READER'S GUIDE

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Gateway West Transmission Line Project (Final EIS). The purpose of the federal action on federally managed lands is to decide whether to grant, grant with modifications, or deny an application to construct and operate a transmission line on public lands. The need for the action is established by the federal agencies' responsibility under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act[1] to respond to an application for a right-of-way. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service) will also use this document to determine whether to issue a Special Use Authorization for the transmission line to cross National Forest System lands. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must respond under the Clean Water Act[2] to an application for a permit to discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands.

The public will have 30 days to protest Proposed Plan Amendments and 60 days to review this Final EIS. Given that the document consists of over 4,200 pages, 7 chapters and 15 appendices, we prepared this Reader's Guide to assist your review. It includes general guidance as well as a section-by-section summary and guide.

We hope this Guide will help you find information more easily, understand the various components of the proposal and how they are constructed, and have a complete understanding of measures incorporated into the proposal by the Proponents that are analyzed as part of the Proposed Action, and the mitigation measures required by the BLM and Forest Service in addition to the Proponents' Proposed Action.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

- Sections of the Final EIS have been divided into separate volumes. The volumes are identified in the section-by-section guide below, along with the approximate number of pages. The volume contents are also listed in the front of each volume.
- Given the length of the Final EIS, readers are encouraged to maximize their use of the electronic version of the document. All sections of the Final EIS can be downloaded from the project Web site (http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west). CD copies of the Final EIS may also be requested at this site.
- The electronic copies of all sections are provided in PDF format, with bookmarks included to assist in navigating through the text.
- Acronyms are defined upon their first use in the document (not on their first use in each chapter or section). A master list of all acronyms used in the Final EIS is provided in the front of volumes 1a and 1b (printed version).
- A consolidated list of literature cited in the Final EIS is located in Chapter 7.
- Appendix A contains maps of the proposed routes and alternative routes, as well as substation layouts.
- Appendix B contains the Proponents' current version of their Plan of Development (POD), which has detailed design information on the transmission

[1] Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, 43 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 22
[2] Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, 33 U.S.C. § 1251

line and its ancillary facilities. It also contains a narrative description of how the transmission line will be built and the Proponents' proposed environmental protection measures (EPMs). You are encouraged to review this material if you are not familiar with transmission line construction.

- Appendix C contains mitigation plan information.
- Appendix D contains tables comparing quantitative impacts to various resources across route alternatives. Many readers find these tables a quick reference for impact and route comparisons.
- Appendix E contains large format figures, including maps and photo simulations.
- Appendix F contains the Proposed Plan Amendments, as well as other amendments considered in the analysis and Appendix G contains supporting information for visual resource amendments.

REVIEWING THE FINAL EIS

At a minimum, we recommend reviewing the following parts of the Final EIS:

- Chapter 1, Purpose and Need
- Chapter 2, Alternatives
- Appendix B, the Proponents' POD
- Appendix F, Proposed Land Use Plan Amendments

Chapter 1 presents (1) the Proponents' Objectives for the Project and the Purpose and Need for the agency actions, (2) a list of issues identified during scoping and from other public comments that form the basis for the analysis and the comparison of the alternatives considered across all resources, (3) information on the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis, and (4) the laws, regulations, and policies bearing on the proposal.

Chapter 2 is the heart of the EIS and summarizes the results of the detailed analysis found in Chapters 3 and 4. Alternatives analyzed in detail are presented in this chapter. In Chapter 2 you will also find a summary of the EPMs proposed by the Proponents and considered part of the project description. In some cases, the BLM and Forest Service have required additional mitigation, and those mitigation measures are also summarized in Chapter 2. The BLM Preferred Alternatives, as well as the preferred alternatives of other cooperators, are disclosed in Section 2.4. For a narrative summary comparison of the alternatives and cumulative effects, please see Sections 2.8 and 2.9, respectively.

If you plan to read **Chapter 3**, please first carefully read the introduction in Section 3.1. The Project is so large and, for some segments, there are so many alternatives, that understanding how each resource section is organized will save time and reduce confusion. Please note that much of the analysis is reported in the "Effects Common to All Action Alternatives" subsection and is not repeated in the comparison of impacts among alternatives in each resource section of Chapter 3.

Chapter 3 combines both Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences (sometimes presented as separate chapters in other EIS documents). This allows an analysis by resource that starts with a description of the resource across the analysis area and then describes the consequences of permitting the Proposed or Alternative Routes across that analysis area for that resource.

We arranged the effects discussion in Chapter 3 by resource and then by segment for each resource because this avoids repeating basic resources information in each segment narrative. If you are interested in the Project effects to a particular resource, say wildlife or water resources, across the entire project, you would read Sections 3.10 or 3.16, respectively. If you are interested in all the Project effects in a certain segment, you will need to use the bookmark for that segment's text in each of the resource sections of Chapter 3. The CD format of the Final EIS is bookmarked and will facilitate this type of review.

The following table presents a summary description of each chapter and appendix and explains how they support one another in displaying the environmental analysis conducted for the proposed Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Section	Description
Executive Summary (Vol. 1a, ~30 pages)	This stand-alone summary provides an understanding of why the agencies have prepared the Final EIS, summary-level descriptions of each agency's proposed actions and alternatives, and the potential impacts of these actions.
1: Purpose and Need (Vol. 1a, ~52 pages)	This chapter provides the purpose and need for the agencies' actions, the purpose and need for the Project itself, the scope of analysis, and the Cooperating Agencies; presents a description of applicable federal orders and mandates and provides a list of permits, consultations, and approvals required for the Project to be constructed and operated; summarizes the scoping conducted for the Project; and lists the issues that were raised during scoping that drive the analysis.
2: Alternatives Considered (Vol. 1a, ~210 pages)	This chapter is the heart of the EIS and provides a description and a summary comparison of the Proposed Action, Route Alternatives, and the No Action Alternative. It includes the preferred alternatives and the agencies' reasons for their choice. It provides a detailed description of the Proposed Action and the design and construction components common to all Action Alternatives. Chapter 2 summarizes the comparison among Route Alternatives, presents a summary of mitigation measures, and also summarizes the proposed plan amendments. It is supplemented by **Appendix A**, which shows maps of the Preferred, Proposed, and Alternative Routes; by **Appendix B**, which provides design and construction details common to all action alternatives; and by **Appendix F**, which details the proposed plan amendments for both National Forest System lands and public lands managed by the BLM.
3: Affected Environment and Environmental Effects (Vol. 1a, ~722 pages and Vol. 1b, ~736 pages)	This chapter is organized by resource, and is introduced by a general guide to the chapter, explaining how each resource is organized and how disturbance is calculated (Section 3.1). It covers, by resource, the affected environment and the environmental consequences of the Action Alternatives and compares them to the No Action Alternative. It also analyzes the impacts of the plan amendments where they change underlying land classification and could have impacts beyond that of the project itself. It provides the detailed analysis that supports the comparison of alternatives found in Chapter 2, and is itself supported by detailed tables of comparisons found in **Appendix D** and by maps and simulations of visual impacts found in **Appendix E**. Sections 3.1 through 3.9 are found in Volume 1a, while Sections 3.10 through 3.23 are found in Volume 1b.
4: Cumulative Effects (Vol. 1b, ~94 pages)	Chapter 4 presents the cumulative effects of the Gateway West Project when considered together with the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in the analysis area. It includes the rationale for selecting other actions for inclusion, lists and describes those actions or projects, and presents an analysis of their cumulative effect. It includes consideration of land use plan amendments and is supported by maps presented at the end of **Appendix E**.
5: Consultation and Collaboration (Vol. 1b, ~38 pages)	This chapter highlights the consultation and collaboration process for the proposed Project, including the general public as well as Tribal governments, and federal, state, and local agencies and organizations.

Section	Description
6: Glossary and Index (Vol. 1b, ~44 pages)	The glossary provides definitions of specialized words and phrases found in the document and also briefly defines the important federal laws that provide the framework for the analysis. The index allows the reader to search the document by important word or phrase.
7: Literature Cited (Vol. 1b, ~60 pages)	This chapter presents literature cited, organized alphabetically by author for the entire document.
Appendix A (Vol. 4, ~20 pages)	Appendix A provides 11 x 17" maps of the Proposed Route and Alternative Routes, starting with a map that covers the whole project and followed by maps for each segment. For each segment, the maps depict the Proposed Route in red and the Alternative Routes considered in detail in green. The BLM's Preferred Alternatives are also identified. Detailed maps of each substation follow.
Appendix B (Vol. 2, ~494 pages)	Appendix B, the Proponents' Plan of Development, contains design details that supplement the description found in **Chapter 2**.
Appendix C (Vol. 2, ~258 pages)	Appendix C contains the Historic Properties Treatment Plan (C-1), the Draft Framework for Compensatory Mitigation and Monitoring of Unavoidable Impacts to Waters of the U.S. (C-2), and the Greater Sage-grouse Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures (C-3).
Appendix D (Vol. 4, ~222 pages)	Detailed large-format (11 x 17") tables comparing quantitative impacts across Route Alternatives are presented in Appendix D.
Appendix E (Vol. 4, ~152 pages)	Appendix E contains large-format (11 x 17") maps depicting the results of GIS analysis for various resources and also contains locational maps for Key Observation Points (KOPs) and the photographic simulations associated with those KOPs for both visual and cultural resources.
Appendix F (F-1 and F-2, Vol. 3, ~118 pages)	In several cases, for a Proposed or Alternative Route to be approved, the land management plan for the Forest Service or BLM unit crossed must be amended. Appendix F contains the language of each proposed plan amendment and a brief analysis of the need for the amendment and the effects of the amendment. Appendix F-1 details amendments to BLM Resource Management Plans or Management Framework Plans, while Appendix F-2 details amendments to Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plans.
Appendix G (G-1 and G-2, Vol. 3, ~326 pages)	Appendix G is the visual analysis supplement for Appendix F, and provides simulations of the Proposed or Alternative Route that would trigger a plan amendment, and the impacts to the underlying land allocations. Appendix G-1 supports the analysis of BLM plan amendments while Appendix G-2 supports the analysis of Forest Service plan amendments.
Appendix H (Vol. 2, ~54 pages)	This appendix provides the complete list of Interagency Operating Procedures (IOPs) from the Programmatic EIS for the West-wide Energy Corridors (DOE and BLM 2009). It shows how Gateway West has complied with those procedures and where such compliance can be found in the document.
Appendix I (Vol. 3, ~16 pages)	Appendix I presents a large-format (11x17") calendar of seasonal stipulations by wildlife species and by federal land managing unit.
Appendix J (J-1 and J-2, Vol. 3, ~156 pages)	This appendix provides details of the sage-grouse analysis framework for interstate transmission lines (J-1) and the Habitat Equivalency Analysis for Mitigation of the Gateway West Transmission Line (J-2).
Appendix K (Vol. 3, ~22 pages)	Appendix K contains the Agricultural Economic Impact Analysis, South Central and Southeastern Idaho.
Appendix L (Vol. 4, ~302 pages)	Appendix L contains the BLM response to comments on the Draft EIS.
Appendix M (Vol. 3, ~154 pages)	Appendix M contains the Biological Assessment.
Appendix N (Vol. 3, ~24 pages)	Appendix N contains the Programmatic Agreement pertaining to the National Historic Preservation Act.
Appendix O (Vol. 3. ~12 pages)	Appendix O contains maps showing the alternative routes eliminated from detailed study