

Decision Record
Idaho Power Langley Gulch Power Plant Rights-of-Way
IDI-5963

Proposed Action: Authorize rights-of-way to allow the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project components which will connect the Langley Gulch Power Plant (LGPP) to the existing transmission line system and provide water to LGPP.

Decision: It is my decision to amend right-of-way IDI-5963 granted to Idaho Power Company for 230-kV transmission line. The amendment would authorize modification of the existing 230-kV transmission line to include a tie-in point with the Langley Gulch 230kV transmission line IDI-36332 across the SW¹/₄NW¹/₄ of section 8 in T. 6 N., R. 4 W., Boise Meridian, Payette County, Idaho. The amendment would also authorize the replacement of shield wire from the above-mentioned tie-in point then heading north-westerly approximately 2.02 miles across the following described public lands:

Boise Meridian, Payette County, Idaho

- T. 6 N., R. 4 W., section 6: Lots 3 and 4, SW¹/₄NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄NW¹/₄, NE¹/₄SW¹/₄,
W¹/₂SE¹/₄, SE¹/₄SE¹/₄;
section 7: NE¹/₄NE¹/₄;
section 8: W¹/₂NW¹/₄.
T. 7 N., R. 4 W., section 31: Lots 3 and 4.

This amendment is subject to the same terms and conditions of the original right-of-way grant and the March 12, 1979 amendment and will expire concurrently with the original right-of-way grant on March 31, 2026.

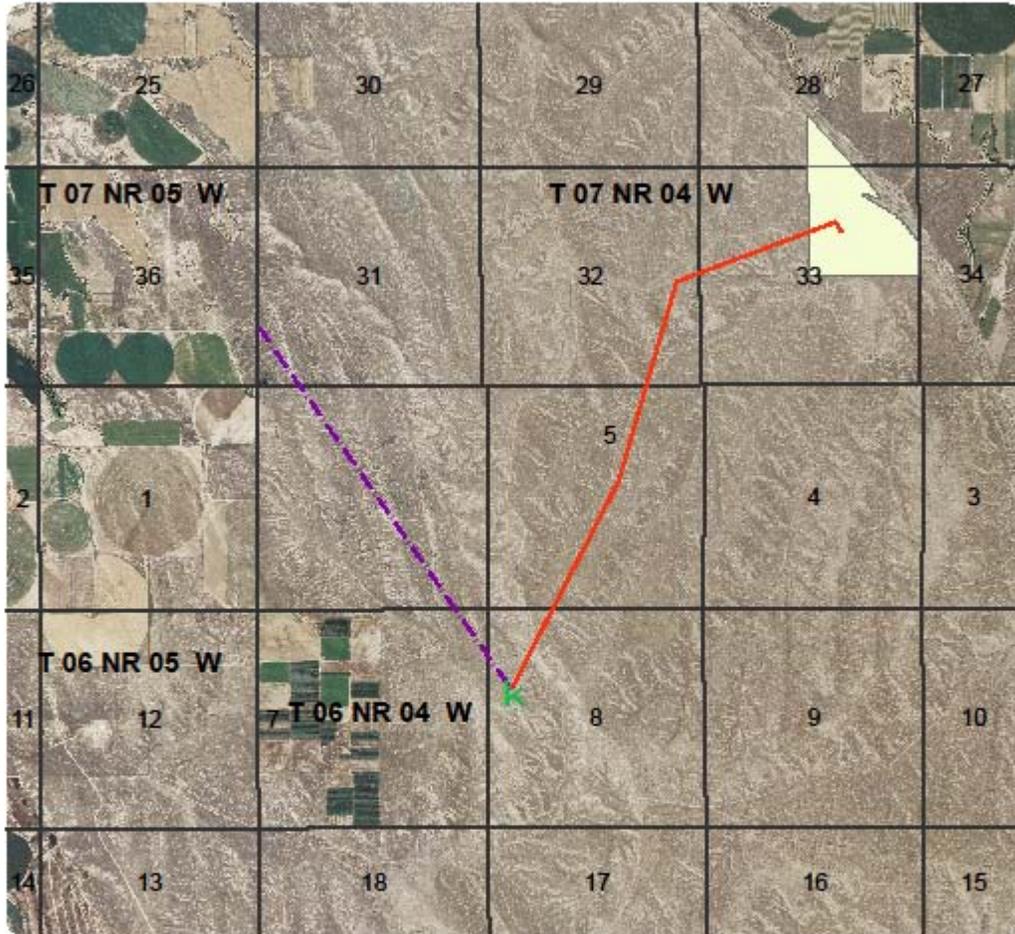
Rationale: The purpose of the transmission line is to interconnect the proposed LGPP to Idaho Power's existing transmission system. The LGPP is scheduled to be in service by 2012. The primary expected public benefit of the project would be the continued reliable supply of electricity to Idaho Power's residential, government, retail, commercial, and industrial users.

Environmental Assessment #DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2010-0014-EA was completed and documents that the impacts from granting the rights-of-way would be acceptable for the area. The key resource concerns identified in the EA are that the proposal is within the Long-billed Curlew Habitat Area of Critical Concern (ACEC) and the Consideration Zone for *Lepidium papilliferum*, (LEPA) a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Mitigation for the ACEC is a construction timing restriction which will be included in the grants. With this mitigation the rights of way would not be inconsistent with the purposes of the ACEC. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Biological Opinion for this proposal found the potential impacts to LEPA with mitigation including avoidance would not jeopardize the survival and recovery of the species.

Conformance with Land Use Plans: This proposed action is subject to the Cascade Resource Management Plan which was approved July 1, 1988. The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions): Rights-of-way, under Title V of FLPMA, will be considered in the Cascade Resource Area except where specifically identified in the RMP for avoidance. (Resource Management Guidelines, page 43.) The subject area is not identified for avoidance.

However, the proposals lie within the Long-billed Curlew Habitat Area of Environmental Concern (ACEC). The Management Guidelines for the ACEC state "Rights-of-way construction activities for transmission lines, pipelines and other major projects will not be allowed during the nesting and brood-rearing periods" (ACECs, page 36). Thus, the grants will contain a stipulation which restricts construction activities from March 15 to June 30 each year which is the brood-rearing period.

IDI-5963 Amendment Exhibit A



Payette County, Idaho

- Public Lands
- Private Lands
- Langley Gulch power plant
- k Tie-in point with Langley Gulch 230kV transmission line (IDI-36332)
- - - Replacement Shield Wire
- Langley Gulch 230kV transmission line (IDI-36332)

