

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

PUBLIC SCOPING HEARING

NOVEMBER 1, 2005

BOISE, IDAHO

BURNHAM, HABEL & ASSOCIATES, INC.
Certified Shorthand Reporters

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Prepared for

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BE IT REMEMBERED that the hearing was taken at the Harrison Plaza Hotel, located at 409 South Cole Road, Boise, Idaho, before Debra Burnham, a Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the County of Ada, State of Idaho, on Tuesday, the 1st day of November, 2005, commencing at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the above-entitled matter.

APPEARANCES:

For the DOE: Ms. Julia Souder
 For the USFS: Ms. Maryanne Kurtinaitis
 For the BLM: Mr. Bil Weigand

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1 Whereupon the hearing proceeded as follows:
 2 MR. BENNETT: I think we're about ready to
 3 start. My name is K. Lynn Bennett. I'm the state
 4 director for BLM here, and I certainly would like to
 5 thank you all for coming to this session, this scoping
 6 session; and welcome you. This scoping session is in
 7 terms of energy corridor designations for federal lands
 8 administered by BLM and the Forest Service. The Energy
 9 Policy Act of 2005 requires the Secretaries of Energy,
 10 Agriculture, and the Interior to designate corridors
 11 for oil, gas and hydrogen pipelines and electricity
 12 transmission and distribution facilities on federal
 13 land in the 11 contiguous western states.
 14 The Act further directs the Secretaries to
 15 incorporate the designated corridors into the relevant
 16 agency land use plans and resource management plans or
 17 equivalent plans and to perform any environmental
 18 review that may be required to complete the designation
 19 of the corridors.
 20 For that purpose the Department of Energy,
 21 BLM and the Forest Service are preparing the West-wide
 22 Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact
 23 Statement.
 24 The West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic
 25 Environmental Impact Statement will evaluate the

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1 programmatic issues associated with energy corridor
 2 designation as well as the amendment of individual land
 3 use plans on BLM and Forest Service lands. This will
 4 occur across the West, excluding Alaska.

5 Designation of energy corridors through land
 6 use plan amendments on Forest Service and BLM lands
 7 will facilitate processing of energy-related
 8 right-of-way applications and the associated
 9 site-specific analysis.

10 We appreciate your interest in the project.
 11 We value your comments, and we look forward to your
 12 continued involvement as we proceed with this analysis.

13 And now I'd like to introduce Julia Souder,
 14 who is the project manager with the Department of
 15 Energy; and she will introduce the rest of the panel.

16 MS. SOUDER: Thank you very much, K. Lynn.

17 Thank you for coming today. We appreciate
 18 you taking the time to be here. Again, my name is
 19 Julia Souder, Western Regional Coordinator, Office of
 20 Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, and the
 21 project manager for the work that we're doing here
 22 today. And I'd like to hand the mike over to Bil.

23 MR. WEIGAND: Good afternoon. My name is Bil
 24 Weigand, senior equity specialist, Bureau of Land
 25 Management. My primary responsibility is the

1 the proposed action and a range of reasonable
 2 alternatives.

3 Public participation in the West-wide energy
 4 corridor study is very important.

5 The notice of intent was published September
 6 28 of this year. And I encourage you to take a look at
 7 that. And I will show you where the Web site is that
 8 has that information. That's very informative, to help
 9 kind of facilitate some of your scoping public comment
 10 process there.

11 The intent of the scoping meeting is to
 12 solicit public comment for consideration in
 13 establishing scope and content for the Programmatic
 14 EIS. It involves comments from federal agencies,
 15 public interest groups, Native American tribes,
 16 business and members of the public.

17 Also, it's to refine the preliminary
 18 alternatives that you'll find in that notice of intent.
 19 And we are holding meetings in 11 western states --
 20 cities. States, too.

21 There are four ways to submit the comments.
 22 I can't see it, but the four ways are the electronic
 23 comment through our Web site; regular mail. One thing
 24 you might want to consider is with the federal agencies
 25 having to go through anthrax screening in DC, things

1 right-of-way program, and I have been involved with
 2 other corridor efforts in the past; so I look forward
 3 to this effort as well, and your comments.

4 MS. KURTINAITIS: Good afternoon, folks. My
 5 name is Maryanne. I am with the Forest Service, out of
 6 our Washington office. I am in the lands and realty
 7 management program, working there, just recently moved
 8 to the DC area, after leaving Colorado after 25 years.
 9 So I am still adjusting to DC life out there.

10 I'd like to go over the details of the
 11 introduction. I'll be the moderator for this
 12 afternoon's meeting. Just to reiterate again, we are
 13 dealing with Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act, and
 14 that was signed August of this year; and it directed
 15 the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense,
 16 Energy and Interior to designate energy corridors under
 17 our respective authorities on federal land in the 11
 18 western states; and that's within the next two years.

19 The key to these designations will occur in
 20 our land use management process, and getting those
 21 implemented into those land use plans. The agencies
 22 determined that designating of the corridors as
 23 required by the Act is a major federal action, and so
 24 we intend to prepare a Programmatic Environmental
 25 Impact Statement to address environmental impacts from

1 look funny and take a long time to come through the
 2 regular mail. So if you want to do it by mail, I
 3 suggest you do express mail. You can fax it to us or
 4 being here today, either by a formal presentation or by
 5 filling out a comment card.

6 These comments need to be submitted by
 7 November 28 of 2005.

8 Things we're looking for in the comments is
 9 outlining what's important to you, identifying
 10 compatible uses in the corridors, describing even to
 11 like point A to point B in your comments and getting
 12 that specific.

13 The handout that's outside is really a good
 14 one. It's kind a spin-off from the Web site. The Web
 15 site is -- We'll get that up there for you. But it has
 16 a lot of good information for what's going on, as we go
 17 through all the public meetings and as we go on with
 18 this process.

19 The formal comments are going to be recorded
 20 into the official record.

21 During the formal presentations we would
 22 prefer not to have questions and answers. What we want
 23 to do is, after the formal presentations, is turn off
 24 the recorder; and then we can break for informal
 25 discussions with the agencies' representatives that are

1 here.
 2 Are there -- Would the agency representatives
 3 stand up, some of the local folks, just to show who's
 4 here.
 5 Great. Thanks. And if you could keep your
 6 comments to around ten minutes; and I will kind of keep
 7 track of that time for you.
 8 I really appreciate you attending this
 9 meeting.
 10 First I'd like to -- One thing is to please
 11 turn off cell phones and pagers. That would be a good
 12 thing to do about now. And before I start the order of
 13 the presentations, are there any elected officials or
 14 tribal representatives who wish to speak?
 15 No? Okay. We'll just get going. And I am
 16 just going to go with first names because I hate
 17 messing up people's last names.
 18 Paul, Idaho Public Utility Commission.
 19 Come right up to the podium. And Paul, if
 20 you could say your last name, that way I'll know how to
 21 say your name right, then.
 22 MR. KJELLANDER: Paul Kjellander. ID01
 23 Well, I guess it's my intent to keep my
 24 comments extraordinarily brief. So if I even approach
 25 ten minutes, please give me the hook. And I'd also

1 demand is the distance between loads and resources.
 2 The West, and the Northwest in particular,
 3 are characterized by massive distances between fuel
 4 resources for generators and population centers. The
 5 solution in the past 15 years was to build natural
 6 gas-fired generators close to load. But today reliance
 7 on gas-fired generators located close to load centers
 8 has basically lost its luster as those natural gas
 9 prices have soared, to the point that it may not make
 10 fiscal sense anymore.
 11 Transmission is essential in our future
 12 resource planning, because without adequate
 13 transmission, the dots between generation and loads
 14 simply cannot be connected.
 15 So I don't want to suggest that transmission
 16 is the only alternative to ensure the continuation of
 17 adequate and reliable electricity service in Idaho and
 18 the Northwest. We need to continue to encourage
 19 electric utilities to consider as wide a range of
 20 alternatives as possible for serving future loads,
 21 including demand-side management, conservation and
 22 energy efficiency.
 23 But the cold reality at the end of the day is
 24 that these measures will only temporarily postpone the
 25 inevitable; and new and upgraded transmission lines

1 just like to state up front as chairman of the Idaho
 2 Public Utilities Commission, we regulate natural gas
 3 distributors and investor-owned utility. And the
 4 comments I will make today are not necessarily
 5 sanctioned by the members of our commission. They
 6 belong to me. That's the disclaimer. To the extent I
 7 offend anybody, these comments are mine; and I will be
 8 running out that door as soon as I'm finished.
 9 The comments I'd like to make are in essence
 10 within the context of our regional electricity needs.
 11 I know that the corridors go through much broader --
 12 much broader scope, but in terms of my regulatory
 13 authority, I will keep my comments today primarily tied
 14 to electricity.
 15 With regards to the electricity needs within
 16 the region, I guess at the center of my concerns is the
 17 continued load growth in the Pacific Northwest. Most
 18 notably in Idaho and the rest of the Pacific Northwest,
 19 the need for additional electricity continues to
 20 increase due to population and economic growth,
 21 changing weather patterns that impair hydropower
 22 production, and the extraordinary increased use of
 23 electricity by residential and commercial customers.
 24 A major regional characteristic that impacts
 25 our ability to easily meet our growing electrical

1 must be built to ensure future electricity loads are
 2 met. Clearly stated, we need to look at all viable
 3 nonconstruction or non-wires alternatives; but in the
 4 end we will eventually need to construct new
 5 transmission. That transmission will have to cross
 6 federal land. So federal corridors in the region are
 7 essential.
 8 With that said, the siting process on federal
 9 lands must include two main elements: Standardization
 10 and certainty. Getting to that end, all vested
 11 interests need to be at the table; but no single entity
 12 should be given more deference than others. For
 13 example, the federal entity known as the Bonneville
 14 Power Administration controls huge segments of
 15 high-capacity transmission in the region. But they are
 16 not the only player.
 17 And because the entire northwest region needs
 18 additional resources to serve customers, there has been
 19 widespread participation by transmission owners and
 20 users in planning efforts that are already underway.
 21 While the Bonneville Power Administration is a huge
 22 transmission player in the region, again, they are not
 23 the sole driver for this regional planning process or
 24 the needs that underlie it. Therefore, putting BPA in
 25 a position of authority with regard to designating

1 energy corridors on federal lands, simply because it's
 2 another federal agency and part of DOE, would be
 3 inappropriate and should not even be considered.
 4 So now let me shift my comments to some of
 5 the potential benefits of establishing transmission
 6 corridors on federal lands. Most notably, doing so
 7 could provide for the facilitation of investment and
 8 risk mitigation. Yes; I'd like to say at this point
 9 everything fits most necessarily under the heading "The
 10 Intuitively Obvious."

11 It should come as no surprise that major
 12 transmission projects have investment risk. These
 13 projects have long lead times; five to ten years from
 14 inception to completion. The cost per mile in the West
 15 can range from a half million to two million dollars,
 16 depending on terrain, land use, and permitting. And of
 17 course those costs are even higher in and around urban
 18 areas.

19 It's also not surprising that there is a
 20 reluctance on the part of lenders to loan without
 21 certainty of project completion and cost recovery. So
 22 without some standardization and certainty regarding
 23 federal transmission corridors, there is the potential
 24 for piecemeal, one-transmission-owner projects that
 25 serve a very limited geographic area, resulting in

1 projects that do very little to resolve region-wide
 2 transmission problems.

3 So clearly, federal transmission corridor
 4 destination can help mitigate project risk, facilitate
 5 investment, and it can encourage regional solutions.
 6 The designation of such corridors would provide
 7 certainty of federal land availability for new
 8 projects. Established corridors would be less costly
 9 than having to negotiate corridors agency by agency.

10 Corridors would give developers and
 11 transmission owners the ability to propose more
 12 efficient transmission projects using federal corridors
 13 to solve those regional needs. Such designations would
 14 encourage multiple investors in multistate transmission
 15 projects crossing federal and nonfederal lands.

16 As a regulator in a state with regulated
 17 utilities, I also would like to touch on the impact to
 18 ratepayers. The costs of transmission are borne by
 19 ratepayers through regulated rates over the life of the
 20 project. Designation of both existing and new energy
 21 corridors on federal lands could streamline the
 22 permitting process and construction time and
 23 accordingly, lower costs to consumers.

24 Additionally, federal agencies should
 25 consider standardization and consistency of their

1 siting/permitting processes and of fee structures for
 2 land use for these projects in order to provide greater
 3 cost certainty to ratepayers. By standardizing the fee
 4 structures and the process, it would also eliminate the
 5 perception of unfair treatment and unrealistic
 6 expectations that exist today.

7 Based on the point I just articulated, I
 8 believe that environmental issues need to be more
 9 clearly defined. More cost certainty needs to be
 10 associated with those. With that I would conclude my
 11 remarks.

12 MS. KURTINAITIS: Thank you for your **ID02**
 13 comments, Paul.

14 Next we have Jim Jensen, Power Engineers
 15 Incorporated.

16 MR. JENSEN: Thank you. I am going to be
 17 making comments today for three separate entities; so
 18 three sets of comments, I guess. The first is for
 19 Northwestern Energy. Northwestern Energy appreciates
 20 the Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture and
 21 Department of Interior efforts in designating energy
 22 corridors on federal lands in the 11 western states.

23 Northwestern serves more than 617,000
 24 customers in Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska, and
 25 currently owns, operates and maintains approximately

1 7,000 miles of electric transmission and approximately
 2 2,000 miles of natural gas transmission in Montana
 3 alone.

4 In addition to the verbal comments I am
 5 giving to you today, Northwestern Energy will submit
 6 written remarks as well.

7 Northwestern's need for an expanded
 8 transmission grid includes the currently projected
 9 resource development in the region of over 2200
 10 megawatts in Northwestern's Generation Interconnection
 11 Queue alone. The existing transmission system is
 12 congested and will not accommodate these needs.

13 Northwestern is anticipating trying to
 14 construct a project from Montana into southern Idaho,
 15 from western Montana into southern Idaho; and that's
 16 why these comments are being made here today in Boise.

17 Northwestern requests that the agencies
 18 consider the following during the development of the
 19 Programmatic EIS. Corridors should be developed in
 20 consideration of compatible uses.

21 There should be reliability considerations of
 22 the Western Electric Coordinating Counsel; that is, the
 23 utilities cannot put all their eggs in one basket
 24 without risking system reliability. In other words,
 25 multiple transmission lines adjacent to one another in

1 a single corridor is a recipe for disaster.
 2 Corridors should have sufficient width to
 3 support multiple facilities.
 4 Corridor designations should be flexible and
 5 dynamic enough to recognize changing conditions. For
 6 example, system needs and requirements do change over
 7 time. Land uses change over time. The Act anticipates
 8 ongoing, high-level coordination between federal land
 9 management agencies; so we're assuming that this would
 10 be done.
 11 Corridors should match where land ownership
 12 and land jurisdictions changes; for example, at state
 13 borders, BLM and Forest Service boundaries, federal and
 14 state ownership, government and private ownership
 15 boundaries.
 16 The process should coordinate corridor
 17 designation with state regulations -- for example, in
 18 Montana, the Montana Major Facility Siting Act -- and
 19 identify siting constraints on adjoining private lands
 20 -- for example, the specific land uses; agriculture
 21 lands, conservation easements; visual impact issues, so
 22 forth.
 23 The agencies should help develop through this
 24 process a streamlined permitting process for facilities
 25 within a designated corridor.

1 as for national security interests, to expand the
 2 transmission grid to connect generation resources with
 3 population and industrial centers. Wind Hunter
 4 supports the federal government's commitment to help
 5 resolve this need by establishing corridors and
 6 amending land use plans, which should facilitate the
 7 environmental review processes for individual projects
 8 as they're proposed.
 9 And last, these remarks -- very short remarks
 10 for the Montana Electric Transmission Committee. The
 11 Montana Electric Transmission Committee is an industry
 12 group that was recently formed to address and resolve
 13 issues associated with permitting and constructing
 14 in-state transmission lines to Montana, as well as
 15 out-of-state transmission needs. The committee
 16 supports the efforts of the federal agencies to
 17 implement national-interest corridors by amending
 18 agency land use plans; and will be submitting written
 19 comments during the scoping period.
 20 MS. KURTINAITIS: Thank you very much, Jim.
 21 Next we have Brett Dumas, Idaho Power and
 22 Western Utility Group.
 23 Did I pronounce your name correctly?
 24 MR. DUMAS: Close enough.
 25 Hello. I'm Brett Dumas, Idaho Power Company,

ID03

1 Corridors -- Assuming corridors will be
 2 selected that will minimize environmental impacts.
 3 And last, it is important that agencies not
 4 anticipate that every suggested corridor will actually
 5 be used.
 6 Northwestern has provided me a map to leave
 7 with you. And so I will do that. And the map
 8 illustrates the needs that are -- that they have, that
 9 are both Montana and Idaho; and those are
 10 Townsend-Dillon-Midpoint, Midpoint being a major
 11 substation in southern Idaho; Townsend-Mill
 12 Creek-Dillon-Midpoint; or Garrison-Mill
 13 Creek-Dillon-Midpoint.
 14 That concludes my remarks for Northwestern.
 15 Second set of remarks are for Wind Hunter,
 16 LLC. Wind Hunter, LLC, is a wind energy asset
 17 development company whose strategy is to acquire, own,
 18 develop and operate wind energy projects on a worldwide
 19 basis. To date, Wind Hunter has acquired wind
 20 resources in Montana, Texas, New Mexico, Nevada and
 21 California, and is currently in various stages of
 22 development for approximately ten individual wind
 23 projects.
 24 There is a compelling need, for the present
 25 and future economic well-being of this country as well

1 supervisor, environmental affairs department, first
 2 vice chair of the Western Utility Group.
 3 Idaho Power is an integrated electric utility
 4 company that serves approximately 450,000 customers in
 5 a 24,000-square-mile service area in southern Idaho and
 6 eastern Oregon.
 7 Idaho Power has a long history of involvement
 8 with and is a proponent of utility corridors in the
 9 West. We have worked with local BLM districts and
 10 national forests to identify and designate utility
 11 corridors in the land planning process.
 12 As a member of the Western Utility Group, we
 13 have assisted with the development of the Western
 14 Regional Corridor Study, which has served as a
 15 blueprint for utility corridors up to this point in
 16 time.
 17 We are also involved in electrical planning
 18 projects such as the Rocky Mountain Area Transmission
 19 Study and the Northwest Transmission Assessment
 20 Committee, to name a couple.
 21 The role of corridors in the meeting of the
 22 current and future energy needs of the West is
 23 paramount to Idaho Power because of the disparity
 24 between where energy sources and load centers are
 25 located. It is necessary to transport energy.

1 Corridors need to meet the needs of both local and
 2 regional interests. The siting and permitting process
 3 has been a significant impediment to building new
 4 transmission lines. For example, this is cited in the
 5 National Transmission Grid Study. The predominance of
 6 public lands in the West requires that energy
 7 infrastructure use these lands. Competing interests on
 8 and for public lands necessitates that energy, a
 9 critical national resource, be included in and
 10 accounted for in the agency planning processes.

11 Idaho Power would like to applaud the
 12 agencies' efforts and the tremendous amount of time and
 13 resources that are being dedicated to meeting this
 14 need, as addressed in the Energy Policy Act.

15 Idaho Power will provide detailed written
 16 comments on our perceived needs for corridors, to meet
 17 Idaho Power's service territory in the western region.

18 We will also provide comments on the definition and
 19 management of a corridor, and we will evaluate the
 20 preliminary alternatives proposed in the notice of
 21 intent as published in the Federal Register.

22 Thank you very much.

23 MS. KURTINAITIS: Thank you, Brett.

24 Is there anyone else who has come in recently
 25 who'd like to speak but hasn't signed up yet?

1 Secretaries of the Energy, Agriculture and the Interior
 2 to designate corridors for oil, gas and hydrogen
 3 pipelines and electric transmission and distribution
 4 facilities on federal lands in the 11 contiguous
 5 western states.

6 The Act further directs the Secretaries to
 7 incorporate the designated corridors into the relevant
 8 agency land use plans and resource management plans or
 9 equivalent plans and to perform any environmental
 10 review that may be required to complete the designation
 11 of the corridors.

12 For that purpose, the Department of Energy,
 13 BLM and the Forest Service are preparing a West-wide
 14 Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact
 15 Statement. The West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic
 16 Environmental Impact Statement will evaluate the
 17 programmatic issues associated with energy corridor
 18 designations, as well as the amendment of individual
 19 land use plans on BLM and Forest Service-administered
 20 lands in the West, excluding Alaska.

21 Designation of energy corridors through land
 22 use plan amendments on Forest Service and BLM lands
 23 will facilitate processing of energy-related
 24 right-of-way applications and associated site-specific
 25 analysis.

1 Okay. Then does anyone want to make any
 2 comments?

3 Okay. Then I guess that concludes our formal
 4 presentation. We can turn off the recorder, and then
 5 we can just break and kind of mingle, take questions
 6 and answers for maybe 15 minutes, and then I might go
 7 change into some real clothes.

8 (Whereupon a recess was had.)

9 MS. KURTINAITIS: I'll let you know that in
 10 January or February there will be a document coming out
 11 that will have incorporated all of the public scoping
 12 comments from all of the 11-city tour. I think we
 13 should have a name, like for a band.

14 Is there anyone who has come into the room
 15 that's signed up or would like to give a formal
 16 presentation on the record?

17 Okay. Then we will just turn you back off
 18 and we will be back off the record, then.

19 (Whereupon a recess was had.)

20 MR. BENNETT: Good evening. Again, my name
 21 is K. Lynn Bennett. I am the state director for BLM
 22 here in Idaho, and I want to thank you all for coming
 23 to this public scoping meeting for energy corridor
 24 designation administered by BLM and the Forest Service.

25 The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires the

1 We appreciate your interest in the project.
 2 We value your comments, and we look forward to your
 3 continued involvement as we proceed with our analysis.

4 Now I would like to introduce to you Julia
 5 Souder, who's the project manager from Department of
 6 Energy; and she will take it from here and introduce
 7 the rest of the panel.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. SOUDER: Thank you, K. Lynn.

10 Good evening, everyone. Thank you very much
 11 for being here. My name is Julia Souder, Western
 12 Regional Coordinator for Office of Electricity Delivery
 13 and Energy Reliability at the Department of Energy. We
 14 want to say this is very important, and we are happy to
 15 hear your comments. So thank you again for being here.

16 MR. WEIGAND: My name is Bil Weigand. I'm a
 17 senior realty specialist with BLM at our Washington
 18 office. My primary responsibilities include rights of
 19 ways, and I have been involved with a couple of other
 20 corridor planning projects. So I look forward to this
 21 one and any comments that we get tonight.

22 MS. KURTINAITIS: Good evening, folks.

23 Welcome to our evening session here. My name is
 24 Maryanne Kurtinaitis. I am with the US Forest Service
 25 in Washington, DC; and I am part of the lands and

1 really management program there, working on a lot of
 2 the special use authorizations, and working with the
 3 utility corridors and all that's going on with the
 4 implementation with the energy bill.

5 I am going to go over a little bit, reiterate
 6 a little more about what's bringing us all here today,
 7 and then we will get into some of the formal
 8 presentations.

9 Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act was
 10 signed in August of this year, and it directs the
 11 Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy
 12 and Interior to designate utility corridors under our
 13 respective authorities on federal land in 11 western
 14 states; and we need to do this within two years.

15 The key to these designations will occur in
 16 our land use planning process. The agencies have
 17 determined that designating corridors as required by
 18 the Act is a major federal action. And from that, then
 19 we intend to prepare a Programmatic Environmental
 20 Impact Statement to address environmental impacts from
 21 proposed action and a range of reasonable alternatives.
 22 Also, public participation in the West-wide energy
 23 corridor study is very important. One thing that's
 24 out, one of the handouts, is a notice of intent that
 25 was published at the end of September; and that's

1 really good. And I will get into the Web site some
 2 really good information to get you started on the
 3 proposed action, where we're heading.

4 The intent of this scoping meeting is to
 5 solicit public comments for consideration to establish
 6 the scope and the content of this Programmatic EIS.
 7 It's for federal agencies, public interest groups,
 8 native American tribes, businesses and members of the
 9 public to respond. It's also to refine the preliminary
 10 alternatives that are listed in that notice of intent.

11 And again, we are holding meetings in 11
 12 western cities, same format in each of the cities.
 13 There are four ways that you can submit comments to us.
 14 The electronic comment process is through the Web site.
 15 It's -- The poster over there on that side will show
 16 the Web site address, and that's got very good
 17 information to review on the project as we move forward
 18 with this.

19 Regular mail, although -- It's kind of
 20 recommended that because all the federal agencies in DC
 21 still have to go -- Our mail goes through anthrax
 22 screening -- the time delay in that. And I don't know
 23 what happens to them. They come crumpled up in an
 24 envelope. So if you want to do hard mail, we'd ask you
 25 to use express mail. That will be the better route.

1 You can fax it to us, or just being here
 2 today by either presenting a formal presentation or
 3 filling out the comment cards there on the back table
 4 out in the hallway. What we are looking for in the
 5 comments is just outlining what's important to you,
 6 identifying compatible uses; also maybe describing from
 7 point A to point B of a specific corridor area.

8 With the handouts also is a one-page -- It's
 9 kind of a takeoff from the Web site; very good
 10 information about what's going on with this background
 11 information that we just went over, and just some of
 12 the scoping processes that we're in now.

13 The formal comments that will be given
 14 tonight will be recorded in the official record.
 15 During the formal presentations we prefer not to have
 16 questions and answers; but once we turn off the
 17 recorder, then we can kind of -- we can take a break,
 18 and we will have an informal discussion with the agency
 19 representatives. And at this time -- 'cause we
 20 probably have some new folks. Those folks with the
 21 Forest Service and the BLM, if you care to stand up,
 22 and that way we can -- in case there's specific
 23 questions for the locals.

24 Great. Appreciate that. Thank you.
 25 I guess we'll keep to ten minutes for

1 comments, although that's probably not a big deal for
 2 here, this evening, as far as that goes.

3 Really appreciate you all attending the
 4 meeting tonight.

5 Please turn off cell phones and pagers. This
 6 would be a good time to do that now. And I guess we
 7 will get started on the formal presentations now.

8 Are there any elected officials or tribal
 9 representatives that wish to speak?

ID04

10 Okay. Well, then, I will go right into
 11 having Gene Bray come up with Western Watersheds
 12 Project. And you could use the podium here for
 13 presentation.

14 MR. BRAY: I thought we were going to start
 15 off with a dissertation by the agencies as to what was
 16 going to go on, and then we would respond to that. I
 17 haven't heard anything that gives me a hell of a lot of
 18 comment on yet.

19 MS. KURTINAITIS: Have you had an opportunity
 20 to read the notice of intent, Gene?

21 MR. BRAY: No. I just got here, got the
 22 package.

23 MS. KURTINAITIS: The whole idea with the
 24 scoping was to hear from folks; and as we go through
 25 these cities, there's some -- people sign up, just give

1 formal presentations of whatever.
 2 MR. BRAY: Every scoping meeting I have been
 3 through before this by an agency involves a
 4 presentation, sort of a general outline of what the
 5 geographic area is, and things like that; and then the
 6 attendees get a chance to comment relative to the -- to
 7 what the agencies or the combined agencies are
 8 intending to do in terms of the process or the content.
 9 But I guess I can respond with some concerns, if you'd
 10 like for me to do that, without any input from you
 11 folks.
 12 I do have several concerns. Apparently after
 13 the formal presentations, I presume other people are
 14 going to get up here and talk -- that there's going --
 15 You said you are going to turn off the recorder and
 16 then have informal sessions. Seems to me that
 17 oftentimes in the informal give-and-take discussions,
 18 important issues come out; and so it kind of implies to
 19 me that the comments in that, after informal exchange,
 20 are not going to go into the administrative record. So
 21 that does concern me.
 22 So the second thing, there is a fair amount
 23 of controversy going on on the difference between land
 24 use plans and more site-specific plans, like a lot of
 25 management plans, landscape management plans and so on;

1 going on. So up to this point, that's about all I can
 2 tell you about what I think you might say or what might
 3 come out in these deliberations over the next two
 4 years.
 5 Any questions?
 6 MS. KURTINAITIS: Thank you, Gene.
 7 Is there anyone else who'd like to give a
 8 formal presentation?
 9 MR. BRAY: If you can count that one formal.
 10 MS. KURTINAITIS: All right. Then why don't
 11 we take a break as far as turn off the recorder, and we
 12 can break out to have some informal discussions, if you
 13 have questions and answers at this point. And then we
 14 will see if anyone else comes in a little bit later,
 15 and have a second round. Of if there are any formal
 16 presentations from anyone else who shows up a little
 17 later, maybe in 15 minutes. About 25 to eight we'll
 18 come back and we'll see if we have anyone else who'd
 19 like to give a formal presentation.
 20 (Whereupon a recess was had, and the hearing
 21 was concluded at 8:45 p.m.)
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1 and the conservation community frequently gets tarred
 2 with the argument, "Well, you should have brought this
 3 issue up in the global land use plan, like the
 4 southeast Oregon RMP, rather than waiting until the
 5 Trout Creek allotment management plan or landscape plan
 6 comes out."
 7 So there is sort of a shell game that goes on
 8 as to where is the appropriate place to comment on
 9 specific issues. And K. Lynn did mention that --
 10 something about site-specific analysis; and I am
 11 concerned as this process goes forward that under the
 12 heading of a Programmatic EIS, that site-specific
 13 concerns -- alternate A, alternate B in terms of a
 14 corridor -- is going to be that sort of discussion, is
 15 not going to be fully vetted in terms of the resource
 16 values that are involved in alternative A or
 17 alternative B.
 18 And so I am just a little confused at this
 19 point as to where it is appropriate to make site or
 20 corridor-specific comments, since at this point I don't
 21 think anyone in this room understands what corridors
 22 are being proposed for and which ones are new and which
 23 ones are existing. And so that sort of information
 24 seems to be essential to the commenting public before
 25 we can really make intelligent comments about what's

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
 2 STATE OF IDAHO)
 3) ss.
 4 COUNTY OF ADA)
 5 I, Debra Burnham, Certified Shorthand Reporter and
 6 Notary Public in and for the State of Idaho, do hereby
 7 certify:
 8 That this hearing was taken down by me in shorthand
 9 at the time and place therein named and thereafter
 10 reduced to typewriting under my direction, and that the
 11 foregoing transcript contains a full, true and verbatim
 12 record of said hearing.
 13 I further certify that I have no interest in the
 14 event of the action.
 15 WITNESS my hand and seal this 3rd day of November,
 16 2005.
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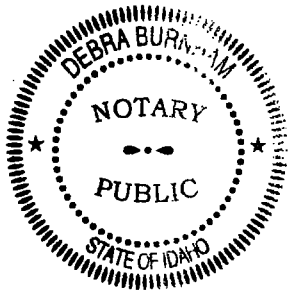
STATE OF IDAHO)
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WITNESS my hand and seal this 3rd day of November, 2005.



Debra Burnham
Debra Burnham
CSR, RPR and Notary
Public in and for
the State of Idaho.

My Commission Expires: 6-30-06