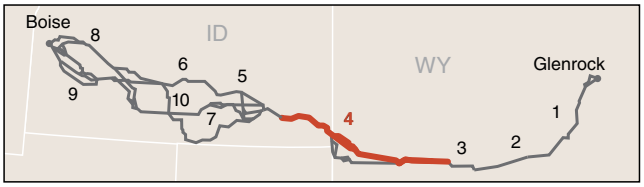
Gateway West Transmission Line Project

BLM

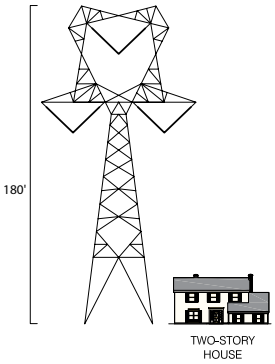
Segment 4 - ID
Agency preferred alternative

Proposed route 4

Proposed route 4, identified as the new proposed route and revised by the proponents in February 2012, now includes former alternative 4A. The route extends from the Anticline to Populus (near Downey, ID) substations and crosses Sweetwater and Lincoln counties in southwest Wyoming and Bear Lake, Franklin, and Bannock counties in southeast Idaho.



Proposed tower design



Type: 500 kV single circuit steel lattice tower structures

Height: 145 to 180 feet

Minimum ground clearance: 35 feet

Average span: 1,200 – 1,300 feet

Right-of-way: 250 feet

Note: The exact quantity, distance, and placement of structures will depend on the final detailed design, which is influenced by terrain, land use, environmental constraints, and economics.

Why is this the agency preferred alternative?

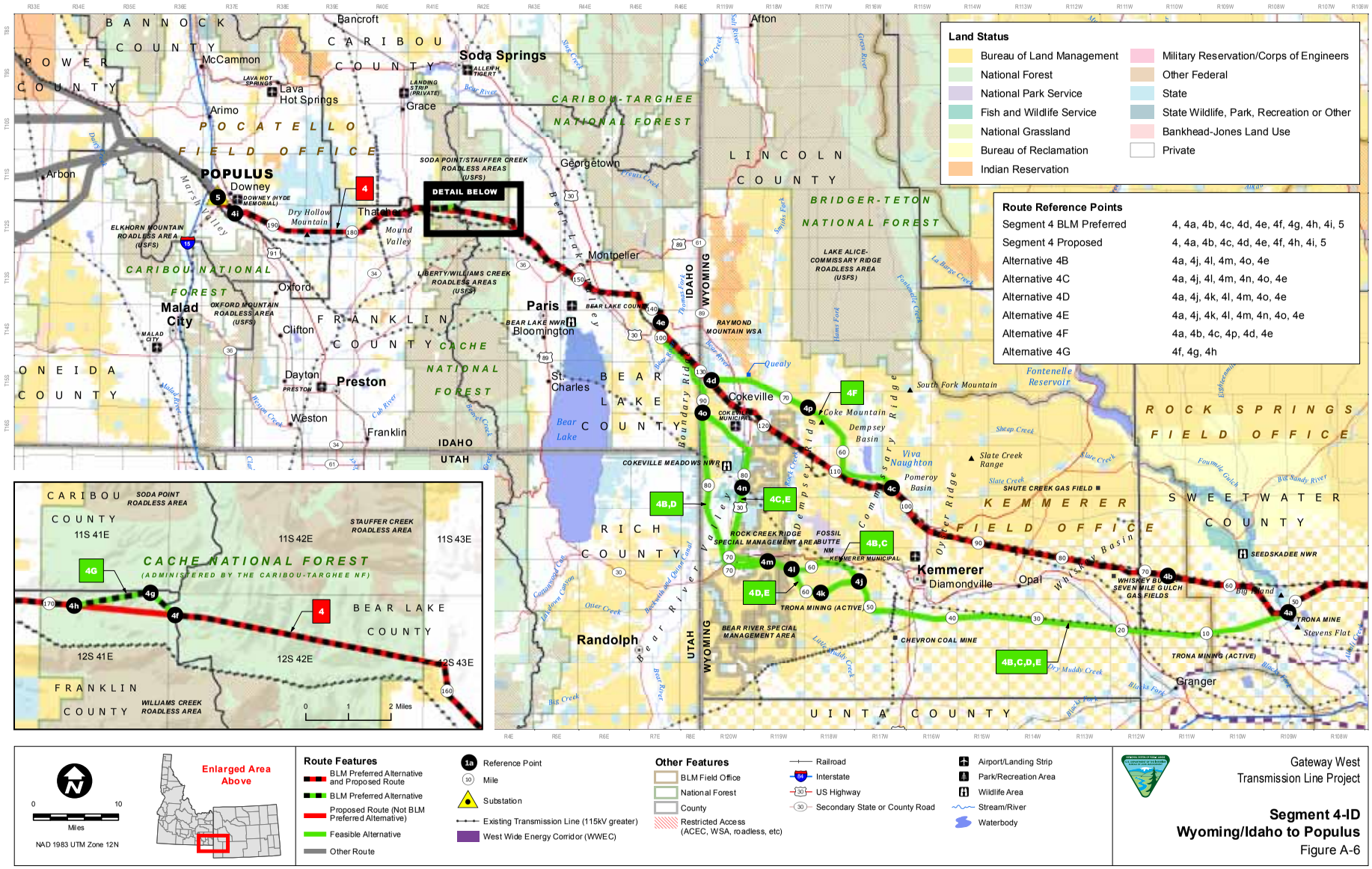
- Considers existing transmission lines, cultural resources, historic trails, and visual resources.
- Minimizes wetland impacts through a better crossing of US 30 / SR 89 and the Bear River near Cokeville, WY.
- Significantly shorter route distance is less costly for the proponents to build, operate, and maintain.
- Minimizes construction and visual impacts by following the existing 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines for approximately 75 percent of the route except when necessary to avoid:
  - Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge
  - Occupied dwellings in the Bear Lake Valley
  - Unstable soils and steep terrain in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest
  - Steep terrain, sage-grouse leks, structures/residences, and pivot irrigated fields in Bannock County, ID.
- Complies with the Wyoming Governor's sage-grouse executive order.
- Considers the State of Wyoming and Lincoln County's (WY) preferred alternatives, as documented in the final EIS.

Additional information on all of the route and agency preferred alternatives can be found in Chapter 2 of the final EIS.

Background

In August 2012, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) identified agency preferred alternatives following consideration of comments submitted on the draft EIS, changes to the project made in February 2012 by the project proponents and in coordination with state, local and federal governments and agencies.

Please note that agency preferred alternatives apply only to federally-managed land.

April 2013

Segment 4-ID: Wyoming/Idaho to Populus Substation