



Gateway West Transmission Line Project

February 2016

Project update

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) continues to process the right of way (ROW) application submitted by Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power to build segments 8 and 9 of the Gateway West Transmission Line on public lands in south-central and southwest Idaho.

When evaluating projects like this, the BLM highly values public involvement, and we look forward to any feedback you may have on the information in this newsletter and at future points in the process as we work toward a decision on this application.

No decisions on siting segments 8 or 9 have been made or will be made until environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act is complete. Our initial schedule called for publishing a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in September 2015, for public review and comment. As we approached that date, we found that discussions around a number of substantive resource issues were still ongoing:

- how to analyze and account for impacts to historic trails;
- how to approach potential impacts to sage-grouse and their habitat;
- addressing issues related to resources in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area;
- and then in August, issues related to impacts from the Soda Fire.

These resource issues bear directly on the range of alternatives we would analyze in the Draft Supplemental EIS. We chose to take additional time to complete those discussions and have determined the range of alternatives whose environmental impacts will be analyzed in detail in the Draft Supplemental EIS. Information on route alignments analyzed in the Draft Supplemental EIS follows in this newsletter.

The Draft Supplemental EIS will be published in the spring, with 90 days for public review and comment, which we will not be able to extend. We hope that presenting some initial information on route options at this time will help you formulate comments on the full Draft Supplemental EIS after it is published. We will hold at least four public meetings during the comment period to answer questions about the document and further facilitate comment.

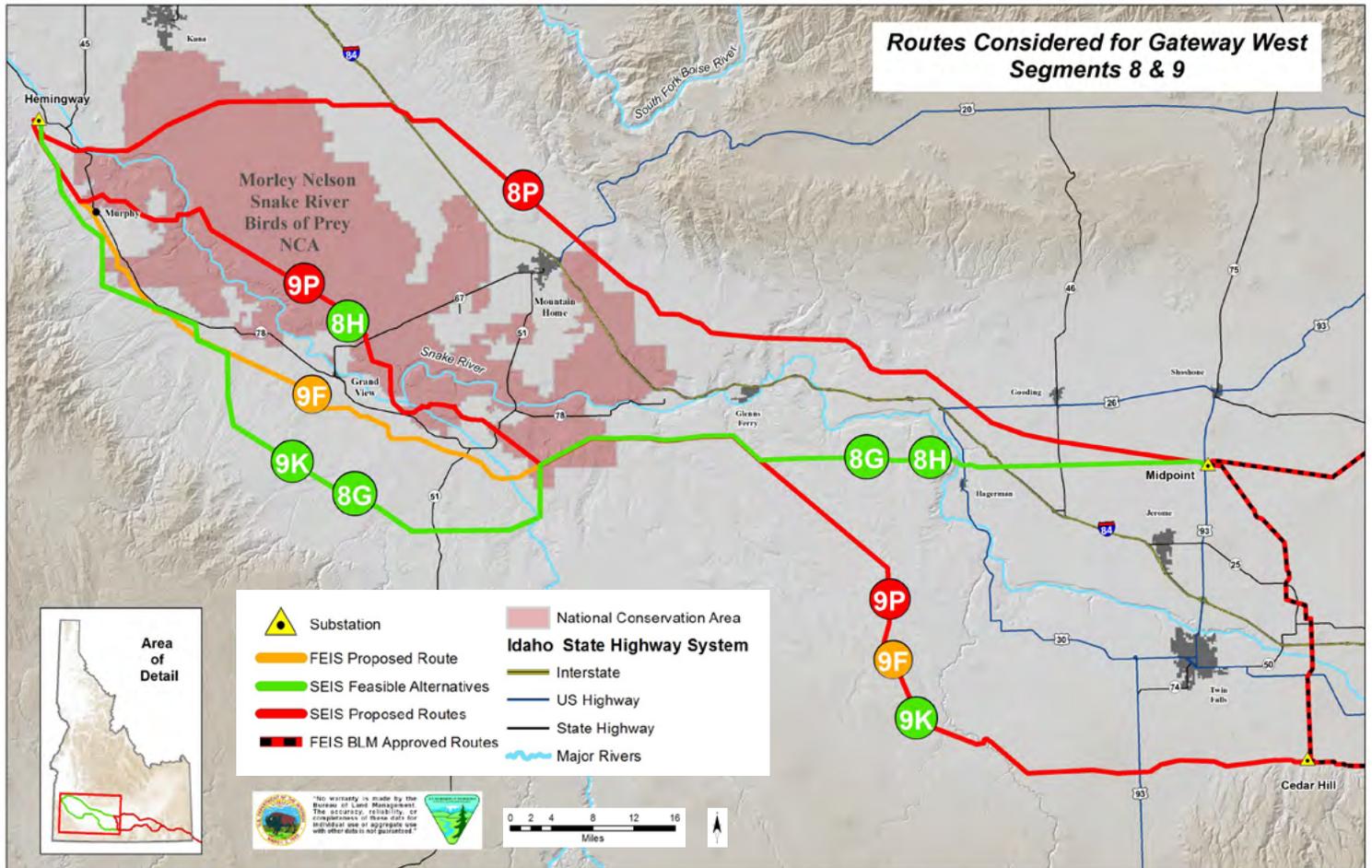
There are a number of unique, complex issues involved with this proposed project, and we will continue to rely on public engagement and substantive comments to help us reach a decision on whether to grant a right of way on BLM-managed lands for segments 8 and 9 of Gateway West.

Tim Murphy, BLM Idaho State Director

Alternative routes for segments 8 and 9

The map below presents the routes for segments 8 and 9 analyzed in detail in the Draft Supplemental EIS. While the BLM only has authority to authorize portions of the project on BLM-managed public lands, the environmental review in the Draft Supplemental EIS will discuss impacts, regardless of land ownership. The Draft Supplemental EIS will present various pairings of these routes as a range of reasonable options for siting these lines and analyze the potential impacts of each.

Alternative routes being considered for segment 8 begin at the existing Midpoint substation in Jerome County, Idaho, and continue west to the existing Hemingway substation in Owyhee County, Idaho. Alternative routes being considered for segment 9 begin at the proposed Cedar Hill substation in Cassia County, Idaho, and continue west to the Hemingway substation.



8P One set of routes under consideration has been proposed by Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power, the companies that have applied for the ROWs. These routes are labeled 8P and 9P on the map above.

8G Another set of possible routes is labeled “8G-9K” in the Draft Supplemental EIS and on the map above.

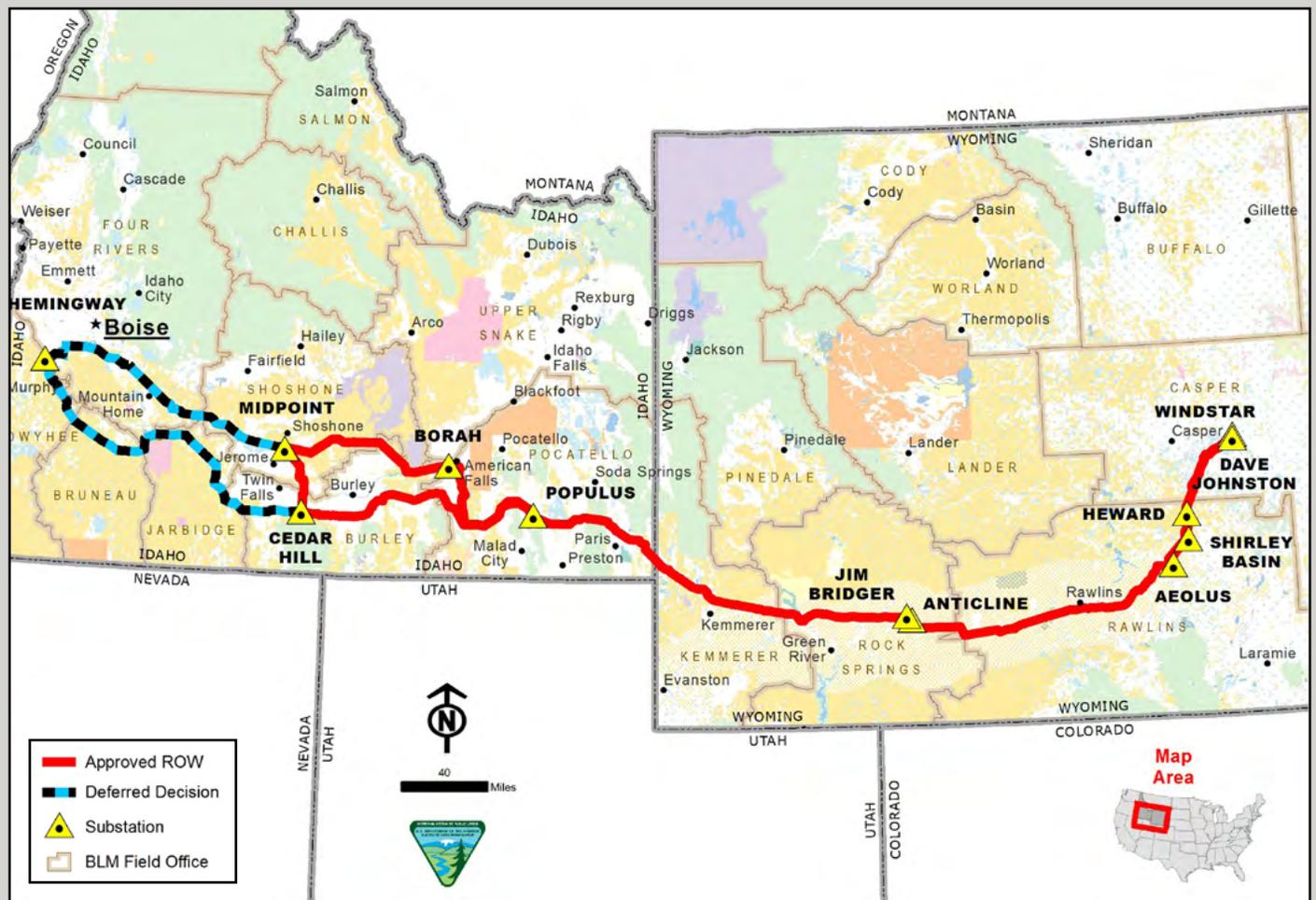
8H Route 8H is a combination of route 8G and route 9P. It follows the 8G alignment for the first 44 miles and then follows the alignment of the Revised Proposed route for segment 9 to the Hemingway substation.

9F Route 9F is similar to route 9E from the 2013 Final EIS for the original Gateway West project and the segment 9 alignment that Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power originally proposed.

NO The No Action Alternative, under which the ROW application would be denied and segments 8 and 9 would not be constructed on public lands, was analyzed in the 2013 Final EIS, and that analysis will be incorporated by reference in the Draft Supplemental EIS.

ROWs for segments 1 through 7 and 10 of the original Gateway West project were granted in November 2013. A decision on authorizing segments 8 and 9 was deferred, and in 2014, the BLM determined that

new information related to siting segments 8 and 9 warranted additional environmental analysis and public review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



Is this the first time you are receiving the Gateway West newsletter?

A review of public records identified you as a landowner in an area being considered for siting segments 8 and 9, but you were not on the most current mailing list for the project. One or more of the routes that will be evaluated in the environmental review may affect your land.

Please contact the BLM directly if you wish to confirm or correct current landowner status, if you would like

to be added to the project mailing list and continue receiving updates, or if you have any questions you would like addressed at this time.

Mail: Gateway West Transmission Line Project,
1387 South Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709

Email: blm_id_gateway_west@blm.gov

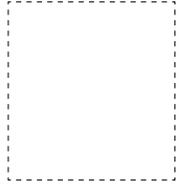
Phone: 1-800-380-5828



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Gateway West Transmission Line Project
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Boise, ID 83709

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Schedule update for segments
8 and 9 in southwestern Idaho

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

About the project

The Gateway West Transmission Line Project is jointly proposed by Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power to build, operate, and maintain approximately 1,000 miles of new 230 kilovolt (kV) and 500 kV electric transmission lines across southern Wyoming and southern Idaho.



For more information

- Go online to www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/nepa_register/gateway-west.html
- Email blm_id_gateway_west@blm.gov
- Call our information line for up-to-date information at **1-800-380-5828**