

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

IN THE MATTER OF IDAHO POWER COMPANY'S, PETITION FOR CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY.	Docket: PCN 5 Witness testimony Timothy Proesch & Miranda Aston- Proesch Owyhee Oasis
--	--

Date: February 6th, 2023

Timothy Proesch & Miranda Aston-Proesch
Intervenor

**2104 Owyhee Lake Road
Nyssa OR, 97913
Mailing Address: PO Box 2583
Nyssa Oregon 97913
owyheeoasis@gmail.com**

Below is our character witness testimonies. We would like to add the state fire risk assessment once it becomes available (estimated fall 2023) as we do not feel that fire risk is fully being taken into account in this proposed project. Below is a recent article we feel needs to be taken into account as well

https://www.bakercityherald.com/news/local/former-county-commissioner-mark-bennett-hopes-controversial-fire-risk-map-doesnt-detract-from-goal-of/article_4091a9a2-9da0-11ed-a39a-73a198085e08.html

Boardman to Hemingway PCN5

Witness: Tim Davis— Founder and Executive Director for Friends of the Owyhee

To Whom it may concern;

My Name is Tim Davis and I am the Founder and the Executive Director for Friends of the Owyhee. I grew up in Adrian, Oregon and now live in Ontario, Oregon. The Owyhee's, Malheur county, and general area have been a part of my entire life and I worry this transmission line will greatly impact the beautiful scenery and nature here. I am urging you to please deny the proposed B2H transmission project.

Throughout my letter and testimony I will refer to “Boardman to Hemingway” and the “Boardman to Hemingway Transmission line” as B2H.

The B2H will greatly impact the natural scenery, all recreation use in our area, and the wildlife. I recognize there is another transmission line that crosses the canyon upstream of this proposal. The already existing transmission line sits much higher than the proposed B2H and spans the entire canyon with towers that are not highly visible on each edge of the entrance to the Owyhee canyon. The proposed B2H line will impart the natural scenery due to the placement at the entrance of the canyon as it is much lower than the already existing transmission line in the canyon. The beautiful natural scenery here is one of the driving factors people come to this canyon to view. The Owyhee canyon is a spectacular canyon that has been compared to Zion National Park. The Owyhee canyon is approximately 30 minutes from Ontario, Oregon where a majority of Malheur county residents live and approximately a one-hour drive from Boise, Idaho. This area has a high potential to be a top recreational hub for Malheur county. The recreation has a high potential to be a recreation hub for Malheur County opposed to the financial decline and recreation that will follow if B2H is approved. In the

2002 RMP, the BLM has outlined a plan to increase the recreational opportunities in the Owyhee canyon. The B2H project has slowed the progress of the BLM plan from going into place and will effect the plans from ever happening. B2H placement will negatively effect future plans that Owyhee Oasis, at the entrance of Owyhee canyon is planning and building on their property that will support recreation infrastructure for this area. I have great concerns that this canyon will have a negative effect and impact to wildlife, especially the birds. The location of B2H sits at the entrance of the Owyhee canyon, a canyon that is hundreds of miles long and goes all the way to Nevada. The migrating birds use this canyon and waterway as a corridor as they fly South. B2H creates a new area for birds of prey to perch on that will increase the mortality of other wildlife. This will create an imbalance in the natural cycle for the birds that travel through as well as the wildlife that reside in the Owyhee canyon. Out of the canyon to the South is the winter range for Mule deer and I worry about the negative impacts new towers on the landscape would cause them without any proper tests or proof of longevity of a transmission line of this magnitude.

I strongly suggest if the B2H absolutely has to be placed in the Owyhee canyon that it go parallel to the already existing power corridor across the canyon, no towers in the canyon bottom, and to place the towers out of visual site as much as possible opposed the propose B2H pathway.

/s/Timothy Davis

Timothy Davis—Founder and Executive Director for Friends of the Owyhee



Samuel R. Castonguay, M.Sc. Geological Science
Friends of the Owyhee, Program Director
41 N Dorian Dr., Ontario, OR 97914
sammyc@owyheefriends.org

Regarding Idaho Power planned high-capacity line Board to Hemmingway

To whom it may concern:

The placement of the high-capacity power line through the "Owyhee Oasis" property seems unnecessary. The current owners of that land have immense opportunity to bring responsible and safe recreation to that area of the Lower Owyhee Canyon but their constitutional pursuit of happiness is sabotaged by the placement of this line and tower.

Geologically, the line or tower are not at any risk. I am not a certified geologist, but have been teaching in academia for 10 years. While I have not given any formal geological consultation to the property owner, we have discussed publicly available data and geologic hazards associated with the general setting. There are no active faults, a low to moderate risk of landslide activity due to the canal road oversteeping, and there is a very low chance of flooding because of the flood control dam upstream. There is no geologic hazard for the line in this planned corridor, but the same can be said for most any other location the line could cross the canyon. But there is plenty of socioeconomic hazard from placing this line through private property that has great potential as a resort, venue, Outdoor School, campground, etc. etc. etc. That land is better suited for *anything* other than a power line.

In my years working as Program Director for Friends of the Owyhee, the area of the Lower Owyhee Canyon between "Owyhee Oasis" and Snively Hot Springs has been an area of recreational focus. Though ~40 minutes from downtown Ontario, it is still the closest area of contiguous public land for folks to enjoy. The Watchable Wildlife Area, under a mile away from line, has a small asphalt trail with an educational sign and bench. This is the *only* ADA compliant nature path in the entire Owyhee (watershed and front - to my knowledge), but both the quality of the experience for Americans with Disabilities and the potential watchable wildlife will be impacted by the proximity of the line. Perhaps the impact on wildlife could be argued, impact on the natural experience for visitors cannot. We have developed a system of hiking routes through the area (Owyhee Oasis to Snively HS) and several of the expansive views at the top of the trail would be impacted by the presence of this line.

Please do not hesitate to call or email for more information.

Regards,
Samuel R Castonguay