RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes to conduct maintenance on a shot conductor located on the north side of structure 218-5. This will require Western to conduct access road maintenance along the existing Flagstaff-Pinnacle Peak #2 345-kV transmission line access road. Western will use a dozer or front-end loader to conduct access road maintenance and pickup trucks and crew trucks along existing access roads to bring personnel and equipment to the work area. This work is necessary to maintain the safety and reliability of the bulk electrical system.

The attached map shows the project area is situated within Sections 15 Township 7 North Range 5 East on the Gila and Salt River Meridian, Maricopa County, Arizona. Work will be conducted within Western's right of way. The corresponding U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic map is Humboldt Mountain, Arizona. This project is located on the Tonto National Forest owned by the USFS.

B. **Categorical Exclusion Applied:** 10 CFR, Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B,B1.3: "Routine maintenance activities and custodial services for buildings, structures, right-of-way, infrastructures (e.g. pathways, roads and railroads), vehicles and equipment and localized vegetation and pest control during which operations may be suspended and resumed."

C. **Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410 (b):**

1. The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to Subpart D.

   a. The proposed action was reviewed for the requirements of the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act, and all applicable Department of Energy Orders.

   b. The proposed action does not require the siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities.

   c. The proposed action does not disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminates, or CERLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled and unpermitted releases.

   d. The proposed action was reviewed and surveyed for impacts to cultural and sensitive biological resources. Cultural and sensitive biological resources have been determined to not be affected.

2. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and

3. The proposal is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

D. Determination: Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

E. Special Conditions:

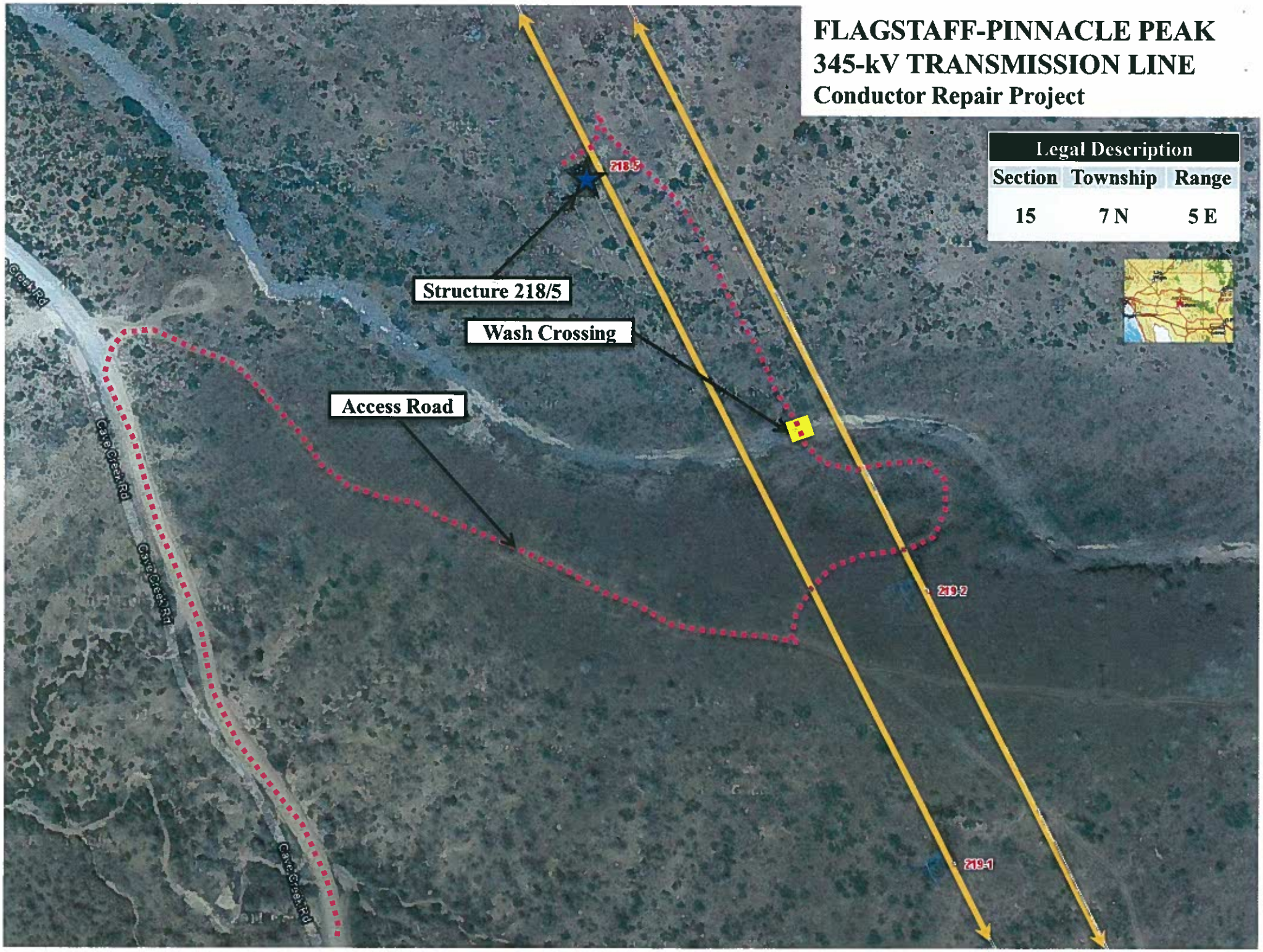
1.) Avoid ground disturbance activities east of the existing access road at structure 218/5.

Linda J. Hughes
NEPA Compliance Officer

11.7.11
Date

FLAGSTAFF-PINNACLE PEAK 345-kV TRANSMISSION LINE

Conductor Repair Project



Legal Description		
Section	Township	Range
15	7 N	5 E