is limited to the proposed land use plan amendment associated with the Gateway West Project and does not include the remainder of the project application or wholesale challenges to impacts analyzed in the FEIS. The absence of any identification of a specific inconsistency supports my decision to deny the recommendations in your appeal.

"Your appeal also requests clarification of BLM Idaho’s statement that your Greater Sage-Grouse Plan was ‘not sufficiently final’ to be considered in the FEIS. While the Plan may represent a final proposal from you, the larger Greater Sage-Grouse planning effort being undertaken by the BLM in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other states, including Idaho, is not yet final. The Idaho BLM State Director was attempting to explain that the Greater Sage-Grouse planning effort and the Gateway West Transmission Project represented two separate and distinct processes. Your plan is one of two co-preferred alternatives being fully analyzed in the Idaho and Southwestern Montana Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). As we have discussed in person, the BLM is very committed to continuing to work with the State of Idaho on Greater Sage-Grouse to meet our shared goals. We have appreciated your efforts to develop a thoughtful and detailed alternative. "With respect to Idaho’s Local Land Use Planning Act, your letter to the BLM Idaho State Director and your appeal again do not specifically identify inconsistencies between local comprehensive plans and the proposed land use plan amendments for the Gateway West Transmission Project. Instead, you generally state that local counties have jurisdiction over the siting of utility transmission corridors, and that these local governments have comprehensive planning and zoning plans. You suggest that the local governments prefer that transmission siting occur on Federal land. Finally, you suggest that the BLM’s review process for the Gateway West Transmission Project lacked meaningful public involvement. No specific inconsistencies between proposed land use plan amendments for the Gateway West Transmission Project and State or local plans were identified as required under BLM regulations, and thus, I am denying your consistency appeal as it relates to Idaho’s Local Land Use Planning Act.

"The BLM has taken considerable steps to coordinate with the local counties. In fact, the BLM coordinated extensively with local governments in the development of alternatives that crossed their jurisdictions, including meetings with the Cities of Melba and Kuna and various counties. Additionally, the BLM recognizes that after the Record of Decision is signed, the individual counties have authority under Idaho’s Local Land Use Planning Act to adjust the final location for the portions of each proposed action or alternative that are located on non-federal land.

"After careful consideration, it is my conclusion that the appeal has not identified where the proposed plan amendments are inconsistent with specific provisions of approved or adopted resource-related State or local policies and programs. Therefore, I affirm the BLM Idaho State Director’s response to your Finding of Inconsistency and deny the appeal."

Authority: 43 CFR 1610.3–2(e).

Michael D. Nodd,
Assistant Director, Minerals and Realty Management.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Public Meetings, Twin Falls District Resource Advisory Council, ID

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Twin Falls District Resource Advisory Council (RAC) and subcommittee for the Greater sage-grouse will meet as indicated below.

DATES: On November 26 and December 10, the Twin Falls District RAC subcommittee members will meet at the Twin Falls District BLM Office, 2536 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, ID 83301. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end no later than 9:00 p.m. The public comment period for the RAC subcommittee meeting will take place 6:10 p.m. to 6:40 p.m. On January 8, 2014, the Twin Falls District RAC will meet at the Sawtooth Best Western Inn, 2653 South Lincoln Ave., Jerome, Idaho. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m., and end no later than 4:30 p.m. The public comment period will take place from 9:10 a.m. to 9:40 a.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mel M. Meier, District Manager.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Gateway West 230/345/500-kV Transmission Line Project and Approved Land Use Plan Amendments in Idaho and Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) authorizing a right-of-way (ROW) grant to the Proponents’ (Idaho Power Company and PacifiCorp, doing business as Rocky Mountain Power) to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission electric transmission lines on public lands for the Gateway...