



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2018

Idaho Department of Lands issues order approving BNSF Railway Co. permit application

(BOISE) – Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) Acting Director David Groeschl issued a final order Thursday approving BNSF Railway Company’s application for a permit required to construct a second rail bridge adjacent to and west of the existing rail bridge across Lake Pend Oreille and Sand Creek in Sandpoint.

The hearing officer appointed by IDL to conduct a public hearing on the application issued his preliminary order earlier this week, recommending approval of the permit application. A public hearing was held in Sandpoint on May 23, 2018.

The IDL administers the Idaho Lake Protection Act and regulates encroachments and activities on, in or above the navigable lakes in Idaho, including Lake Pend Oreille. BNSF Railway must obtain a permit from IDL under the Idaho Lake Protection Act and corresponding administrative rules before project construction.

The company still must obtain approval and permits from other government agencies for the project.

The IDL director’s final order, hearing officer’s preliminary order, transcripts from the public hearing, all public comments received, and other related documents are posted on the IDL website here: <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/lakes-rivers/lake-protection/index.html>

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