



Update on the environmental impact statement (EIS) process

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Shoshone Field Office continues to prepare the final EIS and its response to comments received during the public comment period for the draft EIS. The BLM has updated the target date for publishing the Notice of Availability for the final EIS to late spring 2024.

The final EIS represents several years of examining the issues surrounding the Lava Ridge Wind Project proposal, listening to various interested parties and incorporating valuable insight to reduce and mitigate the potential impacts. Throughout the evaluation of the project, the BLM has initiated government-to-government consultation with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, coordinated with 12 federal and state agencies and three counties, and received comments from 119 organizations and thousands of individuals. The BLM also received a thorough set of comments from Idaho BLM's Resource Advisory Council Lava Ridge Wind Project Subcommittee. This important feedback is being used to refine the analysis of the potential impacts and further shape a preferred alternative.

As previously outlined in the draft EIS, the information acquired during the public comment period could be used to identify an alternative that blends elements of the preferred alternatives, incorporates parts of any of the alternatives, or selects any of the five alternatives (the proposed action, the no action, or other action alternatives) as the preferred alternative in the final EIS. Of note, each action alternative was designed to further reduce potential impacts to cultural resource concerns including Minidoka National Historic Site, Wilson Butte Cave, and communities that have connections to those places; visual resources; wildlife habitat; big game migration routes and winter concentration areas; greater sage-grouse and sagebrush habitat; water resources; and surface and air transportation routes.

Updated NEPA EIS Schedule

- August 20, 2021** — BLM initiates public scoping
- October 20, 2021** — Scoping period ends
- January 20, 2023** — Draft EIS released for public review
Public comment period opens
- April 20, 2023** — Public comment period ends
- Late Spring 2024** — Final EIS released
- Summer 2024** — Record of Decision

The final EIS will not represent a decision on the project. The BLM will issue a Record of Decision (ROD) no sooner than 30 days after the publication of the final EIS. A notice of the Decision will be announced when the ROD is available.

Ways to stay informed

You can sign up to be on the project mailing list: forms.office.com/r/NDsr6rhtbs. Please include your name and all relevant contact information when you complete the form.

All comments are welcome and reviewed by BLM Project Managers. Please be aware, however, that there are no further formal public comment periods to provide input into the development of the EIS.

Please contact Kasey Prestwich if you have any questions.

Kasey Prestwich, Project Manager

BLM Shoshone Field Office
400 West F Street, Shoshone, ID 83352
Phone: 208-732-7204
Email: BLM_ID_LavaRidge@blm.gov
Website: <https://bit.ly/3EirzxD>

