County Services and Facilities

Geographic Information Systems

The GIS data layers available to the public are shown in the following table.

Public Data List	
Description	**Projection**
Boundaries	
Auto-Aid Areas	SPC
City Impact Areas	SPC
City Limits	SPC
Blaine County Ownership	SPC
Blaine County Boundary	SPC
Blaine County Commissioners Dist.	SPC
Community Names	SPC
Herd Districts	SPC
Mines	SPC
Parcel Data	SPC
Voter Precincts	SPC
Trailers	SPC
Control	
Survey Control Network	SPC
Natural Resources	
National Inventory of Dams	DD
Community Septic Systems & Drainfield Locations	SPC
Sewage Discharge Points	SPC
100 yr Flood Zone	UTM11
Structures & Point Data	
Bridges	SPC
Cabins	SPC
Cell Towers	SPC
Cemeteries	SPC
Emergency Shelters	SPC
Fire Stations	SPC
Hospitals	SPC
Hydrants	SPC
HazMat	SPC
Landmarks	SPC
Mileposts	SPC
PI Cisterns	SPC
Police Stations	SPC
Schools	SPC
Trailheads	SPC

Travel	
Roads	SPC
Collector Roads	SPC
Main Roads	SPC
Railroad	SPC
Zoning	
Blaine County Zoning Maps	SPC
Mountain Overlay (MOD)	SPC
Density Transfer (TDR)	SPC
Projections	
DD - Decimal Degree	
IDTM - Idaho Transverse Mercator	
SPC - State Plane Central zone	
TM - Transverse Mercator	
UTM11 - Universal Transverse Mercator zone 11	
UTM12 - Universal Transverse Mercator zone 12	

Noxious Weeds

The list of Idaho's 67 Noxious Weeds (2016) is found here: ADD LINK

The County's ordinance #2016-01 regarding toxic Yew plants can be found here: ADD LINK

Road and Bridge

The county inventory includes: 60 bridges, 800 culverts, and 120 miles of paved roads, 1000 signs and 316 miles of gravel roads and plowing 293 miles of roadway.

The Road and Bridge shop is located on a 40-acre piece of land located at 186 Glendale Road. The shop building is relatively new. The Carey shop is located on a 5-acre parcel at 20459 Main Street in the City of Carey. (This shop also serves the City of Carey via a Memorandum of Understanding between the jurisdictions). Both shops include areas for vehicle maintenance and storage.

Recycling

The Southern Idaho solid Waste Division (see Other Public Services) subsidizes the County recycling program at a rate of $5 per ton.

Current recycled materials include paper and cardboard, plastics, aluminum cans, rinsed aluminum foil, e-waste and plastic film. The following recycle transfer locations are available for individual and business use:

- Blaine County Recycle Center (Ohio Gulch)
- Carey Transfer Station
- Hailey Park & Ride (NW corner River/Bullion)

- Hailey Fire Department (617 3rd Ave. South)
- East end of 4th Street, Ketchum (behind LDS Church)
- Sun Valley City Hall (All sorted materials except glass)
- Elkhorn Fire Station (All sorted materials)

Ambulance

The District owns a fleet of seven ambulances and 7 Zoll monitor/defibs which live on each ambulance. Three of the ambulances are housed at the Wood River Rural Fire Stations, three at the Ketchum Rural Fire Department Stations, and one in Carey.

Emergency Services

The Blaine County Emergency Communications Department has 15 employees and operates a call center located at 1650 Aviation Drive.

- Blaine County Emergency Communications is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), answering E9-1-1 for Blaine County and all of its cities.

Blaine County operates an enhanced 9-1-1 system. This system is driven by a statewide database that automatically identifies the street address, resident's name, phone number and Electronic Serial Number (ESN) which identifies the location of an individual placing a call for emergency assistance.

Wireless 9-1-1 calls are automatically plotted onto the mapping system, allowing dispatchers to easily identify caller location. Repeat queries will automatically re-plot the location of a moving cellular caller at regular intervals. The integration between the 9-1-1 phone system and the mapping system enables public safety personnel to locate callers more rapidly than previous systems.

The Blaine County Community Alert System, (BCCAS), powered by CodeRED is part of Blaine County's effort to continuously improve communications during emergency situations within Blaine County. Through the alert system, pre-recorded alert notifications are sent by the emergency communications center in a variety of communication methods such as email, cellular, landline, SMS (Text Messaging) or via social network (Facebook and Twitter). The system also provides an added enhancement of alerts sent through the CodeRED mobile App.

Disaster Services

Disaster preparedness is coordinated through the Blaine County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Functions of the LEPC include exercises which update and maintain Emergency Operations Plans, planning for natural disasters and man-made activities, and the implementation of homeland security grants. The LEPC is comprised of first responders from all jurisdictions including law enforcement, Fire/EMS, St. Luke's WRMC, local volunteer organizations, utility groups, and the general public. The LEPC also works

closely with state and federal emergency response agencies, including FEMA and the Idaho BHS. The following Emergency shelters exist in Blaine County:

Emergency Shelters

Old Blaine County Courthouse
Wood River Middle School
Hailey Elementary Buildings
Senior Center
Wood River High School
Carey School
Picabo Store
Bellevue Elementary School

National Guard

The National Guard (which is a reserve component of the US Military) operates an armory facility in Hailey, Idaho, which is co-owned with the City. The Idaho National Guard is pursuing a regional concept for its readiness facilities. The regional facility for Blaine County would be just north of Twin Falls. Until that facility is built and the regional concept identified to be satisfactory, the Idaho Army National Guard will retain the right to occupy the Hailey Armory under a governor's order, or after a 90-day notice to the lessee. The National Guard is under negotiations to allow the City of Hailey to use the facility as a police facility for the next five (5) years. In the event that the National Guard re-occupies the site, Hailey will be required to return the facility to them in the condition it now exists, or with improvements approved by the Idaho Army National Guard.

Social and Health Services and Partners

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation *Rankings* are based on a model of population health that emphasizes many factors that, if improved, can help make communities healthier places to live, learn, work and play. The attached link contains rankings for Blaine County for 2016.

http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/idaho/2016/rankings/blaine/county/factors/overall/snapshot

Assessor

The Assessor does not establish the dollar amount of taxes required, nor does the Assessor bill or collect taxes. The Assessor does determine equitable values on both real and personal property for tax purposes. This is the first step in property tax administration[1]. Idaho law requires that all taxable property be assessed

[1] Idaho Statute Title 63; Revenue and Taxation

at market value each year. To do this, the Assessor develops valuation guidelines based on the sales prices and some of the features of homes that have recently sold, such as size, quality, age, condition, and location. The Assessor uses this information to estimate how much a buyer might reasonably pay for a home if it were to sell on January 1 of the assessment year. In order to promote uniform assessment of property, taxable property must be appraised or indexed annually. To achieve this, not less than 15 percent of the property in the county must be included in each year's appraisal resulting in not less than 100 percent being appraised during each five-year period.

The Assessor's Office also:

- acts as the agent of the Idaho Department of Transportation in titling and registering vehicles.
- keeps accurate and complete plat books of land in the county, with ownership records kept up-to-date.

Trends in this department include enhanced technology in appraisal programs, appraiser reporting, and in GIS. Much information is now available to the public online, increasing efficiency.

Treasurer

The interest earned is included as income in the county budget and has the effect of reducing property taxes. The treasurer's office is responsible for extending the property tax roll each year and mailing the tax bills to all taxpayers. This office is also responsible for furnishing detailed and verified tax information to lending institutions, title companies, realtors, accountants, taxing districts, and individual taxpayers.

The treasurer keeps all records of the receipts and expenditures from all funds. Monthly and quarterly reports are presented to the auditor for checking and balancing all funds. A joint report is also presented to the board of county commissioners.

Funding for Outside/Partner Agencies

Funded Outside Agencies	FY17 Funding Approved
BC Housing Authority	$ 70,000.00
BC Drug Coalition	$ 5,000.00
BC Fair Board	$ 30,780.00
Blaine Soil Conservation	$ 18,000.00
Crisis Hotline	$ 5,000.00
Blaine Co Historical Museum	$ 26,600.00
Hunger Coalition	$ 7,500.00
Mental Health	$ 15,000.00
Mountain Rides	$ 130,000.00
National Association of Mental Illness	$ 10,000.00
Region IV Development	$ 2,424.00
SC Community Action	$ 3,000.00
Senior Connection	$ 50,000.00
Sun Valley Economic Development	$ 25,000.00
University of Id Ext Office	$ 111,943.52
Wood River Wolf Project	$ 5,000.00
TOTAL	$ 515,247.52

Public Services and Infrastructure Provided by Other Entities

Fire Protection

Table __: Fire Districts in Blaine County

District	Service Area (sq. miles)	Population Served	Annual Call Volume	Staff/Total Responders	Facilities
Wood River Fire District	150 (Fire) 1,500 (EMS)	3,400 (Fire) 16,000 (EMS)	2015: 779, of which 691 were EMS calls 2014: 817, of which 784 were EMS calls	12/25	3 Fire Stations: Hailey 1 Hailey 2- South of Bellevue (joint with BLM)
City of Ketchum/Ketchum Rural Fire District	3.2 (City) 43.5 (Rural Fire Dist.) 698.8 (EMS)		2015: 915 2014: 839, of which 559 were EMS	13.5/38	3 Fire Stations: Ketchum (main) Hulen Meadows, greenhorn Gulch
City of Bellevue Fire Department	1.19	2,229	Not reported in 2015 (Does not routinely respond to EMS calls)	3.33/10	Bellevue Fire Station
City of Hailey Fire Department	3.55	8,075	560	3.25/25	Hailey Fire Station
City of Sun Valley Fire Department	9.89	1,400	220	6/30	2 Fire Stations: Elkhorn and Sun Valley City Hall
Carey Fire District	2.285	1,475	23	13 volunteers	Carey Station
West Magic Fire District	Not reported in 2015				(3) 10,000 gallon cisterns
Smiley Creek Fire District	.00486	200		5-13 volunteers	1 station; 1 water tender, 1 pumper truck, 1 jump truck.
Minidoka	Not reported in 2015				
Blaine County Ambulance District	1,500	16,000 (Len believes this should be the entire population of BC)	691 900	14 /40	Hailey Station: ambulances at Hailey, Ketchum and Carey

Wood River Fire District

A Cooperative Efforts Feasibility Study was completed by the Wood River Fire District and the Cities of Bellevue and Hailey in 2011 to systematically examine issues of consolidation and service provision. The project goal was to identify means by which the three agencies could work more closely together through cooperative efforts, consolidation, or unification, while maintaining or enhancing the quality of fire and emergency medical service delivery in a cost effective manner. The report can be found here:

https://www.haileycityhall.org/Codes_Plans/EmergencyOps/Fire%20Coooperative%20Study%20April%208%202011%20Final_Part1.pdf

Ketchum and Ketchum Rural Fire District

The Ketchum Rural Fire District passed a bond in 2002 that enabled the addition of a new apparatus garage facility, two duplexes and a new rescue engine for the Greenhorn Fire Station. They also added two firefighter bunkhouses to the Griffin Butte Station at Hulen Meadows. The City of Ketchum has increased fulltime firefighter staffing from 7 to 11 since the early 1990's due to increasing call volume and the growth in both the City of Ketchum and the Rural Fire District.

Carey Fire District

Carey Fire District provides services in southeast Blaine County. They report that 90% of their calls are wildland/grass fires. Firewise planning is an important issue as well as needs such as manpower and radios.

Smiley Creek Fire District

Smiley Creek serves northernmost Blaine County, and has mutual aid agreements with Stanley and Ketchum Rural Fire Districts. Needs include younger recruits and a cell tower on Galena summit.

West Magic Fire District

West Magic Fire District has mutual Aid agreements with 7 other agencies and the BLM. Coordination with Camas County is high since the district straddles the county line. The District buys used and abandoned equipment from other local districts to help save costs.

Wildfire coordination

Local Departments house firefighters for seasonal needs. The Wood River Station 3 houses federal firefighters from late May-October (BLM). A BLM Guard Station is located in Carey. Seasonal USFS firefighters also work out of a forest service warehouse in Ketchum as well as a 6 person Helitac crew located at the SNRA.

Wastewater Service

Table__ Municipal and Community Wastewater Treatment Plants

Facility Provider	Current Use, Million Gallons per day and Annual	Planned Capacity	Treatment Type
City of Bellevue	14.6 MG (.04MGD)	36.5MG or .10 MGD	
City of Carey	.04 MGD	36.5 (.1 MGD)	
City of Hailey	Annual: 180 MG	1.6 MGD	Biosolids plant underway in 2016
City of Ketchum/Sun Valley Water and Sewer District (Joint)	1.02 MGD Annual: 372.28 MG	1467.3 MG (4.02 MGD)	Extended aeration activated sludge treatment with tertiary filtration and disinfection
Meadows WW Plant	Annual: 10 MG		Activated sludge plant
Total Treated Capacity, Blaine County			

Public Water Systems

Table__ Municipal Potable Water Systems

Facility Provider	Current Water Use, Million Gallons (annual and per day)	Maximum Day Demand (MGD)	Current Capacity	Notes
City of Bellevue				
City of Carey	45	.35 MGD	2.4	3 storage tanks and 3 wells
City of Hailey	2.5 MG 888.2 MG	7.0 MGD	9.79 MGD	Main Spring in Indian Springs Canyon[2] plus 4 municipal wells and 2 storage tanks totaling 3 MG.
City of Ketchum/ Sun Valley Water and Sewer District (Joint)	970.4 MG	5.5 MGD	7.63 MGD	6 wells, 2 booster stations, and 3 storage tanks totaling 3 MG
Total Municipal Providers, Blaine County				

Water Districts

Link to map of Water District 37:

https://idwr.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=142033118a85430dad6e1dfb6fb38ecf&find=37

A list of water districts in Blaine County is found here: https://www.idwr.idaho.gov/water-rights/water-districts/

Public Transit

Formed in 2007, it combined three separate organizations (KART, Peak Bus, and Wood River Rideshare) into a single provider of all public transportation options. Mountain Rides operates as a public agency under a Joint Powers Agreement partnership that includes Blaine County and the cities of Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley.

[2] This source also generates electricity which the City sells back to Idaho Power

Broadband and Cellular Networks

Cellular Networks

Cellular networks are distributed over land areas called cells, each served by at least one fixed-location transceiver, known as a cell site or tower. This tower provides the cell with the network coverage which can be used for transmission of voice and data. When joined together these cells provide radio coverage over a wide geographic area. This enables a large number of portable transceivers (e.g., mobile phones, pagers, etc.) to communicate with each other and with fixed transceivers and telephones anywhere in the network, via base stations, even if some of the transceivers are moving through more than one cell during transmission.

The most common example of a cellular network is a mobile phone (cell phone) network. Modern mobile phone networks use cells because radio frequencies are a limited, shared resource. Cell-sites and handsets change frequency under computer control and use low power transmitters so that the usually limited number of radio frequencies can be simultaneously used by many callers with less interference.

In early 2009, Congress directed the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to develop a National Broadband Plan to ensure every American has "access to broadband capability." In 2013 Congress also required that this plan include a detailed strategy for achieving affordability and maximizing use of broadband to advance "consumer welfare, civic participation, public safety and homeland security, community development, health care delivery, energy independence and efficiency, education, employee training, private sector investment, entrepreneurial activity, job creation and economic growth, and other national purposes."[3]

Cable-based services: Traditional cable-based and DSL-based broadband services utilize copper cable to transmit broadband signals from service provider headends (in the case of cable-based services) and central offices (in the case of DSL-based services). These systems interconnect broadband equipment in providers' central facilities to customers, which may include homes, businesses and community anchors.

Dedicated fiber-optic: Dedicated fiber-optic broadband services provide direct glass stranded fiber cable between providers' central facilities and customers, generally targeted to businesses and community anchors. Fiber-optic broadband systems transmit broadband signals through light waves between providers' central facilities and customers, and do not have shared band width. (Traditional broadband services, provided across cable-based and DSL-based infrastructure are subject to a concept known as "shared utilization" whereby actual speeds of customers on the system will experience different speeds depending on the sum of all user bandwidth being consumed on the system.)

Fiber-optic broadband services (in the case of dedicated fiber) differ from shared systems in that they provide direct connections between service providers' switching facilities and end users. In these cases, the

[3] "National Broadband Plan" http://www.broadband.gov/plan/executive-summary

shared bandwidth concept does not apply and customers utilizing via dedicated fiber-optic connections bypass the shared copper infrastructure provided by cable-based and DSL-based infrastructure. This allows customers to receive guaranteed bandwidth and performance on their broadband services versus service levels that do not provide these guarantees, as are common with cable-based and DSL-based broadband services.

In general, cable-based and DSL-based broadband services are utilized in the residential market and are priced at levels commensurate with residential services. Often times, service providers will "rebrand" residential broadband services as "business class," providing a similar service to business customers with additional bandwidth and service level guarantees. Dedicated fiber-optic broadband services are generally utilized by larger businesses and community anchors, such as schools, hospitals and government offices.

Cox: providing a mix of Triple-Play4 services to the community. These services are delivered over Cox's HFC-based ("Hybrid Fiber Coax") network, providing cable-based transport for all services, which are backhauled from each cable node across Cox's higher-speed fiber-optic backbone to its cable headend in Ketchum. Cox also provides direct fiber-optic services to businesses throughout the County, of varying speeds. Cox advertises speeds between 5Mbps and 150Mbps to residential and business users in the County across an asymmetrical and shared cable-based broadband infrastructure.

Centurylink: CenturyLink advertises Internet and local phone services in Blaine County. Its advertised packages for Internet services range from 1.5 megabits to 12 megabits, utilizing an asymmetrical and shared DSL-based broadband infrastructure.

Syringa: Syringa provides direct fiber-optic broadband to businesses that require and can pay for these services, which provide higher speeds and greater overall performance than traditional broadband services. Currently, these services are utilized by a handful of customers in the County, generally larger, in terms of employees and/or data needs than those utilizing traditional broadband services, either cable-based or DSL-based. Examples include Blaine County School District, certain financial institutions in Ketchum and Hailey.

City of Ketchum Broadband Strategic Plan, 2013

http://www.ketchumidaho.org/documentcenter/view/1847

The following table lists approved cellular towers and facilities in Blaine County:

Address	City	Carrier
UNIT 6 AIRPORT WAY	HAILEY	Verizon
SE 1/4, SW 1/4, S32, T1S, R21E	CAREY	Verizon
100 DELLA MTN ROAD	HAILEY	Verizon
ATOP DOLLAR MTN, ELKHORN ROAD	SUN VALLEY	Verizon
UNIT 6 AIRPORT WAY	HAILEY	Verizon
NE 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4 OF SECT. 14, T4N, R17E	KETCHUM	Verizon
SW 1/4 NW 1/4 S1 T2S R19E	PICABO	Verizon
101 Picabo Mtn	PICABO	Alltel
Triumph Gulch RD	KETCHUM	Alltel
7.5 Miles E. of Carey on Hwy 20	CAREY	Verizon
191 Sun Valley Road West	KETCHUM	Alltel
Top of Dela Mtn - 1/4 NW of the SW Corner	HAILEY	Alltel
Bald Mountain, Idaho Plaza Top of Lift #9	Ketchum	Alltel
TNSHP 2 S RNGE 21 E SCTN 5 LOT 1 BOISE MERIDIAN	Carey	Edge/ATT
201 TRAIL CREEK RD	SUN VALLEY	Edge/ATT
400 SOUTH MAIN STREET	HAILEY	Edge/ATT
100 DELLA MTN.	HAILEY	Edge/ATT
500 BROWNS LN, 2 MILES WEST OF WEBBS NURSERY	BELLEVUE	Edge/ATT
SUN VALLEY ROAD	SUN VALLEY	Edge/ATT
#1 RIVER RUN DRIVE	KETCHUM	Edge/ATT
12507 STATE HWY 75	KETCHUM	Edge/ATT
100 SAGE CREEK RESERVOIR RD	SUN VALLEY	Edge/ATT
QUEENS CROWN HILL - LOT 1 SEC 5 T 2 S R 21 E	CAREY	Edge/ATT
TOP OF PICABO MTN - 1875 SOUTH 900 EAST	PICABO	Edge/ATT
333 S. MAIN ST., SUITE 211	KETCHUM	Edge/ATT
TOP OF BALDY MTN, SUN VALLEY SKI HILL	KETCHUM	Edge/ATT
TOP OF FLYING SQUIRREL SKI RUN, BALDY MTN, SUNVALLEY SKI HILL	KETCHUM	Edge/ATT
125 SENABI LN, TOP OF DOLLAR MOUNTAIN	SUN VALLEY	Edge/ATT
SUN VALLEY SKI RESORT, 200 YAR	Seattle Ridge (SCI)	Sprint
215 PICABO ST.	Warm Springs	Sprint
100 Arrowleaf Road	Dollar Mountain	Sprint
100 Della Mtn Rd	Hailey	Sprint
SECTION 1 RANGE 19 EAST TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH	Picabo Mtn-Sun	Sprint
191 Sun Valley Road	Downtown Ketchum	Sprint
Sec 16 - T2N - R18E	UBIQUITEL - Della II	Sprint
100 Walker Drive	UBIQUITEL-SL03UB601	Sprint
Dollar Mountain Ski Resort	UBIQUITEL-Dollar Mtn	Sprint
311 Main St.	UBIQUITEL-Ketchum	Sprint

Power

Power supply in Blaine County is provided by Idaho Power Company (IPCO), a federal- and state-regulated electrical utility serving much of southern Idaho, providing generation, transmission, distribution, sale and purchase of electric energy. Idaho Power maintains and operates transmission and distribution lines, sells electricity and purchases electricity from the wholesale market.

IPCO operates 17 hydroelectric generating plants on the Snake River and its tributaries, natural gas-fired plants and shares of three jointly-owned coal-fired plants. Idaho Power currently serves 515,763 customers in Idaho and Oregon. Blaine County is served by two main transmission lines coming from the south and which merge to one line at the Wood River Substation located north of the City of Hailey. From there, north, one transmission line serves the north county and the cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley.

- King Transmission Station to Wood River Transmission Station. A 59-mile-long 138kv transmission line, built in 1962, extends from Idaho Power's King Substation, southwest of Gooding, to the Wood River Substation north of Hailey. The line crosses 28.5 miles of public land managed by the BLM.
- Midpoint Substation to Wood River Transmission Station. The Midpoint to Wood River transmission line was built in 1989 and has the higher capacity of the two lines; entering Blaine County east of Picabo[4].
- From the Wood River Transmission Station in Hailey to the Ketchum/Sun Valley area, the two lines become one transmission line, built in 1962. There are five substations within the Wood River Valley that reduce the transmission voltage to a lower distribution voltage and route the power onto smaller lines for delivery to end users.
    - Ketchum Substation
    - Elkhorn Substation
    - Hailey Substation
    - Moonstone Substation
    - Silver Substation
- The line from King Substation has had 41 outages (average duration of about seven hours) since 1996, and two-thirds of those were related to maintenance activities, the company stated. The existing wooden H-frame structures are not strong enough to accommodate the new conductor, and will need to be replaced with weathering steel ones. The proposed structures are typically 5 feet taller and the cross arms are 5 feet wider than the existing structures, which range between 55 and 65 feet tall. The project will involve building or improving about four miles of new roads and increasing the right of way for the Power Line from 60 to 100 feet. The company received a conditional-use permit for the proposed 12-mile-long line from Blaine County in October, but still needs permits from the cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley.

IPCO has plans to rebuild the older of the two transmission lines, noting that the $34 million rebuild is necessary due to the age of the structures and the inadequate older conductor (wires), and the lack of

[4] Idaho Power refers to these two lines combined as the Wood River loop.

redundancy (two separate lines that can handle extreme peak loads alone without rotational power outages) north of the Wood River Substation. Idaho Power also plans to add a second transmission line from the Wood River Substation, north of Hailey, to Ketchum in 2018 and 2019. The line would provide redundancy to an existing line that runs up the Wood River Valley. Various reports and maps related to this project are found here:

Idaho Power Transmission Line Map:

https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/nepa/37874/47285/51245/WoodRiverRebuild_Overview_(1).pdf

WREP Final Report:

https://www.idahopower.com/pdfs/AboutUs/PlanningForFuture/ProjectNews/wrep/WREPFinal_Report.pdf

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has been tasked with identifying transmission congestion and constraint issues nationwide. The Gateway West Transmission Line Project is jointly proposed by Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power to build and operate approximately 1,000 miles of new high-voltage transmission lines between the Windstar substation near Glenrock, Wyoming and the Hemingway substation near Melba, Idaho. The project would include approximately 150 miles of 230 kilovolt (kV) lines in Wyoming and approximately 850 miles of 500 kV lines in Wyoming and Idaho. The line would deliver power from existing and future electric resources including renewable resources. It is scheduled for line segments to be completed in phases between 2019 and 2024. The BLM is the lead federal agency conducting the environmental review and analysis as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Grid Power issues

The grid provides power critical to the economy and quality of life of communities. However, this power source also comes with significant reliability risks. Service interruptions have resulted in major consequences to the economy. The grid is aging and has a history of failure, having cost the community millions of dollars including from a 24-hour outage on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 2009;

The Wood River Valley has experienced multiple power outages including three significant unplanned outages in the past seven years including:

- One in August 2014 due to lightning which took out the single transmission line traveling north from the Hailey substation to power the cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley and the north county and lasted approximately 2 hours; and
- Two failures of both of the two transmission lines (King and Silver) leading to the Hailey substation in the southern Wood River Valley. One was in June 2016 due to lightning and the worst was the 23-hour Christmas Eve 2009 outage was caused by freezing rain.

The second largest fire in the country in 2013 led to mandatory evacuations and direct losses alone of $40M with great threat to the single transmission line. IPCO is proposing a second transmission line which has the potential to improve reliability on a local basis, but will not address the near–term risks facing the old Silver

and King lines from the south, nor will it address the community's environmental or economic resilience risks.

1. Economic: power prices have risen an average of 4% per year for the past 10 years. Approximately $30 million leaves Blaine County each year to pay for electricity generated outside of the area; and
2. Environmental: the grid's 38% coal generation contributes to climate change undermining the local tourism-based economy that relies on a stable climate. Many Blaine County residents believe that it is critical to wean us off of our dependence on fossil fuels as a primary energy source.

Distributed Energy Resources

One strategy to mitigate these risks and respond to residents' environmental concerns, is to pursue the development of distributed energy resources (DER) which generate power at or near to the point of consumption. Rooftop solar and other distributed generation and storage technologies are rapidly changing the energy landscape across America and in Idaho. In 2014, nationwide solar investment grew 30% and reached $18 billion for the year. Blaine County has significant renewable energy resources in solar, geothermal, hydroelectric as well as potentially biomass from dead trees killed by beetles (currently potentially fuel for fires). These resources have just begun to be tapped to benefit local energy resilience and the local economy. As a result of recent dramatic reductions in solar costs as well as widespread community engagement via Solarize Blaine, 2016 will see at least five times the solar installed in 2015, mobilizing $900,000 of new private investment into the county economy. In cooperation with the local community, Idaho's National Energy Laboratory is conducting an assessment of the county's geothermal energy resources, which may be able to contribute significantly to both power generation as well as reducing the need for the grid heating needs on the grid.

Today residents and business owners are finding that depending upon their current bills and siting (lack of shading), rooftop solar can be a cost effective investment. This is in part due to "net metering", a policy framework that allows those with solar to sell excess solar during the day into the grid at the same price at which they purchase power at night. Storage technologies would allow those with solar or wind to be self-sufficient off of the grid; these technologies such as batteries, are evolving quickly and are cost effective investments in more expensive areas such as California and the northeast. It is predicted that such options will become cost-effective in Blaine County in 3-5 years. Distributed energy resources such as solar plus storage can be an alternative to the grid or a complement to the grid.

In some other isolated communities, they have found that local, distributed energy resources (generation, storage, islandable microgrids, etc.) to be a better alternative to new transmission. Local alternatives also have the potential to address the economic and environmental resilience risks posed by the current energy system, as noted above.

Utilities are increasingly turning to distributed energy resources (DER) and microgrids to provide improved reliability, including: Central Hudson Gas & Electric, Duke Energy, DTE Energy Co., San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) and Edison International's Southern California Edison. DER and microgrids benefit both urban areas and rural areas: 80-90 percent of grid failures start at the distribution level, costing the U.S. economy $336 billion between 2003 and 2012. Microgrids address these outages. Isolated communities facing expensive

grid transmission for redundancy or increased capacity are also turning to DER and microgrids. working with their utilities to gain regulatory approval of superior local solutions in generation, storage and distribution.

For instance, like the northern Wood River Valley, Borrego Springs, California also relies on a single transmission line. The utility, SDG&E, said that as a result of wildfires, they were going to "rethink the way we served communities such as Borrego Springs." To address resilience needs, the utility built a renewable energy microgrid using local power generation, energy storage, and automated switching to create a more resilient local grid. The microgrid is connected to the grid, but can disconnect from it and function independently during emergencies, supplying electricity to the local community through its onsite resources. The utility, San Diego Gas & Electric, used the microgrid in 2015 to power the community while it conducted needed transmission line repairs.

(http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/30_SDGE_Borrego_Springs_Microgrid.pdf).

Distributed energy microgrids are growing, with GTM Research predicting microgrid capacity more than doubling by 2020, evolving from largely diesel generation to renewable energy generation. In addition, low-income communities turning to distributed generation microgrid solutions for resilience include:

- Hunters Point Community Microgrid, San Francisco, CA
- Long Island Community Microgrid, East Hampton, NY

Sandpoint, Idaho, benefited from these developments when a local entrepreneur invented solar technology for roadways and obtained a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to pilot this technology in Sandpoint.

South Central Health District

South Central Public Health District is governed by an eight-member Board of Health with a representative from each of the eight counties. The South Central Public Health District employs nearly 100 professionally trained nurses, dietitians, an epidemiologist and dental hygienist, health educators, and environmental specialists.

St. Luke's Wood River

St. Luke's completed a Community Health Needs Assessment for Region 5, an 8-County region which includes Blaine County. A link to the 2016 report is found here:

https://www.stlukesonline.org/about-st-lukes/supporting-the-community/community-health-needs-assessment-magic-valley

Blaine County School District

Quick Facts

- Below is information about BCSD students and schools, including demographics and enrollment as of 11/1/2016. The State of Idaho has a state longitudinal data collection system that allows the state department of education to monitor each student's enrollment and attendance.

Our Students

Number of students: 3440 (Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade)
Ethnicity / race:

- White: 56%
- Hispanic: 40%
- Other: 4%

Number of students: 3327 (Kindergarten through 12th grade)
Program participation
Free and reduced lunch: 36%
English Learners: 17%
Special Education: 10%
Gifted and Talented Education: 6.3%

More information can be found on the District's website, www.blaineschools.org
The School District's strategic plan for 2015 to 2020 can be found here: ADD LINK

Financial resiliency:

BCSD made a decision to create an unassigned fund balance of 18-20 percent of the General Fund in order to have funds for emergencies (catastrophic weather events, changes in local or state funding, etc.). The Board also took measures to save $1.3 million in 2016 in order to balance revenue with expenses.

Energy resiliency:

BCSD invested in energy-retrofits in seven of its buildings, reducing its carbon footprint, lowering energy costs, and allowing buildings to become more efficient with projected savings of $9.5 million over 25 years. Water savings have significantly decreased through irrigation monitoring devices. Lighting improvements were made in the majority of buildings. Solar system installed at Carey School. Continued and ongoing efforts to identify savings in utilities and water consumption throughout the district.

Student resiliency:

By 2020, every student will be inspired, engaged, educated and empowered. Empowerment includes but is not limited to mental health and support for substance abuse. Inspiration and engagement includes student voice and choice in what and how they learn, leading to students who are equipped to solve the world's problems. Engagement is seen in a students' ability to persist in problem-solving, which also leads to more resilient human beings.