

READER'S GUIDE

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Segments 8 and 9 of the proposed Gateway West Transmission Line Project (Draft SEIS). This document supplements the analysis found in the 2013 Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project. It may help to have a copy of that document open as you read this Draft SEIS. There is a link to the Final EIS on the Project Web site or you may request a compact disc (CD) version (see General Guidance section below).

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 Act¹ to respond to an application for a right-of-way. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must respond under the Clean Water Act² to an application for a permit to discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands.

The public will have 90 days to review and comment on this Draft SEIS. Given that the document consists of approximately 1,700 pages, 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 Idaho Power Company and PacifiCorp (the Proponents) that are analyzed as part of the Revised Proposed Action, and the mitigation measures that may be required by the BLM in addition to the Proponents' Revised Proposed Action.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

- The Draft SEIS is divided into 7 chapters and 11 appendices. In addition, Chapter 3 is divided into an introduction and 23 separate resource sections.
- All sections of the Draft SEIS can be downloaded from the Project Web site at <http://on.doi.gov/1sExPBP>. CD copies of the Draft SEIS may be requested at blm_id_gateway_west@blm.gov or 1-800-380-5828.
- 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 Draft SEIS is provided with the table of contents.
- A consolidated list of literature cited in the Draft SEIS is located in Chapter 7.
- Appendix A contains large-scale maps of the alternatives.
- Appendix B contains the Proponents' August 2014 supplement to 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 Proponents propose to build the transmission line. You are encouraged to review this material if you are not familiar with transmission line construction. Additional details are located in Appendix B to the Final EIS, including the Proponents' proposed environmental protection measures (EPMs).

- Appendix C contains the Proponents' Draft Mitigation and Enchantment Portfolio, which is part of the Revised Proposed Action.
- Appendix D contains tables comparing quantitative impacts to various resources across the various routes. Many readers find these tables useful as a quick reference for impact and route comparisons.
- Appendix E contains large format figures, including maps and photo simulations.
- Appendix F contains the Draft Land Use Plan Amendments.
- Appendix G contains supporting information for visual resource amendments.
- Appendix H contains the Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Report.
- Appendix I contains the Scoping Report.
- Appendix J contains a report on the inventory and impacts analysis for the National Historic Trails.
- Appendix K contains the BLM's conceptual mitigation model.

REVIEWING THE DRAFT SEIS

At a minimum, we recommend reviewing the following parts of the Draft SEIS:

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

Chapter 1 presents (1) new information developed since the 2013 Final EIS was completed, (2) the Proponents' Objectives for the Project and the Purpose and Need for the agency actions, (3) a list of issues identified during scoping and from other public comments that form the basis for the analysis and the comparison of the routes and alternatives considered across all resources, (4) the relationship of this Draft SEIS to other plans, and (5) information on the organization of this SEIS.

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. The BLM Co-Preferred Alternatives are disclosed in Section 2.3. For a narrative summary comparison of the alternatives and unavoidable adverse impacts, please see Sections 2.7 and 2.8, respectively.

If you plan to read **Chapter 3**, we recommend that you first read the introduction in Section 3.0. 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.

As in the Final EIS, 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 Revised Proposed Routes (Alternative 1) or other Alternatives for that resource.

We arranged the effects discussion in Chapter 3 by resource and then by route. This is followed by a summary of the effects of the seven alternatives, each alternative being a combination of one route from Segment 8 and one from Segment 9. 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 Draft SEIS 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 contribute to the environmental analysis conducted for the proposed Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

Section	Description
Executive Summary (25 pages)	This stand-alone summary provides an understanding of why the agencies have prepared the Draft SEIS, summary-level descriptions of the Revised Proposed Action and the Alternatives, and the potential impacts of these actions.
1: Purpose and Need (42 pages)	This chapter provides the purpose and need for the agencies' actions, the Proponents' objectives for the Project, 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 (70 pages)	This chapter is the heart of the EIS and provides a description and a summary comparison of the Proposed Action, the 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 Revised Proposed Action and the design and construction components common to all Action Alternatives. Chapter 2 summarizes the comparison among Action Alternatives and also summarizes the proposed plan amendments. It is supplemented by Appendix A , which shows maps of the Alternatives; by Appendix B , which provides design and construction details common to all action alternatives; and by Appendix F , which details the proposed land use plan amendments for both National Forest System lands and public lands managed by the BLM.
3: Affected Environment and Environmental Effects (702 pages)	This chapter is organized by resource, and is introduced by a general guide to the chapter (Section 3.0), explaining how each resource is organized and how disturbance is calculated. It covers, by resource, the affected environment and the environmental consequences of the Action Alternatives and compares them to the No Action Alternative. Impacts on National Historic Trails (NHTs) are discussed in a new section (3.1). In the Final EIS, NHTs were discussed in the Cultural Resources section (3.3). Chapter 3 also analyzes the impacts of the land use plan amendments where they change underlying land classification and could have impacts beyond that of the Project itself. It provides the details that support 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 Appendices E and G .
4: Cumulative Effects (54 pages)	Chapter 4 presents the cumulative effects of the 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.

Section	Description
5: Consultation and Collaboration (11 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.
6: Glossary and Index (39 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 (18 pages)	This chapter presents literature cited, organized alphabetically by author for the entire document.
Appendix A (10 pages)	Appendix A provides large-scale maps of the Proposed Project and the Alternatives.
Appendix B (34 pages)	Appendix B, the Proponents' Plan of Development Supplement, contains design details that supplement the description found in Chapter 2 .
Appendix C (90 pages)	Appendix C contains the Proponents' Draft Mitigation and Enhancement Portfolio.
Appendix D (98 pages)	Appendix D contains detailed large-format tables comparing quantitative impacts by route.
Appendix E (62 pages)	Appendix E contains large-format 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 selected KOPs for both visual and cultural resources.
Appendix F (66 pages)	In several cases, for the Revised Proposed Action (Alternative 1) or an Alternative to be approved, the land use management plan for the BLM unit crossed would need to 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 G (94 pages)	Appendix G is the visual analysis supplement for Appendix F, and provides simulations of the Revised Proposed Routes and other routes that would not be in conformance with the land use management plans.
Appendix H (50 pages)	Appendix H contains the RAC Report. This report documents the analysis and recommendations compiled by the Boise RAC at the request of the Boise District of the BLM.
Appendix I (94 pages)	Appendix I presents the Scoping Report for the SEIS.
Appendix J (200 pages)	Appendix J contains the report on the inventory and impacts analysis for the National Historic Trails completed in compliance with BLM Manual 6280.
Appendix K (13 pages)	Appendix K contains the BLM's conceptual mitigation model for assessing habitat restoration in the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area.