Gateway West Transmission Line Project

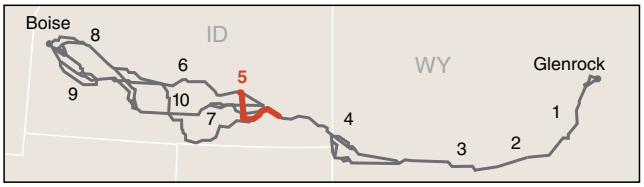
BLM

Segment 5
Agency preferred alternatives

Proposed route 5 and alternatives 5B and 5E

The route follows proposed route 5 northwest from the Populus Substation, near Downey, ID, along with segment 7, then follows alternative route 5B through the Arbon and Rockland valleys and ends with route 5E across Interstate 86 and the Snake River into the Borah Substation (assuming resolution of Western Electricity Coordinating Council reliability issues). The route crosses Bannock, Oneida, and Power counties in south central Idaho.

Following government-to-government consultation with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (the Tribes), the BLM originally identified a preferred alternative of proposed route 5 and alternatives 5C and 5E. In October 2012, the Tribes no longer wished for alternative 5C to be considered, and the BLM lacks the authority to grant a right-of-way on tribal lands or on any lands other than those prescribed by federal law. The BLM subsequently reviewed the remaining routes and selected proposed route 5 and alternatives 5B and 5E as the agency preferred alternative.

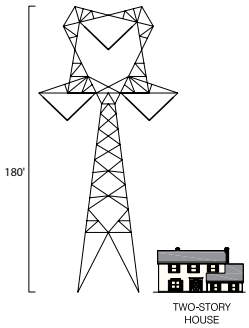


Additional information on all of the route and agency preferred alternatives can be found in Chapter 2 of the final EIS.

Why is this the agency preferred alternative?

- Complies with the BLM Pocatello Resource Management Plan.
- Avoids visual impacts and high-quality forested habitats and recreation use areas in the Deep Creek Mountains.
- Requires the least new road construction due to use of existing roads and the route's parallel location to the preferred alternative for segment 7. Only one access road is required for both segments in this area.
- Generally avoids BLM-identified Preliminary Priority Sage-grouse Habitat (PPH) on public lands. Crosses approximately one mile of lower value PPH that will require mitigation.
- Avoids alternative 5C, which would cross the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.
- The BLM only identified a preferred alternative in segments where the route crosses public land. The BLM has no position on the final location for the portion of alternative 5B that crosses private land in the Rockland Valley.

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.

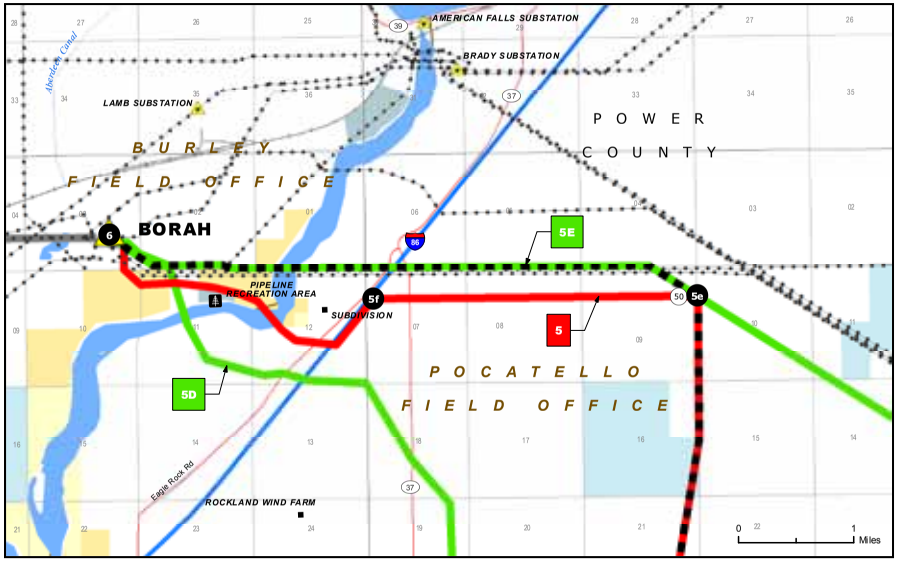
Background

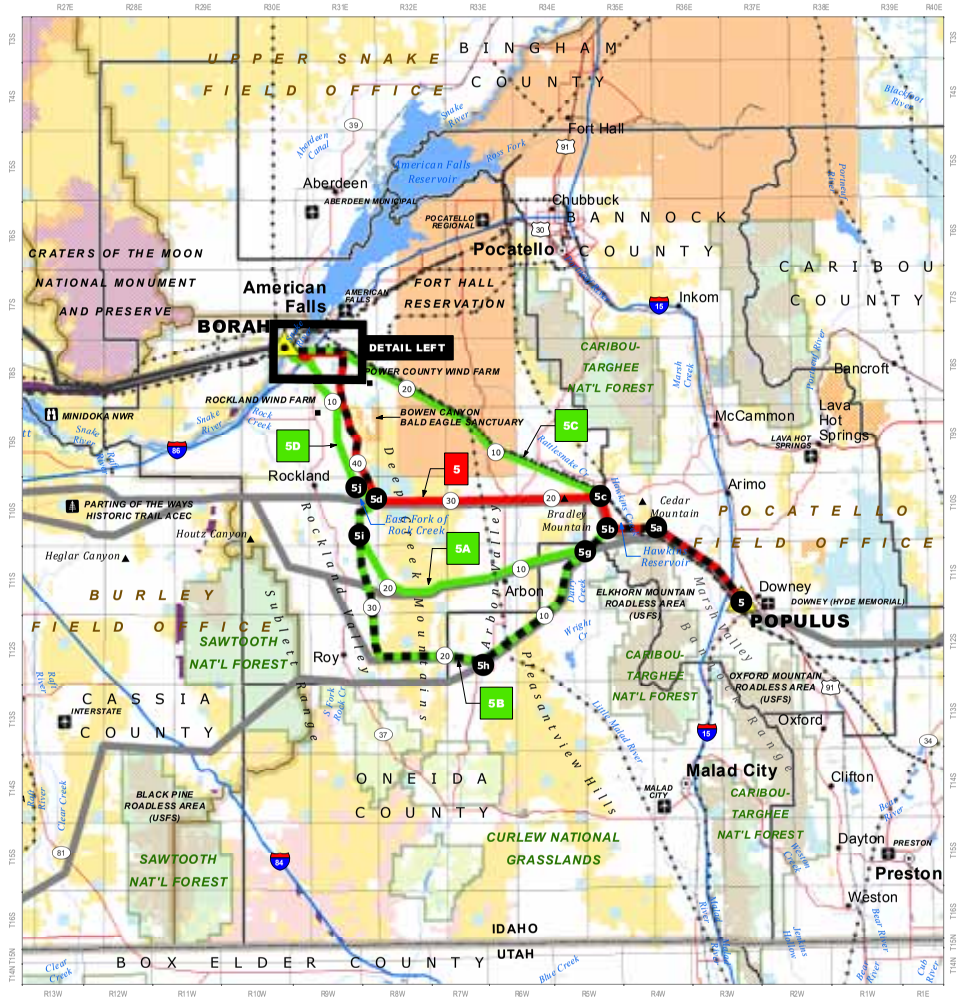
In August 2012, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) identified agency preferred alternatives following consideration of comments submitted on the draft EIS, changes to the project made in February 2012 by the project proponents and in coordination with state, local and federal governments and agencies.

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

April 2013

Segment 5: Populus Substation to Borah Substation





Route Reference Points

Segment 5 BLM Preferred	5, 5a, 5b, 5g, 5h, 5i, 5d, 5e, 6
Segment 5 Proposed	5, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e, 5f, 6
Alternative 5A	5b, 5g, 5i, 5d
Alternative 5B	5b, 5g, 5h, 5i, 5d
Alternative 5C	5c, 5e
Alternative 5D	5d, 5j, 6
Alternative 5E	5e, 6

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- National Forest
- National Park Service
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Grassland
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Indian Reservation
- Military Reservation/Corps of Engineers
- Other Federal
- State
- State Wildlife, Park, Recreation or Other
- Bankhead-Jones Land Use
- Private

0 10 Miles

NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N

Enlarged Area Above Right

Route Features

- BLM Preferred Alternative and Proposed Route
- BLM Preferred Alternative
- Proposed Route (Not BLM Preferred Alternative)
- Feasible Alternative
- Other Route

- Reference Point
- Mile
- Substation
- Existing Transmission Line (115kV greater)
- West Wide Energy Corridor (WWEC)

Other Features

- BLM Field Office
- National Forest
- County
- Restricted Access (ACEC, WSA, roadless, etc)
- Railroad
- Interstate
- US Highway
- Secondary State or County Road
- Airport/Landing Strip
- Park/Recreation Area
- Wildlife Area
- Stream/River
- Waterbody

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Segment 5
Populus to Borah
Figure A-7