

The Federal Government's Rapid Response Transmission Team (RRTT) and the Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Walter E. George, National Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
(307) 775-6116

Where Does the RRTT Come From?

- Departmental MOU signed in October 2009
 - Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
 - Department of Agriculture
 - Department of Commerce
 - Department of Defense
 - Department of Energy
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
 - Department of Interior
 - White House Council on Environmental Quality

RRTT Organization and Objectives

- Lead by:
 - Department of Energy
 - Department of Interior
 - White House Council on Environmental Quality
- Objectives:
 - Facilitate Federal agency coordination, timely review and permitting of renewable energy and transmission projects.
 - Designate “on call” agency personnel to address issues regarding federal review of proposals.

Initial RRTT Products

- Publicly available electronic project dashboard
 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/interagency-rapid-response-team-for-transmission>
 - <http://trackingsystem.nisc-llc.com/etrans/utility/Search.seam>
- High Priority Projects
 - Eastern Interconnect
 - Susquehanna – Roseland
 - CAPX Hampton – Lacrosse
 - Western Interconnect
 - Sun – Zia
 - Cascade Crossing
 - Boardman – Hemingway
 - TransWest Express
 - Gateway West

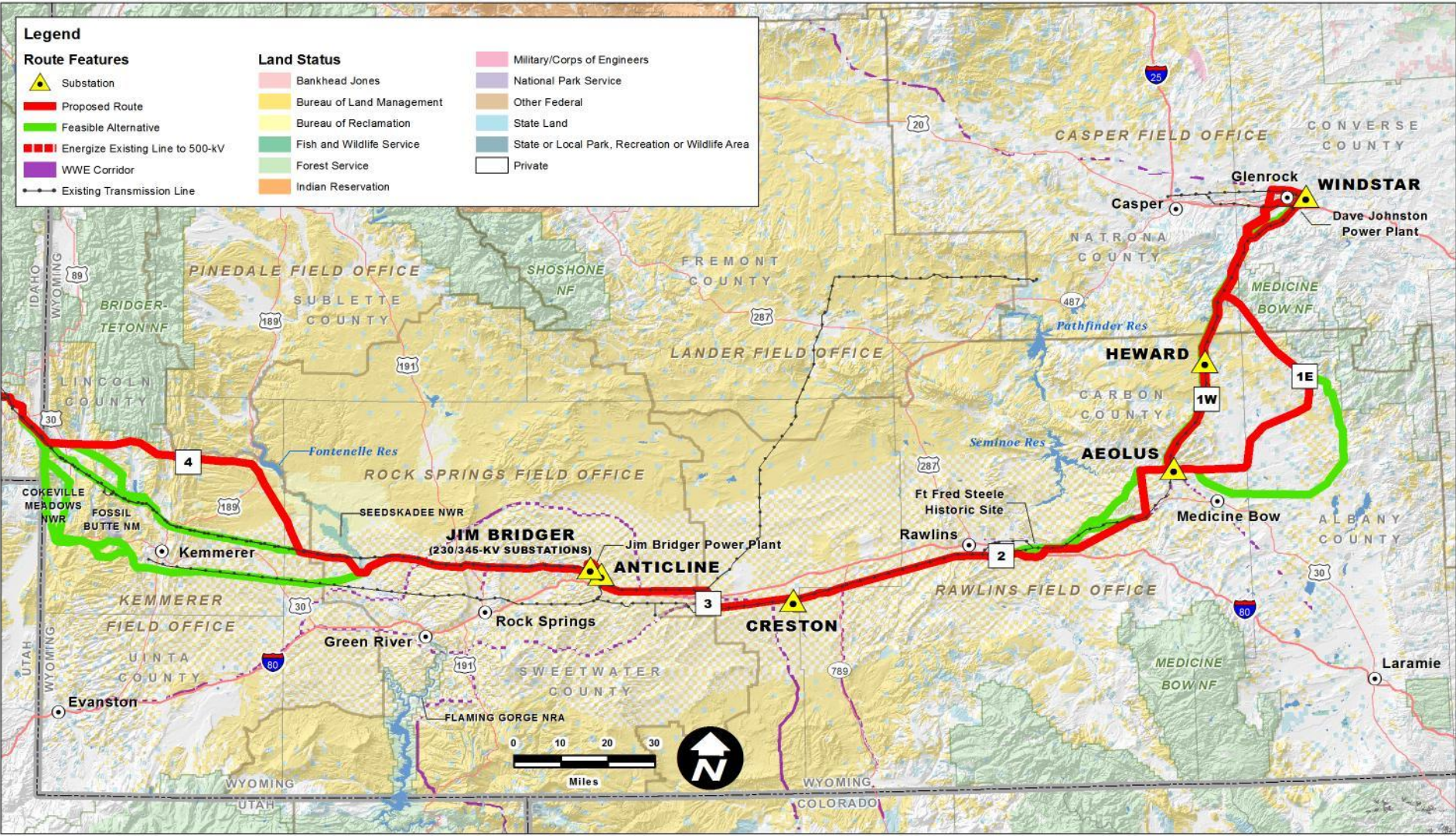
Gateway West Project Update

- Draft EIS released for public comment on July 29, 2011
- Comment Period closes on October 28, 2011
- Comment Summary Preview
 - Mostly siting issues - - “If it’s on my property or I can see it from my property, I’m against it.”
 - Layered Authorizations
 - Sage Grouse
 - Other (standard) environmental issues

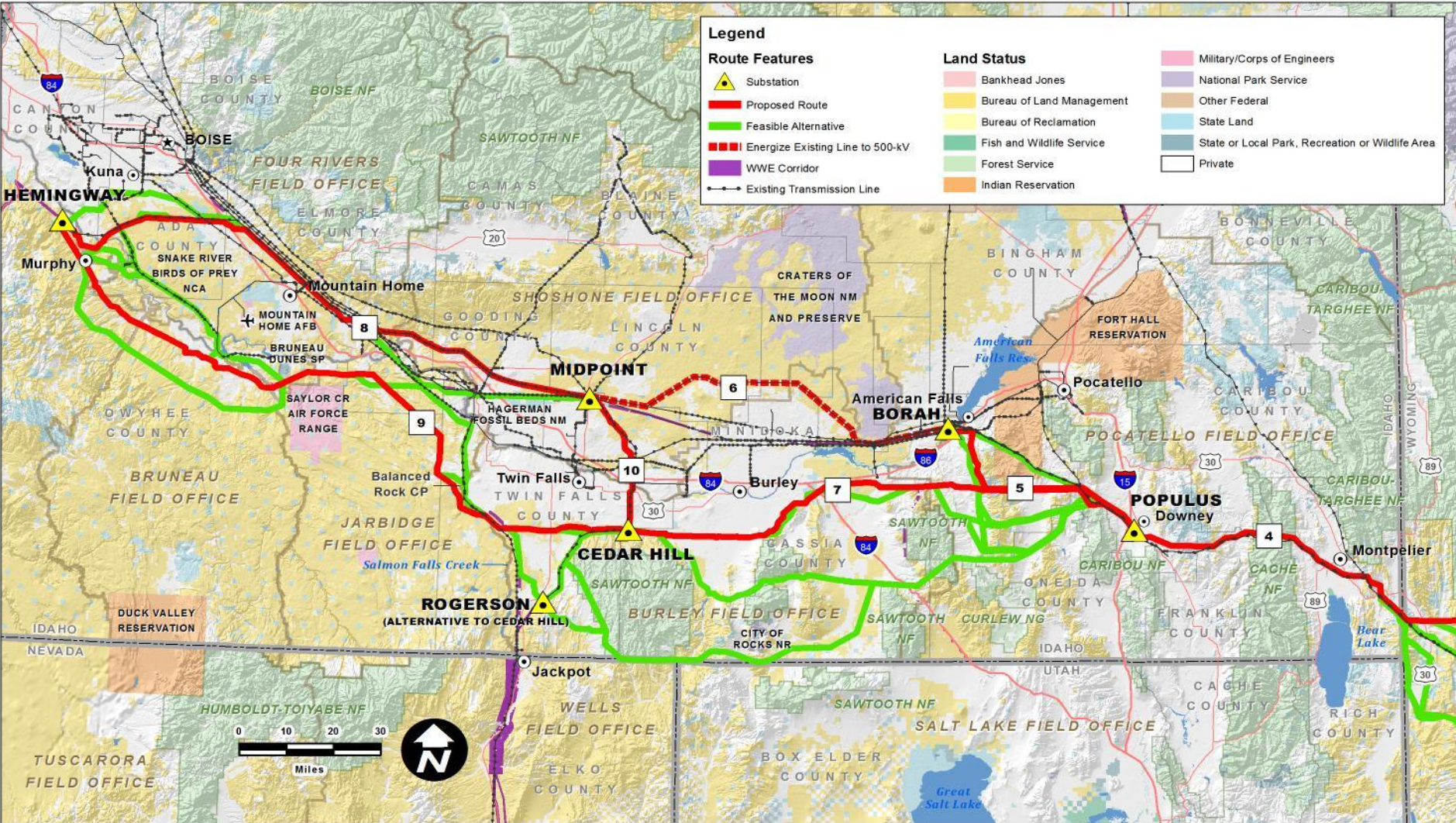
BLM's Response to this Unique Project

- No Preferred Alternative in the Draft EIS
- Sage Grouse Analysis Framework for Interstate Transmission Line Projects
- Stakeholder resolution meeting to address issues (a future action)
- Many lessons learned applied to newer projects

GATEWAY WEST - WYOMING ROUTES



GATEWAY WEST - IDAHO AND NEVADA ROUTES



Next Steps

- Resolution Meetings: January – April 2012
- Final EIS released for 60-day Comment Period:
October 2012
- Record of Decision and Issuance of Right-of-Way
Grant: June 2013