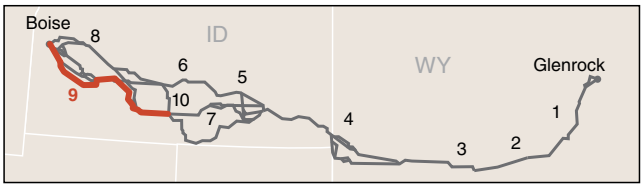
Gateway West Transmission Line Project

BLM

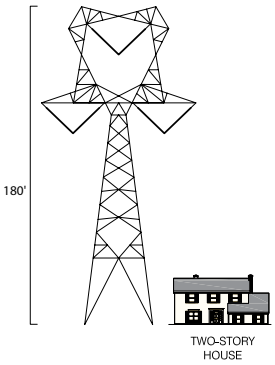
Segment 9
Agency preferred alternatives

Proposed route 9 and alternative 9E

The route follows the proposed route 9 out of the Cedar Hill Substation, south of Twin Falls, ID, to approximately milepost 96 on Highway 78. The route then follows alternative 9E, which was modified by the BLM for the final EIS, into the Hemmingway Substation, near Murphy, ID. The route through southwestern Idaho is south of the Snake River and crosses Cassia, Twin Falls, Elmore, and Owyhee counties.



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?

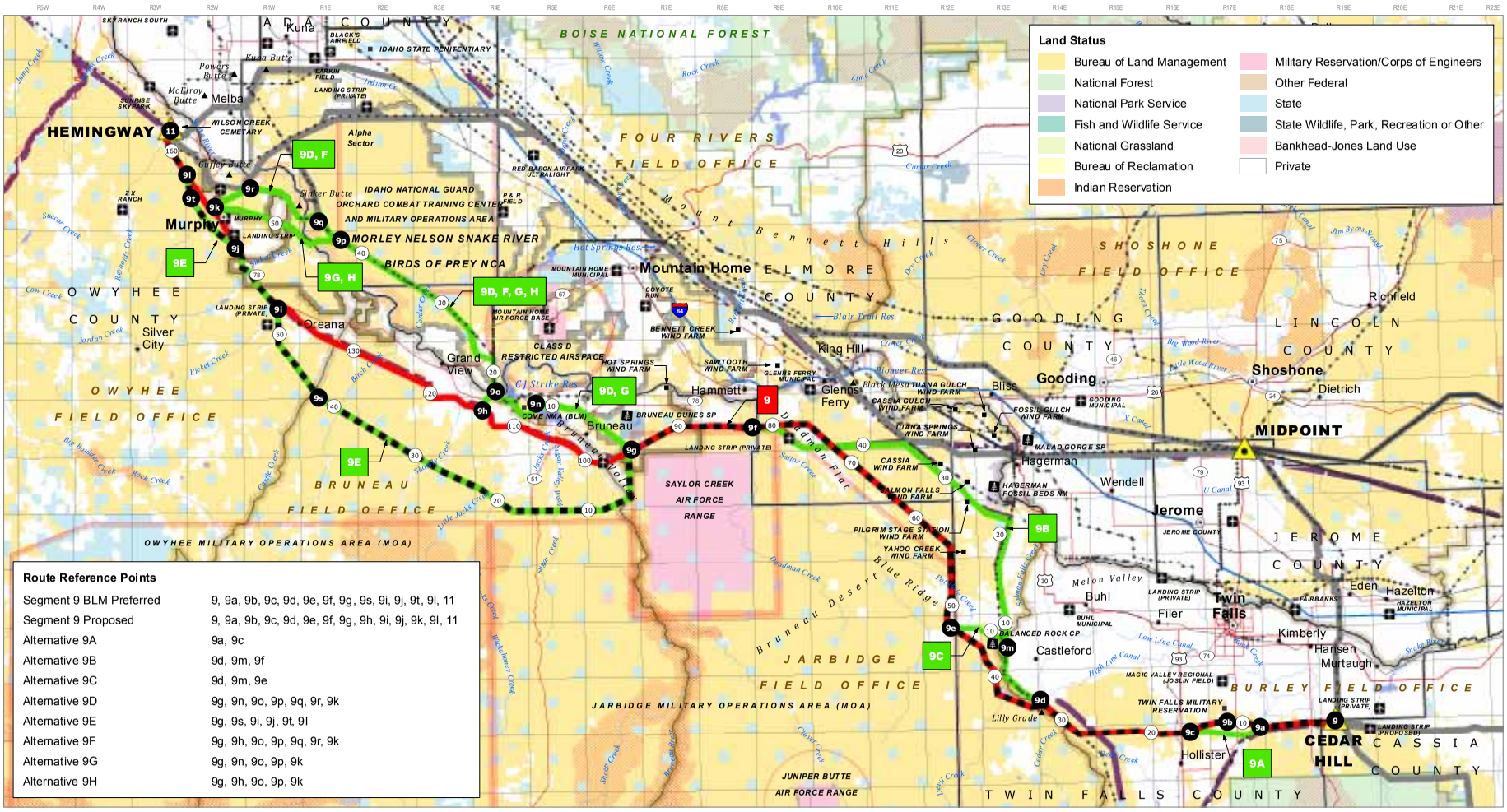
- Avoids the wilderness study area and Wild and Scenic River segment associated with Salmon Falls Creek at Lilly Grade, Balanced Rock County Park, and irrigated farm lands on the east side of the creek.
- Avoids military operating areas located south of the Saylor Creek Training Area.
- Generally avoids BLM-identified Preliminary Priority Sage-grouse Habitat (PPH).
- Alternative 9E crosses only 1.2 miles of private land, avoiding private lands near Murphy, ID.
- Complies with management direction to 1) avoid siting rights-of-way in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (SRBOP) to greatest extent possible; and 2) use best management practices and mitigation to minimize negative impacts to objects and values within the SRBOP (P.L. 103-64, Sec. 1(5), 3(a)(2) and 4(a)(2)), and generally avoids crossing the SRBOP.
- To avoid BLM-identified PPH, the route crosses the SRBOP. Most of the alignments are located in a designated utility corridor, and it is possible to mitigate for impacts. A proposed land use plan amendment would allow the small portion outside of the designated corridor. The route crosses SRBOP between:
  - The Saylor Creek Training Area and Bruneau Dunes State Park for 8.8 miles.
  - Oreana and Murphy, ID for 2.5 miles.

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 9: Cedar Hill Substation to Hemingway Substation