

Received: 8/7/2015 12:48:33 AM

Commenter: John Bosche

Organization:

State: Washington

Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Initiative: Tongue River Railroad

Submission Text

The Greater Sage Grouse is in decline, and is a candidate for listing as an endangered species. Wind energy projects in Wyoming have been required to maintain setbacks from leks of as much as 5 miles. This energy project should be held to similar standards as wind energy projects, and should be required to maintain a significant setback from sage grouse leks. Each of the alternative actions has dozens of leks within 4 miles of the right of way. Therefore, in order to keep a level playing field with requirements on wind energy projects, the no-action alternative should be selected unless a new route can be identified that does not come closer than four miles to any known sage grouse leks.