

Field Work and Cultural Resources

The Gateway West Transmission Line Project is a joint project between Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power to build and operate approximately 1,150 miles of new transmission lines across southern Wyoming and southern Idaho. This project will help supply energy to customers and improve electric system reliability by enabling delivery of electricity from existing and new generating resources, including renewable resources such as wind.

Gateway West is currently undergoing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, led by the Bureau of Land Management. In 2009 and 2010, Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power will conduct field work in order to better understand conditions along the various proposed and alternate routes.

Field work purpose and focus

- Field work is an important step in the BLM's NEPA review process, which considers the effects of the proposed transmission line on the environment.
- The types of field work being conducted include:
 - Land surveys
 - Documenting cultural and environmental conditions
 - Collecting soil samples to understand conditions along the various corridor options
- No biological studies are required at this time, but will be conducted prior to construction.

Study area

- Studies are being conducted on land within the project study corridor.
- Some landowners within the study corridor have been contacted to request permission to conduct studies on privately-owned land. Permission to enter private property for field work does not grant a future easement or consent that a transmission line will be constructed across the property.

Focus on cultural surveys

The cultural resources survey team will be looking for historically significant artifacts and sites eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. To be considered for listing, sites must be at least 50 years old and associated with an important person or event, represent a good example of an architectural type or style or provide information important to understanding history or prehistory.

If the survey team finds a historically significant site or artifact on your property, it does not restrict the use, restrict the sale or require continued maintenance of the site. Any historically significant artifacts found would be the property of the private landowner.

Listing a historically significant site on the National Register can be beneficial to landowners. However, landowners are not required to list a historically significant site with the National Register. Benefits include a listing in the National Register Archives, potential tax incentives and grant opportunities and access to research and property maintenance information.

To learn more about the National Register of Historic Places visit www.nps.gov/history/nr/.

For More Information

www.gatewaywestproject.com

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