers would have an expansive and panoramic view toward Alternative 9B with few opportunities for screening, resulting in high contrast levels. Visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high for Alternative 9B due to the distance of the view and high contrast level as well as the presence of visible human-made alterations adjacent to the view, which lower scenic quality.

Alternative 9C

Table 3.2-46 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 9C.

Table 3.2-46. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 9C

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (mile)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
419	RES	Private	H	L-M	0.5	H	M-H	M-H
369	REC	Private	H	M	0.75	L	M	L-M
793	RES	Private	H	L	0.1	H	H	H

1/ REC – A recreational viewer. RES – A single resident.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 369 (Figures E.2-10 and E.2-28). Viewers from KOP 369 are high-sensitivity recreational viewers traveling along Balanced Rock Road or hiking in Balanced Rock County Park (approximately 0.75 mile from where Alternative 9C would span the canyon parallel to an existing transmission line and 1.25 miles from where Alternative 9B would span the same canyon). Views from KOP 369 would be screened by dominant geologic features along the canyon walls in the middleground. Visual contrast levels would be moderate due to the human-made alterations within the immediate vicinity of this KOP and the middleground distance. Impacts on viewers would be low to moderate, due to the line being sited parallel to an existing 138-kV transmission line. This crossing of the Salmon Creek Canyon was sited in conjunction with the existing transmission line and crosses the canyon as far north as possible to avoid sensitive BLM VRM Class II and III lands and lower visual impacts.

KOP 793 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 793 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.1 mile from Alternative 9C). Viewers at this location would have a foreground view of the alternative. The viewer would have an expansive and panoramic view toward Alternative 9C with few opportunities for screening. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. Impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity would be moderate to high for Alternative 9C due to the distance of the view and high contrast level as well as presence of highly visible human-made alterations which lower scenic quality.

Alternative 9D

Table 3.2-47 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 9D.

Table 3.2-47. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 9D

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
1129	REC	State of Idaho	H	H	3.20	L	L-M	M
1128	REC	State of Idaho	H	H	2.50	L-M	M	M-H
1133	REC	BLM VRM I	H	M-H	0.15	H	H	M-H
1156	REC	BLM VRM II	H	M	0.40	M	L-M	M
1154	REC	Private	H	L-M	0.25	L-M	L-M	L-M
1158	REC	State of Idaho	H	M	0.35	M-H	L-M	M
1143	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M-H	2.20	M-H	M-H	M-H
1115	RES	Private	H	H	1.00	H	H	H
1352	RES	Private	L	L-M	1.3	L-M	L	L
572	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M-H	0.50	H	M-H	M-H
1337	REC	State	H	H	2.0	M	M	M

1/ REC – A recreational viewer. RES – A single resident.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 1129 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1129 would have low Project visibility (approximately 3.2 miles from Alternative 9D). The viewer would have a partially to fully screened, low elevation view toward the alignment. Contrast levels anticipated to be low to moderate. Potential visual impacts on viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to the landscape being of high scenic quality, low to moderate contrast levels, and the anticipated screening of the view.

KOP 1128 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1128 would have low to moderate Project visibility (approximately 2.75 miles from Alternative 9D of the Project). The viewer would have a partially screened, low elevation view toward the alignment, resulting in contrast levels anticipated to be moderate. Potential visual impacts on viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the landscape being of high scenic quality and the partial screening of the view.

KOP 1133 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1133 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.15 mile from Alternative 9D). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and has the potential to skyline the view, Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. Potential visual impacts on recreational drivers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the alternative creating a new highly visible linear feature of high contrast in a landscape with moderate to high scenic quality.

KOP 1156 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1156 would have a moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 0.4 mile from Alternative 9D of the Project). The viewer would have a partially screened view toward the alignment, which would parallel an existing alignment. Contrast levels are anticipated to be low to moderate. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to existing disturbance, partial screening, and moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1154 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1154 would have a low to moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 0.25 mile from Alternative 9D). The viewer would have a partially to fully screened view toward the alignment, which would parallel an existing alignment, resulting in contrast levels that are anticipated to be low to moderate. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be low to moderate due to existing disturbance, screening, and low to moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1158 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1158 would have a moderate to high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.35 mile from Alternative 9D). The viewer would have an open, panoramic view toward the alignment, which would parallel an existing alignment, resulting in contrast levels that are anticipated to be low to moderate. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to existing

disturbance and highly visible human-made elements as well as moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1143 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1143 would have a moderate to high level of Project visibility (approximately 2.2 miles from Alternative 9D of the Project). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and could skyline the view, resulting in contrast levels that is anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on recreational users from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the alternative creating a new linear feature in a landscape with minor disturbance and a focal viewing location toward the alignment.

KOP 1115 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1115 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 1.0 mile from Alternative 9D of the Project). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and may skyline the middleground view. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. Potential visual impacts on viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to the alternative creating a new linear feature and skylining a view within a landscape with high scenic quality.

KOP 1352 (Figure E.2-10/Appendix G, Figure BOP-2b). Low-sensitivity agricultural workers and commuters at KOP 1352 would have a low to moderate level of Project visibility (approximately 1.3 miles away from Alternative 9D on the SRBOP). The towers would be partially seen above the skyline, except where they cross in front of Sinker Butte. The presence of existing utility lines, irrigation equipment, stockpiles, and agricultural fields dominate the view, resulting in low contrast levels. Potential visual impacts are expected to be low within this landscape of low to moderate scenic quality.

KOP 572 (Figure E.2-10). Discussed under Segment 9 Proposed Route.

KOP 1337 (Figures E.2-10 and E.2-29). High-sensitivity recreational viewers visiting Swan Falls Dam at KOP 1337 would have a moderate level of Project visibility from approximately 2.0 miles away, looking southeast toward Alternative 9D, which represents a middleground view. The presence of the existing transmission lines and Sinker Butte in the view toward Alternative 9D would result in co-dominant Project elements and partial screening, resulting in contrast levels that would be moderate. Visual impacts on recreational viewers would be moderate due to distance and contrast levels.

Alternative 9E

Table 3.2-48 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in Alternative 9E.

Table 3.2-48. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 9E

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
1137	RES	Private	H	M	1.0	M-H	M-H	M-H
1138	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.5	H	M-H	M-H
1140	REC	BLM VRM III	M	L-M	0.3	H	M	M-H
1141	REC	Private	H	M-H	0.23	H	H	M-H
1152	RES	Private	H	M	1.8	L-M	L-M	M
1149	REC	BLM VRM III	H	H	0.6	H	M-H	H
1148	RES	BLM VRM IV	H	M-H	0.3	H	M-H	M-H
572	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M-H	0.5	H	M-H	M-H

1/ REC – A recreational viewer. RES – A single resident.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP 1137 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1137 would have a moderate to high level of Project visibility (approximately 1.0 mile from Alternative 9E). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alternative alignments, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and could skyline the view. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the alternative creating a new linear feature in a previously disturbed landscape that exhibits moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1138 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1138 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.5 mile from Alternative 9E). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alternative alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and could skyline the view. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the alternative creating a new linear feature with moderate to high contrast in a previously disturbed landscape that exhibits moderate to high scenic quality.

KOP 1140 (Figure E.2-10). Moderate-sensitivity traveling recreational viewers at KOP 1140 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.3 mile from Alternative 9E). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alternative alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and skylines the view. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. Potential visual impacts on traveling recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the alternative creating a new linear feature in a previously disturbed landscape at a close viewing distance.

KOP 1141 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1141 would have a high level of project visibility (approximately 0.23 mile from Alternative 9E). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alternative alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and could skyline the view. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the

alternative creating a new linear feature with high contrast in a previously disturbed landscape which exhibits moderate to high scenic quality.

KOP 1152 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity residential and recreational viewers at KOP 1152 would have a low to moderate level of Project visibility (approximately1.8 miles from Alternative 9E). The viewer would have a partially screened view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but could be backdropped by the surrounding terrain Contrast levels are anticipated to be low to moderate. Potential visual impacts on residences from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to it creating a new partially screened linear feature in a landscape with existing disturbance and moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1149 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1149 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.66 mile from Alternative 9E). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but could be backdropped by the surrounding terrain, resulting in contrast levels that are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on residences from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to the alternative creating a new highly visible linear feature in a landscape with minor disturbance and high scenic quality.

KOP 1148 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1148 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.3 mile from Alternative 9E). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and could skyline the view. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on residences from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the Alternative creating a new highly visible linear feature in a landscape with minor disturbance and moderate to high scenic quality.

KOP 572 (Figure E.2-10). Discussed under Segment 9 Proposed Route.

Alternative 9F

Table 3.2-49 summarizes the potential visual impact for each of the KOPs in Alternative 9F.

Table 3.2-49. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 9F

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
1417	RES	Private	H	M	1.0	M-H	M-H	M-H
1413	RES	Private	H	M-H	0.5	M-H	M	M

1/ RES – A single resident.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

The following two KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 9F. Alternative 9F would follow the same alignment as 9D after KOP 1154. Refer to Alternative 9D above for discussions regarding KOPs for Alternative 9F north of C.J. Strike Reservoir.

KOP 1417 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1417 would have a moderate to high level of Project visibility (approximately 1.0 mile from Alternative 9F). The viewer would have an expansive view toward the alternative alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and could skyline the view. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the alternative creating a new linear feature in a previously disturbed landscape that exhibits moderate scenic quality.

KOP 1413 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1413 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.5 mile from Alternative 9F). The viewer would have a partially screened view toward the alternative alignments, which would parallel an existing transmission alignment but could skyline the view. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate. Potential visual impacts on residential viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be moderate due to the alternative adding industrial clutter to a previously disturbed landscape that exhibits moderate to high scenic quality.

Alternative 9G

Table 3.2-50 summarizes the potential visual impact for each of the KOPs in Alternative 9G.

Table 3.2-50. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in Alternative 9G

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility[2/]	Contrast[2/]	Impact[2/]
1419	REC	BLM VRM III	H	M-H	<0.1	H	H	H
1420	RES	Private	H	M	0.9	M-H	M-H	M-H

1/ REC – A recreational viewer. RES – A single resident.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

The following two KOP locations were selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 9G. Alternative 9G would share the same alignment as 9D until approximately 4 miles south of Sinker Butte.

KOP 1419 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity recreational viewers at KOP 1419 would have a high level of Project visibility (approximately 400 feet from Alternative 9G). The viewer would have an expansive, open view toward the alternative alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features and could skyline the view. Contrast levels are anticipated to be high. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general vicinity are expected to be high due to the alternative creating a new linear feature in a previously undisturbed landscape that exhibits moderate to high scenic quality.

KOP 1420 (Figure E.2-10). High-sensitivity residential viewers at KOP 1420 would have a moderate to high level of Project visibility (approximately 0.9 mile from Alternative 9G). The viewer would have an expansive, open view toward the alternative alignment, which would not parallel any existing alignments or linear features but would be partially backdropped by terrain. Contrast levels are anticipated to be moderate to high. Potential visual impacts on recreational viewers from this KOP and in the general

vicinity are expected to be moderate to high due to the alternative creating a new linear feature in a disturbed landscape that exhibits moderate scenic quality.

Alternative 9H

Alternative 9H would cross approximately 11.7 miles of BLM-administered land with VRM Class II objectives. The eastern portion of the route shares the same alignment as Alternative 9F (see associated KOPs for Alternative 9F), while the eastern portion shares the same alignment as 9G. The previous KOP locations (KOP 1419 and 1420) selected to represent the most sensitive or most typical views for Alternative 9H are the same as Alternative 9G.

Conformance with BLM VRM Classes and Forest Service VQOs

Generally, the construction and operations of the Segment 9 Proposed Route or Route Alternatives would conform with BLM VRM Class III and IV objectives. In some cases the transmission facility may not conform with an RMP's VRM Class II objectives where there is no paralleling existing transmission facility or VRM Class III objectives where the level of change is considered high.

Proposed Route – The Proposed Route would cross over 0.1 mile of BLM-administered VRM Class I lands designated by the Twin Falls MFP between MPs 32.4 and 32.5, which would not conform with the Twin Falls MFP as the objective of VRM Class I is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. Only natural ecological changes can occur on lands managed as VRM Class I and the level of change to the characteristic landscape must not attract attention (see KOP 572). This area is also a crossing of Salmon Falls Creek where it is an eligible Wild and Scenic River segment. This designation does not permit a crossing and thus the Project would not be allowed and an amendment could not be considered unless the river segment were determined to be unsuitable for Wild and Scenic River designation. See Appendices F-1 and G-1 for further discussion.

The Proposed Route would also cross 5.5 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands designated by the Bruneau MFP, Twin Falls MFP, and Jarbidge RMP in three separate areas between MPs 32.5 and 37.3, MPs 81.8 and 83.4, and MPs 130.9 and 131.0 partially paralleling an existing 138-kV transmission line. The route may be inconsistent with the associated MFPs and RMP because new facilities would represent a level of change to the landscape and basic elements that would attract the attention of the casual observer (see KOPs 419 and 369). Amendments would be needed to reclassify areas that do not meet VRM II objectives to VRM Class III within the respective plans if this route is selected. See Appendix F-1 for proposed amendment language and Appendix G-1 for visual analyses.

Effects discussed in this chapter for KOPs 410 and 372 would be dependent upon LUP amendments to visual requirements. Effects to KOPs 1067 and 1068 would only occur with the current alignment if the Salmon Falls Creek segment that would be crossed by the Proposed route were determined to be unsuitable for WSR designation.

The Proposed Route would cross approximately 1.0 mile of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the SRBOP RMP in two separate areas between MPs

150.9 and 152.1 in the vicinity of KOP 572, where the level of change is anticipated to be moderate to high.

Alternative 9A – Alternative 9A would cross 5.5 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class IV land designated by the Jarbidge RMP. Alternative 9A is anticipated to conform with VRM Class IV objectives (see KOP 440).

Alternative 9B – Alternative 9B would cross over 1.6 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class I lands designated by the Jarbidge RMP between MPs 36.8 and 38.4 partially paralleling an existing 138-kV transmission line. It would not conform with the Jarbidge RMP because the objective of VRM Class I is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. Only natural ecological changes can occur on lands managed as VRM Class I and the level of change to the characteristic landscape must not attract attention (see KOPs 801 and 810). If this route were selected, amendments would be needed to change the VRM Class to VRM Class III where it would no longer conform with VRM Class II objectives. See Appendix F-1 for proposed amendment language and Appendix G-1 for visual analyses. Alternative 9B would also cross BLM-administered VRM Class IV lands designated by the Jarbidge RMP in numerous separate areas between MPs 0.0 and 53.2, paralleling an existing ROW, which allows for change in the landscape setting (see KOP 798). Impact areas along Alternative 9B are anticipated to conform to VRM Class IV objectives.

Effects discussed in this chapter for KOP 810 would be dependent upon land use plan amendments to visual requirements.

Alternative 9C – Alternative 9C would cross over 0.1 mile of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands designated by the Jarbidge RMP between MPs 9.9 and 10.0. This crossing would be at the very northern edge of the VRM Class II lands, just south of the property line of a CAFO. East of the Salmon Falls Creek Crossing, this route would partially parallel an existing transmission line. This alignment would concentrate the disturbance near existing development along the property line with the CAFO (see KOPs 419 and 369).

Alternative 9D – Alternative 9D would cross over 11.5 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands designated by the Jarbidge RMP and SRBOP RMP in four separate areas between MPs 5.9 and 6.6, MPs 9.1 and 15.8, MPs 17.0 and 17.4, and MPs 53.2 and 56.9, partially paralleling an existing transmission line. It may be inconsistent with the Jarbidge and SRBOP RMPs because the new facilities would represent a level of change to the landscape and basic elements that would attract the attention of the casual observer unless close enough to the existing transmission line to lower contrast levels (see KOPs 1156 and 1158). It is anticipated that Alternative 9D represents a level of change to the basic elements of the landscape that would attract the attention of the casual observer, thus making the transmission facility inconsistent with the RMP's VRM Class II objectives. Amendments would be needed to the both RMPs, if this route is selected, changing the VRM classification to VRM Class III. See Appendices F-1 and G-1 for proposed amendment language and visual analyses.

Effects discussed in this chapter for KOPs 1156, 1154, and 575 would be dependent upon, in part, the approval of amendments to the Jarbidge and SRBOP RMPs. Additional KOP effects are discussed in Appendix G-1.

Alternative 9D would also cross over 36.1 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the SRBOP RMP in numerous separate areas between MPs 47.0 and 53.2 and MPs 56.9 and 58.1 (see KOP 1115).

Alternative 9E – Alternative 9E would cross over 24.5 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the Bruneau MFP, and a small amount in the Jarbidge and SRBOP RMP-managed areas in numerous separate areas between MPs 0.0 and 68.5, not paralleling an existing transmission line ROW. VRM Class III objectives require that a project partially retain the existing character of the landscape and only result in moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape (see KOPs 1138 and 1141).

Alternative 9F – Alternative 9F would cross over 5.2 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands designated by the SRBOP RMP, and 35.3 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class III lands designated by the SRBOP RMP and a small amount in the Bruneau MFP-managed area. It is anticipated that the Project would not conform with VRM Class II objectives, and amendments for these areas would be needed.

Effects discussed in this chapter for KOPs 1156, 1154, and 575 would be dependent upon, in part, the approval of amendments to the Jarbidge and SRBOP RMPs. Additional KOP effects are discussed in Appendix G-1.

Alternative 9G – Alternative 9G would cross 17.9 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands and 27.6 miles of VRM Class III lands designated by the SRBOP and a small portion designated under both the SRBOP RMP and the Jarbidge RMP. It is anticipated that the Project would not conform with the VRM Class III objectives and that amendments to cross these areas would be needed.

Effects discussed in this chapter for KOPs 1156, 1154, 575, 1352, and 1419 would be dependent upon, in part, the approval of amendments to the Jarbidge and SRBOP RMPs. Additional KOP effects are discussed in Appendix G-1.

Alternative 9H – Alternative 9H would cross 11.7 miles of BLM-administered VRM Class II lands and 26.8 miles of VRM Class III lands managed under the SRBOP RMP and a small portion managed by the Bruneau MFP. It is anticipated that the Project would not conform with the VRM Class II objectives and that an amendment would be needed to cross these areas.

Effects discussed in this chapter for KOPs 575, 1352, and 1419 would be dependent upon, in part, the approval of amendments to the Jarbidge and SRBOP RMPs. Additional KOP effects are discussed in Appendix G-1.

Segment 9 – Conclusion

Proposed Route – Impacts to public, private, and state lands would be moderate to high overall due to the barren landscapes with evenly distributed viewers. There would be several areas of high visual impacts where dispersed residential, recreation, and

historic areas are located adjacent to the Project and where the Proposed Route would cross the Owyhee Uplands Backcountry Byway and Salmon Creek Falls ACEC.

Alternative 9A – Visual impacts to public and private lands resulting from the construction of Alternative 9A would be mostly moderate with areas of moderate to high impacts associated with residences.

Alternative 9B – The majority of the area that would be crossed by Alternative 9B is open undeveloped land with dispersed agricultural production lands. There are numerous dispersed residences that would experience higher visual impacts and some remote areas, which would have little visual disturbance. The highest concentrations of residences are located east of Salmon Falls Creek.

Alternative 9C – The majority of the area that would be crossed by Alternative 9C is used for agricultural production. There are numerous dispersed residences that would experience higher visual impacts.

Alternative 9D – The majority of the area that would be crossed by Alternative 9D is used for recreation, especially the portion that crosses the SRBOP. Near the eastern origination point, the route crosses more land in agricultural production and near numerous dispersed residences that would experience higher visual impacts. The route would also cross remote areas, which would have little visual disturbance.

Alternative 9E – Visual impacts to public, private, and state lands resulting from the construction of Alternative 9E would be mostly moderate to high with an area of high impact associated with the crossing of the Owyhee Uplands Backcountry Byway. The majority of the area that would be crossed by Alternative 9E is the open undeveloped foothills of the Chalk and Toy Mountains, which would experience little visual disturbance compared to some dispersed residences and the scenic byway that would experience higher visual impacts due to the crossing of the byway.

Alternative 9F – Alternative 9F would follow the same alignment as 9D except for the eastern 21 miles of the alternative, the majority of which follows the Proposed route before crossing north to follow the 9D alignment west of C.J. Strike Reservoir. The route would follow the same alignment as 9D through the SRBOP management area.

Alternative 9G – Alternative 9G would follow the 9D alignment until 4 miles south of the Sinker Butte Snake River crossing. The alternative route south of 9D would cross extensive VRM Class II lands adjacent to the California-Oregon NHT.

Alternative 9H – Alternative 9H would follow the 9F alignment until 4 miles south of the Sinker Butte Snake River crossing and then follows the 9G alignment. This route would cross through VRM Class II land in the C.J. Strike SRMA as well as the SRBOP.

Alternatives Comparison

The comparison of the Segment 9 Proposed Route to Alternatives 9A, 9B, and 9C is in the area east of Saylor Creek Air Force Range and both west and south of the Snake River. In this area, most potential viewers would be concentrated on the eastern side of Lower Salmon Falls Creek. The comparison portion of the Proposed Route is anticipated to represent lower visual impacts than Alternative 9A due in large part to the proximity of the alternative to a number of visually sensitive residences. The

comparison portion of the Proposed Route would have lower visual impacts than Alternative 9B due to the close proximity to viewers, historic trail resources, and VRM Class I lands. The comparison portion of the Proposed Route would have lower visual impacts than Alternative 9C as well, due to that alternative's impacts to sensitive viewers adjacent to and within Balanced Rock County Park.

Alternatives 9D through 9H are located west of Saylor Creek Air Force Range and generally represent higher visual impacts than the comparison portion of the Proposed Route. Alternatives 9D, 9F, 9G, and 9H, which travel north of the Snake River, would parallel an existing 138-kV line, cross VRM Class II lands, and travel closer to the town of Burley, which has a higher concentration of surrounding sensitive viewers and resources. Alternatives 9G and 9H would follow the same alignment through the SRBOP and parallel historic trails for the majority of the western portion of the route. The comparison portion of the Proposed Route would cross more land managed for VRM Class II objectives (5.4 miles) than Alternative 9E (1.9 miles) but would have lower overall visual impacts.

Segment 10 – Midpoint to Cedar Hill

Segment 10, as proposed, would link the Cedar Hill and Midpoint Substations with a 33.6-mile single-circuit 500-kV line, following a WWE corridor for most of its distance. Twenty-eight acres of the expansion of the Midpoint Substation and of the construction of the Cedar Hill Substation are attributed to Segment 10. There are no Route Alternatives proposed along this segment (see Appendix A, Figure A-12).

Proposed Route

Table 3.2-51 summarizes the potential visual impact for each KOP in the Segment 10 Proposed Route.

Table 3.2-51. Visual Impact Assessment for Each KOP in the Segment 10 Proposed Route

KOP	Viewers[1/]	Land Ownership	Viewer Rating[2/]	Scenic Quality[2/]	Distance (miles)	Visibility	Contrast	Impact
162	RES	Private	H	L	1.0>	M	L-M	M
193	REC	BLM VRM II	H	L-M	3	L	L	L

1/ REC – A recreational viewer. RES – A single resident.
2/ H – High, M – Medium, L – Low

KOP C99 (Figure E.2-11). Views from this point are looking toward the Segment 10 Proposed Route from the Minidoka National Historic Site. This viewpoint is discussed in Section 3.3 – Cultural Resources.

KOP 162 (Figure E.2-11). This KOP represents the view of high-sensitivity residential viewers on west side of U.S. 93 southwest of the Midpoint Substation. The Proposed Route would be located to the northeast and east approximately 1 mile or greater away resulting in a moderate Project visibility. Views are open and panoramic with multiple existing transmission lines to the northwest and northeast as well as an existing substation. Overall visual contrast would be low to moderate with moderate visual impacts on viewers.

KOP 193 (Figure E.2-11). Visibility for high-sensitivity viewers at this scenic overlook of the Snake River Canyon and the Hanson Bridge would be low due to the 3-mile viewing distance. The Proposed Route would be just over 3 miles to the east, paralleling an existing electrical transmission line. Views are open and panoramic with the Project paralleling an existing transmission line that results in a low Project contrast. Given the view distance and low contrast level, visual impacts would be low. KOP 193 is anticipated to conform with VRM Class II objectives due to the fact that the route parallels an existing transmission line and, due to distance, the Project would not draw the attention of a casual observer.

Conformance with BLM VRM Classes and Forest Service VQOs

Proposed Route – The Proposed Route would cross BLM-administered VRM Class IV land and is anticipated to conform to VRM Class IV objectives (see KOP 162).

Segment 10 – Conclusion

Impacts on public, private, and state lands from the construction of the Segment 10 Proposed Route would be moderate due to the close proximity of residential areas west and southwest of Eden, Idaho and west of Hunt and Minidoka, Idaho. There would be a few areas of moderate to high visual impact south of the Snake River and north of Eden close to the Midpoint Substation. These moderate to high instances of visual resource impacts includes approximately 25 residential viewers (houses) less than 0.5 mile from the route, of which 3 are located in close proximity to the proposed centerline of the alignment, and the Minidoka National Historic Site, which is located approximately 1.0 mile from Segment 10.

3.2.2.4 Design Variation

A Design Variation is being considered that would consist of constructing two single-circuit lines in Segments 2 through 4 instead of a single double-circuit line (which is the design assessed above). The disturbance footprint of the two single-circuit towers is greater than that of the double-circuit tower, in part because the requested ROW would be wider, but also because helicopter-assisted construction could be implemented in these areas due to the lighter weight of the towers, which would require additional fly yards. The additional ROW space and the fly yards would cause additional temporary disturbance during construction. Across Segments 2, 3, and 4, the additional disturbance of the single-circuit tower alternative ranges from 25 to 30 percent greater than the comparable portions of the double-circuit tower disturbance under the proposed design. The two single circuits require more ground disturbance, but would be designed and constructed to the same standards as the Proposed Action.

The primary potential benefit of this Design Variation would be reduced structure height (average height of 156 feet vs. 170 feet). Other benefits would include reduced structure contrast in areas that the proposed segments would parallel existing structures of a similar type. Conversely, this Design Variation would introduce more towers in the landscape than the double-circuit option.

The anticipated visual impacts and conformance with RMP planning objectives are largely similar between the Proposed Action double-circuit 500-kV configuration and the two single-circuit Design Variation. In many cases, the number of existing lines reaches three; two additional lines would begin to present a “forest” of transmission towers, adding a high level of modification to the landscape. Table 3.2-52 compares the proposed double-circuit to the two single-circuit Design Variations. Simulations from KOPs 822, C40, and C53 (Figures 3.2-6, 3.2-7, and 3.2-8) have been prepared to illustrate the visible differences for comparison of each design variation. The simulations demonstrate that visual impacts would not be significantly lowered by constructing the two single-circuit towers and in some cases may increase visual impacts.

Table 3.2-52. Comparison of Proposed Action and Design Variation

Segment/KOP	Scenic Quality	Proposed Action Visual Impact	Design Variation Visual Impact
Segment 2 and Alternatives 2A/2B			
94	L-M	M	M
4 (Alt. 2B)	M	M-H	M-H
4 (Alt. 2A)	M	M	M
5 (Alt. 2A)	L-M	M	M
5 (Alt. 2B)	L-M	L-M	L-M
9 (Alt. 2A)	L-M	M	M
9 (Alt. 2B)	L-M	L-M	L-M
836 (east)	M	M-H	M-H
836 (west)	M	M	L-M
824	M	M-H	M-H
824(Alt 2B)	M	L-M	L-M
829	L-M	M-H	M-H
838	M	L-M	M
838 (Alt. 2A)	M	M	M-H
822	H	M-H	H
Segment 3			
16	L	L-M	L-M
Segment 4			
1346	M-H	M-H	M-H
23	M	L-M	L
25	M	L-M	L-M
26	M	M-H	M-H
1315	M-H	L-M	L-M
1295	M	M-H	H
1288	M	M-H	H
1292	M	M-H	H
1363	M-H	M-H	H
1326	M-H	H	H
1319	M	L-M	L
1359	M-H	M-H	M-H
1322	H	M	M-H
635	M-H	H	H
691	M	H	M-H

Table 3.2-52. Comparison of Proposed Action and Design Variation (continued)

Segment/KOP	Scenic Quality	Proposed Action Visual Impact	Design Variation Visual Impact
697	M	M	M
705	L-M	L-M	L
746	M	M	L
757	M-H	L-M	L-M
758	M-H	M	M
770	M	M-H	M-H
775	L-M	M	M
778	M	M-H	M
Alternative 4A			
604	L	L	L
647	M	L-M	L-M
627	M	M	M
686	L-M	M	M-H
Alternative 4B			
652	M-H	M-H	M-H
603	L	M	M
655	M	M	M
676	M	M	M
673	M	L-M	L
Alternative 4C			
603	L	M	M
655	M	M	M
676	M	M	M
632	L-M	L-M	M
1368	M-H	H	H
674	L-M	M-H	H
672	L-M	L-M	M
Alternative 4D			
603	L	M	M
673	M	L-M	L
Alternative 4E			
603	L	L-M	M
632	L-M	L-M	M
674	L-M	M-H	H
672	L-M	L-M	M
Alternative 4F			
636	M-H	H	H
604	L	L	L
621	M	L	L
637	H	M-H	M-H
647	M	L-M	L-M
635	M-H	M-H	H

Photo simulation double-circuit single tower

Photo simulation single-circuit double towers

Figure 3.2-6. Photo Simulation Comparing Design Variation Structures from KOP 822

Photo simulation double-circuit single tower

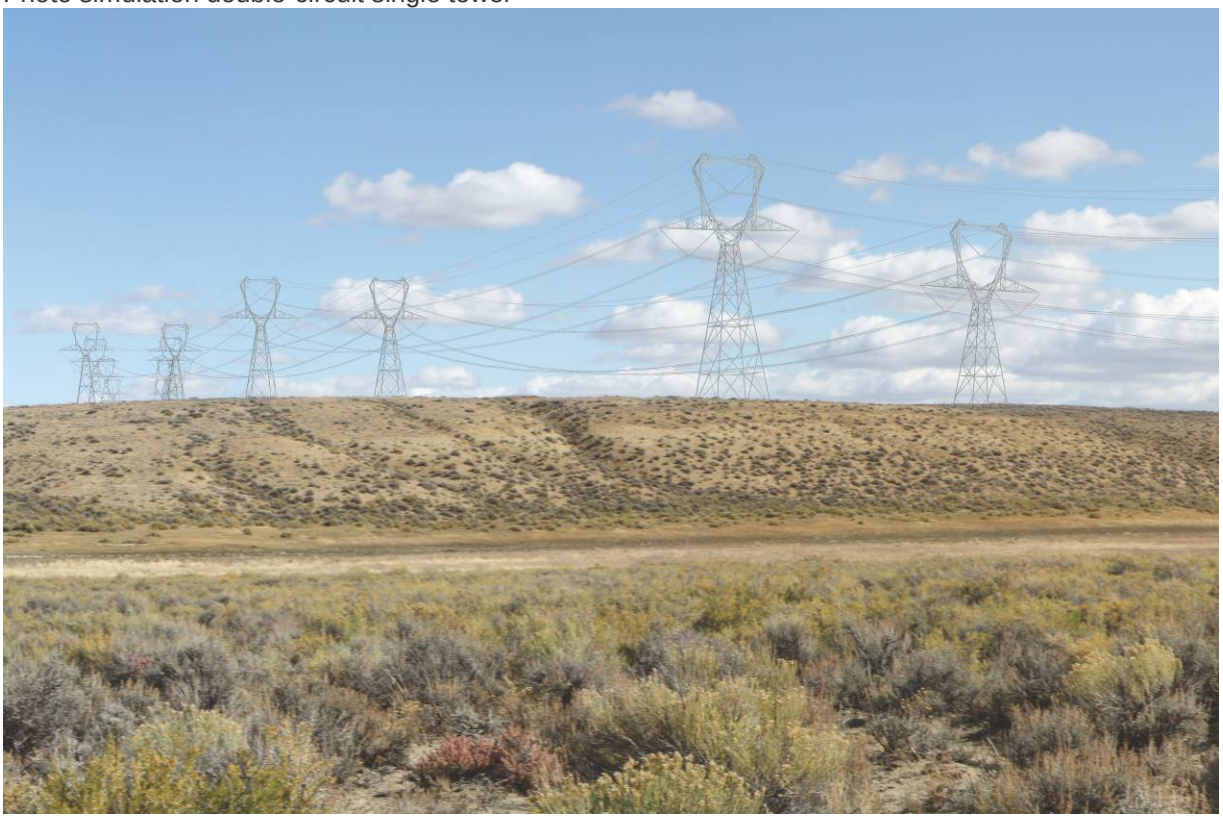


Photo simulation single-circuit double towers

Figure 3.2-7. Photo Simulation Comparing Design Variation Structures from KOP C40

Photo simulation double-circuit single tower

Photo simulation single-circuit double towers

Figure 3.2-8. Photo Simulation Comparing Design Variation Structures from KOP C53

Conclusion

Overall, the Design Variation would offer similar impacts to those from the single structure double-circuit Proposed Action. In some instances, this variation offers incremental benefits over the single double-circuit line and in a couple of other circumstances potentially increases impacts.

3.2.2.5 Structure Variation

The proposed guyed structure variation would add four guy wires about 140 feet long from a point about 100 feet up in each tower to four guy anchors spaced in a square around the tower (Appendix B, Figure B-6). There would be no appreciable difference in impact on visual resources from the use of this Structure Variation when compared to the use of self-supporting lattice towers, as the guyed towers would be around the same height and breadth at the top of the structure as the proposed self-supporting lattice towers.

3.2.2.6 Schedule Variation

The Schedule Variation uses the two single-circuit structure variation described above but extends construction over a longer timeframe. Initially only one of the eventual two single circuit lines would be constructed with the second to be constructed at a later date which increases the amount of time construction equipment and workers are present and would affect the schedule for reclamation and mitigation in those particular areas. The Schedule Variation proposes that the first single-circuit transmission line in Segments 2, 3, and 4 would be built as soon as a ROW grant is issued, but that the second line would not begin construction until late 2018. This would mean nearly 2 years between the end of construction for the first line and beginning of construction for the second line. Any staging areas and fly yards that had been used for the first stage would have been revegetated after construction was complete and would have to be cleared again. There would be two sets of temporary visual impacts resulting from construction disturbances adding movement, noise, and dust to the area of construction in two instances in any given area.

With construction of the first single-circuit 500-kV transmission line, the overall impacts on visual resources would be less than the Proposed Action due to the use of smaller towers. However, in the future any short-term reduction in visual impacts would be lost with construction of the second single-circuit transmission line.

Conclusion

For visual resources the Schedule Variation would have similar operations impacts as the Design Variation. Overall visual impacts would be greater with the Schedule Variation due to the increase in offset construction activities when compared to constructing the Design Variation (two single circuits at the same time). This would only delay the temporary direct impacts, creating two visual impact occurrences as compared to one for the Design Variation.

3.2.3 Mitigation Measures

To minimize or avoid impacts on visual resources, the Proponents have committed to EPMs that would be implemented Project-wide as outlined in this section and in Appendix C.

The following mitigation measures identified by the Agencies are required on federally managed lands. The Agencies recommend that the Proponents incorporate those measures that are not specific to a particular area into their EPMs and apply them Project-wide as appropriate.

VIS-1 No paint or permanent discoloring agents would be applied to rocks or vegetation to indicate limits of survey or construction activity.

VIS-2 To minimize ground disturbance and/or reduce scarring (visual contrast) of the landscape, the alignment of any new access roads or cross-country routes will follow the landform contours in designated areas where practicable, providing that such alignment does not impact resource values additionally.

VIS-3 To minimize sensitive feature disturbance and/or visual contrast, in designated areas structures will be placed so as to avoid sensitive features such as, but not limited to, riparian areas, water courses and cultural sites and/or to allow conductors to clearly span the features, within the limits of standard tower design.

VIS-4 To reduce visual impacts on federal land, including potential impacts on recreation values and safety, towers are to be placed at the maximum feasible distance from the highway, canyon and trail crossings within limits of standard design and to the extent practical.

VIS-5 Crossings of rivers shall be at approximately right angles where practical. Strategic placement of structures shall be done both as a means to screen views of the transmission line and rights-of-way and to minimize the need for vegetative clearing.

VIS-6 All insulators shall be made of materials that have reduced potential to reflect and refract light. Glass insulators shall be avoided when there is an alternative insulator type available with lower refractive characteristics

VIS-7 For segments of the line 1) within the 0- to 0.5-mile zone of Interstate highways where existing lines of the same voltage are paralleled and 2) within the 0- to 0.5-mile zone of residences where existing lines of the same voltage are paralleled, locate new towers to be adjacent to existing towers, within the limits of standard transmission line design and considering the ruling span length of adjacent proposed and existing lines.

VIS-8 Site-specific "micrositing" will be required near certain sensitive areas, as identified by the agencies, where proposed transmission facilities would be present and could impact visual quality; these situations include:

- Crossings over major highways
- Crossings of high quality historic trails
- Crossings over the North Platte Snake Rivers
- Crossing the Albion Mountains in the Sawtooth NF
- Sensitive travelways, use areas, residential areas, recreational facilities as identified by the agencies (including national recreation and scenic trails, campgrounds, recreation areas, and trailheads), and other areas identified by management plans
- Along Forest Service roads in forested areas

VIS-9 In specific areas identified by the applicable federal land manager (such as VRM Class II, erosive soils, steep slopes, areas near NHT Trails) the access road used for construction will be restored and an alternative access route for operations will be designated.

VIS-10 In areas in proximity to existing residential developments with an urban or suburban character, such as in the Kuna area, steel pole H frames or tubular steel poles may be specified to provide tower structures that are visually more appealing. Lattice steel towers will need to be specified at turning tower locations and at long spans because tubular steel poles do not have the strength to withstand the forces exerted by the conductors at these locations.

VIS-11 The lighting specified for the marshaling yards shall be the minimum required to meet safety and security standards. All light fixtures within 1,000 feet of a residence shall be hooded to eliminate any potential for glare and to prevent light from spilling off the site or up into the sky. Additionally, the fixtures shall have sensors and switches to permit the lighting to be turned off at times when it is not required.

VIS-12 Where the route would be visible on timbered slopes, limit tree removal to areas required for safety rather than from the entire ROW in order to prevent a linear feature on the landscape from clear-cutting trees. Vegetation removal requirements will consider Appendix A, "Standards and Practices for Electric System Reliability."

VIS-13 To reduce visual contrast in areas where overstory vegetation is removed for access, tower pads, or conductor clearance, specific sections of the clearing edges on federal land will be feathered to give a natural appearance, where not in conflict with regulatory requirements (e.g., NERC, WECC, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements).

VIS-14 Crossing federal land along a transmission corridor shall require the preparation of a vegetation management plan for the utility corridor to minimize scenic impacts and plan for rehabilitation of existing impacts. This plan will be approved by the land-management agency prior to vegetation clearing.

VIS-15 To mitigate potential visual impacts on federal land, the construction and maintenance plan to be developed by the Proponents shall include measures to reduce ROW scarring and enhance restoration. The plan will be approved by the land management agency prior to ground clearing and construction.

VIS-16 Realignment of a portion of Alternative 1E-B, adjacent to the Rock Creek and Fort Fetterman Road (KOP 993), to follow the rugged terrain and foothills of Smith Mountain should be evaluated to determine absorption effectiveness.

VIS-17 Single-circuit H-frame structures shall be used to reduce visual impact to Fort Fred Steele between MP 38.0 to MP 43.0 for Alternative 2B and MP 18.0 to MP 24.0 for Alternative 2A to match the existing structures.

VIS-18 If Alternative 7I were to be constructed, H-frame single-circuit structures would be required in the Nevada portion of the alternative as requested by the Wells FO.

VIS-19 If any of Alternatives 7H, 7I, or 7J were to be constructed, H-frame single-circuit structures would be required in the Sawtooth NF.