Final Scoping Summary Report

Appendix A

Scoping Materials
APPENDIX A  
SCOPING MATERIALS  

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Meeting Notices

Federal Register Notice of Intent

Federal Register, Vol. 75, No. 67/Thursday, April 8, 2010/Notices 17913

Signed:

Commissioner, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

[FR Doc. 2010-8174 Filed 4-6-10; 4:15 pm]
BILLS 4900 SAS-A-F-P

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act; Notice of Virtual Public Forum for EAC Standards Board

DATE & TIME: Monday, May 3, 2010, 9 a.m. EDT through Friday, May 14, 2010, 9 p.m. EDT.


NOTICE: The EAC Standards BoardVirtual Meeting Room will be accessible to the public through the website provided above. Viewers should click the link to the Virtual Meeting Room. Viewers will be able to view the meeting in real-time and participate in the discussion by submitting questions or comments through the website. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b, the EAC Standards Board Virtual Meeting Room will be recorded and the recorded meeting will be available for public review within 5 business days after the meeting.

The Virtual meeting will open on Monday, May 3, 2010, at 9 a.m. EDT and will close on Friday, May 14, 2010, at 9 p.m. EDT. The site will be available 24 hours per day during that 12-day period.

PURPOSE: The EAC Standards Board will review and discuss a draft version of the EAC Research Department's Revisions and Changes study. The draft version contains information about the standards for each State and procedures for each State to review requests or comments. The study includes best practices that States use with respect to requests or comments. The EAC Standards Board Virtual Meeting Room is established to enable the Board to conduct business in an efficient manner in a public forum, including being able to review and discuss draft documents. When it is not feasible for an in-person meeting, the Board will receive any public comments by email or mail and post these comments on its website.

The Board will post comments about the draft version of the Revisions and Changes study on its website.

This activity is open to the public. The public may view the proceedings of this special forum by visiting the EAC standards board virtual meeting room at http://www.eac.gov at any time between Monday, May 3, 2010, 9 a.m. EDT and Friday, May 14, 2010, 9 p.m. EDT. The public may also view the meeting on the EAC standards board website.

For further information contact: Wayne Edwards, EAC Standards Board, 202-282-8200, ext. 243.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Maintenance and Vegetation Management Along Existing Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Rights-of-Way on National Forest System Lands, Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska (DOE/EIS-2010-12120-A001)

AGENCIES: Western Area Power Administration, DOE, Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to Conduct Scoping Meetings; Notice of Floodplain and Wetlands Involvement.

SUMMARY: Western Area Power Administration (Western) proposes to improve the way it manages vegetation along its rights-of-way (ROW) on National Forest System lands in the states of Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska. Implementing the proposal would include modifying existing United States Forest Service (Forest Service) authorities or issuing new authorizations to accommodate Western's vegetation management proposal and maintenance of the electrical transmission facilities.

Western and the FS will be joint lead agencies in the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposal in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) NEPA Implementing Procedures, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA.

Western's need for agency action is to ensure that it can safely and reliably operate and maintain its existing electrical transmission facilities. Western must meet North American Electric Reliability Corporation's mandatory vegetation management and maintenance standards (FAA-005-1) in accordance with section 1211 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and industry standards. These industry standards are designed to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the transmission system.

Portions of the proposal may affect floodplains and wetlands, so this Notice of Intent (NOI) also serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetland action, in accordance with DOE floodplain and wetland environmental review requirements.

DATES: This NOI begins the public scoping period. The public scoping period will close May 28, 2010. Western and the Forest Service will consider all electronic and written scoping comments that are received or postmarked by midnight May 28, 2010.

ADDRESS: Western and the Forest Service will hold public scoping meetings on Thursday, April 22, 2010, at the Ramada Plaza Denver North, 10 East 120th Avenue, Denver, CO 80233; Friday, April 23, 2010, at the Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, CO 81501; and Monday, April 26, 2010, at the Utah Basin Applied Technology College, 450 N. 2900 W., Vernal, UT 84078. Scoping meetings will be from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The meetings will provide information to the public and gather comments from the public. The meetings will be informal, and attendees will be able to speak directly with Western and FS representatives about the proposal.

Attendees may provide written comments at the public scoping meetings, or send them to James Hartman, Environmental Manager, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 3700, Loveland, CO 80539-3700, email: James.Hartman@wapa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the proposal and the environmental review process, contact James Hartman at the above address. For general information on DOE's NEPA review process, contact Carol M. Horsburg, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, G-24, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0119, telephone (202) 586-4606 or (800) 472-2756.

For information on the Forest Service role in this effort, please contact David Loomis, Regional Environmental Planner, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, U.S. Forest Service 740 Simms St., Golden, CO 80401, telephone (303) 275-5000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Western is a Federal power marketing agency within the DOE that markets and delivers Federal wholesale electric power (principally hydroelectric power)
to municipalities, rural electric cooperatives, public utilities and irrigation districts, Federal and State agencies, and Native American tribes in 15 western and central States. The proposal covers existing transmission lines located on National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska and operated and maintained by Western’s Rocky Mountain Region. Western proposes to improve the way it manages vegetation on SF lands in part to ensure compliance with section 1211 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the subsequent changes in industry standards for vegetation management to control the costs of vegetation management, to reduce the risk of wildfires caused by vegetation interacting with energized transmission lines, and to reduce the potential impact of wildfires on the transmission line. Forest Service authorizations, issued under 36 CFR 251.54, for Western’s use of National Forest System lands would need to be modified to accommodate this proposal.

Purpose and Need for Agency Action

Western must ensure that its transmission system can be controlled in accordance with sound business principles. Western must meet mandatory vegetation management standards in accordance with section 1211 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and industry standards. The vegetation management standards are designed to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the transmission system. To ensure that Western can safely, reliably, and cost-effectively operate and maintain its transmission system and implement required vegetation management practices on lands managed by the FS, Western needs to participate with the FS to evaluate options to renew or modify Western’s current authorizations.

Western’s objectives for this proposal are to maintain its transmission lines, ROW and access roads to:

- Protect public and worker safety
- Ensure power system reliability
- Comply with current industry standards and mandatory reliability standards
- Achieve technical and economic efficiencies to minimize impacts on transmission line tariff costs and electrical power rate
- Reduce the risk of wildfires caused by vegetation growing into or falling onto transmission lines
- Reduce the risk of wildfires caused by vegetation growing into or falling onto transmission lines
- Control the spread of grass fires
- Ensure that Western’s transmission facilities remain operational for the useful life of the facility
- Maintain flexibility to accommodate changes in transmission system operation and maintenance requirements

Proposed Action

Western proposes to improve the way it manages vegetation along its ROW on National Forest System lands in the states of Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska. Not all areas of Western’s ROW would require the proposed changes to vegetation management. Vegetation management approaches would vary along the ROW depending on site conditions and identified risks to the transmission lines, and other factors. Over the life of Western’s facilities, proposed vegetation management changes would be implemented in the following manner:

- Implement and maintain vegetation conditions along the ROW that reduce the risk of transmission lines from vegetation-caused wildfires while ensuring the maintenance and operation of the transmission line. This could include establishing relatively stable native vegetation that, at mature height, would not grow into conductors, fall onto conductors or structures, or contribute to high fuel loads.
- Change vegetation that, at mature height, present a risk to transmission line maintenance and operation, and allow for larger ROW re-entry intervals.
- Reduce and manage the amount of fuel loading on the ROW to reduce the risk of transmission line-caused wildfires and to reduce the potential impacts of wildfires to transmission line structures and lines.

Alternatives

Alternatives to Western’s proposal include the no action alternative. In this alternative, Western would continue its maintenance according to past and current practices. Other alternatives may be identified based on public agency comment.

Floodplain or Wetland Involvement

Since the proposed Project may involve action in floodplains or wetlands, this NOI also serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetland action, in accordance with 10 CFR 1022.12 (a). The EIS will include a floodplain/wetland assessment and floodplain statement of findings following DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review (10 CFR 1022).

Environmental Issues

The location of the proposal is on National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska. National Forests in Colorado include the Arapaho-Roosevelt, Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison, White River, Routt, San Juan, and Pice-San Isabel. The project also includes the National Forests in Nebraska and the Ashley National Forest in Utah. Western maintains approximately 300 miles of ROW in these forests. The ROWs cross through a variety of vegetation communities at elevations ranging from approximately 6,000 to 14,000 feet. The width of the transmission line ROW will depend on the voltage of the line and typically range from 75 to 175 feet.

The EIS will evaluate impacts on a variety of environmental resources that may occur along the approximately 4,000 total acres of ROW. The EIS will also consider design criteria and other actions to avoid or minimize impacts.

Public Participation

Interested parties are invited to participate in the scoping process to identify important issues to be analyzed in depth, and to eliminate from detailed study issues that are not pertinent. The scoping process will include all interested agencies (Federal, State, county, and local), Native American tribes, public interest groups, businesses, affected landowners, and individual members of the public.

Western and the FS will consult with affected tribes to evaluate and address the potential effects on cultural
ENVIROMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard, EPA ICR No. 4335.03, OMB Control No. 2060-0594 
AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 
ACTION: Notice. 
SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), this document announces that EPA is planning to submit a request to renew an existing approved Information Collection Request (ICR) 2060-0594—8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This ICR is scheduled to expire on July 31, 2010. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.
DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before June 7, 2010.
ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0079, by one of the following methods:
• Website: regulations.gov; Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
• Email: oar-docket@epa.gov.
• Fax: (202) 564-7747.
• Mail: Environmental Protection Agency, Air and Radiation Docket, Mail Code 222-T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information. Special deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation.
• Hand Delivery: EPA Docket Center, Public Reading Room, EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.
• Instructions: Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0079. EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change and may be made available online at http://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected through www.regulations.gov or e-mail. The http://www.regulations.gov Web site is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an e-mail comment directly to EPA without going through http://www.regulations.gov, your e-mail address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet. If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses. For additional information about EPA's public docket, visit the EPA Docket Center homepage at http://www.epa.gov/epahome/dockets.htm. 
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. H. Lynn Dal, Air Quality Policy Division, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Mail Code C530-01, Environmental Protection Agency, T.E.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; phone number: (919) 541-8365; fax number: (919) 541-8024; e-mail address: dal.lynn@epa.gov. 
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 
How Can I Access the Docket and/or Submit Comments?
EPA has established a public docket for this ICR under Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0079, which is available for online viewing at http://www.regulations.gov, in person viewing at the Air Docket in the EPA Docket Center (EPA/SC), EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460. The EPA's Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Reading Room is 202-503-1744, and the telephone number for the Air Docket is 202-566-1742. Use http://www.regulations.gov to obtain a copy of the draft collection of information, submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the docket, and to access
Scoping Postcard

Public Scoping Meetings
Western Area Power Administration (Western) and the U.S. Forest Service (FS) invite you to public scoping meetings for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for maintenance of Western’s existing transmission lines on National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah and Nebraska. Western proposes to change how it manages vegetation on existing rights-of-way. Western must also ensure continued maintenance for transmission system safety and reliability. Changes would require modifying existing FS authorizations or issuing new authorizations.

Scoping provides an opportunity for you to learn more about the project, provide comments, and identify potential issues to be analyzed in the EIS. The public scoping comment period for this project ends on May 26, 2010.

The public scoping meetings will be held at the following locations:

**DENVER, CO**
Thursday, April 22, 2010
3 to 7pm
Remax Plaza Denver North
10 East 1200th Avenue
Denver, CO 80233

**GRAND JUNCTION, CO**
Friday, April 23, 2010
3 to 7pm
Museum of Western Colorado
Whitman Educational Center
248 S. 4th (4th and Ute)
Grand Junction, CO 81501

**VERNAL, UT**
Monday, April 26, 2010
3 to 7pm
Utah Basin Applied Technology College
450 N. 2000 W.
Vernal, UT 84078

Additional information:
Website: www.wapa.gov/transmission/Western-fs-EIS.htm
E-mail: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov
Mail: Jim Hartman, Environmental Manager
Western Area Power Administration
PO. Box 3700, Loveland CO 80539-3003
Scoping Email

From: Stevens, Kimberly
To: Stevens, Kimberly
Subject: Notice of Public Scoping Meetings - Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Management Reauthorization Project
Date: Friday, April 02, 2010 2:13:00 PM

Public Scoping Meetings – Please Attend!

Western Area Power Administration (Western) and the U.S. Forest Service (FS) invite you to public scoping meetings for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for maintenance of Western’s existing transmission lines on National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah and Nebraska. Western proposes to change how it manages vegetation on existing rights-of-way. Western must also ensure continued maintenance for transmission system safety and reliability. Changes would require modifying existing FS authorizations or issuing new authorizations. Scoping provides an opportunity for you to learn more about the project, provide comments, and identify potential issues to be analyzed in the EIS. The public scoping comment period for this project ends on May 26, 2010.

The public scoping meetings will be held at the following locations:

DENVER, COLORADO
Thursday, April 22, 2010, 3 to 7 pm
Rameda Place Denver North
10 East 120th Avenue
Denver, CO 80233

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO
Friday, April 23, 2010, 3 to 7 pm
Museum of Western Colorado
Whitter Educational Center
248 S. 4th (4th and Lobo)
Grand Junction, CO 81501

VERNAL, UT
Monday, April 26, 2010, 3 to 7 pm
Uintah Basin Applied Technology College
450 N. 2000 W.
Vernal, UT 84078

For additional information:
Website: www.wapa.gov/transmission/Western-fs-EIS.htm
E-mail: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov
Mail: Jim Hartman, Environmental Manager, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 3700, Loveland CO 80539-3003
Press Releases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 21, 2010
CONTACT: Randy Willkerson, 720-962-7056, willkerson@wapa.gov

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS SET FOR TRANSMISSION LINE MANAGEMENT REAUTHORIZATION

LAKEWOOD, Colo.—Western Area Power Administration (Western) and the U.S. Forest Service (FS) are hosting open-house, public scoping meetings to share information and receive public comments on issues associated with maintenance of Western’s existing, high-voltage transmission lines on National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah and Nebraska.

Public open-house scoping meetings will be held from 3 to 7 p.m.:
- Thursday, Apr. 22, Denver, Colo., Ramada Plaza Denver North, 10 East 120th Avenue, Denver, CO 80233
- Friday, Apr. 23, Grand Junction, Colo., Museum of Western Colorado, Whitman Educational Center, 248 S. 4th (4th and Ute), Grand Junction, CO 81501

All meeting locations are wheelchair accessible. Please contact Western if you need other accommodations to attend the scoping meetings.

Western and the FS are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address Western’s proposal to change how it manages vegetation on existing transmission line rights of way (ROW). Western must also ensure continued maintenance for transmission system safety and reliability. Changes would require modifying existing FS authorizations or issuing new authorizations.

The scoping meetings provide an opportunity to learn more about the project, provide comments and identify potential issues to be analyzed in the EIS. The public scoping comment period for this project ends May 26, 2010.
Comments on the proposed project can be submitted at one of the meetings or to Jim Hartman, Environmental Manager, Western Area Power Administration, Rocky Mountain Region, P.O. Box 3700, Loveland, CO 80539; fax 970-461-7213; or e-mail Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov. Comments are due by May 26.

For more information about the proposed project, please visit the project Web site online at: http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/western-fs-eis.htm.

Western proposes to improve the way it manages vegetation along its ROW on National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah and Nebraska. National Forests in Colorado include the Arapaho-Roosevelt, Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison, White River, Medicine Bow-Routt, San Juan and Pike-San Isabel. The project also includes the Ashley National Forest in Utah and the Nebraska National Forest in Nebraska. Western maintains about 300 miles of ROW in these Forests.

Not all areas of Western’s ROW would require the proposed changes to vegetation management. Vegetation management approaches would vary along the ROW depending on site conditions and identified risks to the transmission lines and other factors.

In general, Western proposes to change its vegetation management practices in the following manner:

- Implement and then maintain vegetation conditions along the ROW that reduce the risk to the transmission lines from vegetation-caused interference with the maintenance and operation of the transmission line.
- Change from a largely reactive approach of cutting danger trees with annual ROW re-entry cycles to a proactive approach that incorporates integrated vegetation management.
- Reduce as necessary and manage the amount of fuel-loading on the ROW to reduce the risk of transmission line-caused wildfires to transmission lines and structures.

-30-
We need your ideas!

Western Area Power Administration (Western) and the U.S. Forest Service (FS) invite you to a public, open-house scoping meeting. Your input will help evaluate issues associated with maintenance of Western’s existing transmission lines on National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah and Nebraska.

The meeting will be held:

Thursday
April 22
3 to 7 p.m.

Ramada Plaza Denver North
10 East 120th Avenue
Denver, CO 80233

Western and the FS are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address Western’s proposal to change how it manages vegetation on existing transmission line rights of way. Western must also ensure continued maintenance for transmission system safety and reliability. Changes would require modifying existing FS authorizations or issuing new authorizations.

Scoping provides an opportunity for you to learn more about the project, provide comments and identify potential issues to be analyzed in the EIS. The public scoping comment period for this project ends May 26, 2010.

For more information, visit
http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/Western-FS-EIS.htm

or contact:
Jim Hartman, Environmental Manager
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 3700
Loreal, CO 80539-3003

E-mail: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov
We need your ideas!

Western Area Power Administration (Western) and the U.S. Forest Service (FS) invite you to a public, open-house scoping meeting. Your input will help evaluate issues associated with maintenance of Western’s existing transmission lines on National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah and Nebraska. The meeting will be held:

Monday       Uintah Basin Applied
April 26     Technology College
3 to 7 p.m.   450 N. 2000 W.
            Vernal, UT  84078

Western and the FS are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address Western’s proposal to change how it manages vegetation on existing transmission line rights of way. Western must also ensure continued maintenance for transmission system safety and reliability. Changes would require modifying existing FS authorizations or issuing new authorizations.

Scoping provides an opportunity for you to learn more about the project, provide comments and identify potential issues to be analyzed in the EIS. The public scoping comment period for this project ends May 26, 2010.

For more information, visit http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/Western-FS-EIS.htm or contact:

Jim Hartman, Environmental Manager
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80539-3003
E-mail: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov
New group aims at halting all executions

Crime > Groups opposition is primarily on moral grounds.

By NATE CARUSU
Published: An

A group opposed to capital punishment will introduce it to the public today, making its first public appearance during a rally at the Salt Lake City Correctional Facility.

The group calls itself Chances for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and will hold a news conference at 10:30 a.m. at the Salt Lake City Detention Center.

The group said it will discuss its opposition to the death penalty and the use of lethal injection as an execution method.

The group plans to hold a rally outside the jail, where it will call for a moratorium on executions.

The group’s travels in recent years have included rallies and protests in various cities, including Salt Lake City.

The group’s goal is to raise awareness about the death penalty and its alternatives.

Salt Lake City Tribune April 23, 2010
Meeting Displays

Scoping and How to Comment

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider the following when making a decision that could significantly affect the environment:

- Alternatives to the proposed action
- Environmental impacts
- Information from the public, federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, and affected parties

The NEPA also requires federal agencies to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to ensure that any action is not detrimental to any listed species. The FWS will conduct a review to determine whether a species listed under the Endangered Species Act or the National Historic Preservation Act is likely to be adversely affected by the project.

Effective comments help ensure that important issues are identified and addressed in the Final Scoping Summary Report. You are encouraged to provide written comments by e-mail or mail by the selected public comment period (May 26, 2015). Your comments will be considered by the Western Area Power Administration.

Project Description and Objectives

The proposed action includes various activities typical of electrical industry practices for maintaining rights-of-way (ROW), access, structures, and other equipment. To comply with the NEPA, the project will include:

- Replacing power poles and towers
- Clearing vegetation along power lines
- Upgrading substations

The project objectives are to:

- Ensure Western's capability to maintain the transmission lines to ensure safety and the reliability of the transmission system.
- Ensure sufficient access for maintenance.
- Ensure public and worker safety.
- Manage vegetation to comply with current industry and environmental standards.
- Enhance the ability of the facilities to survive wildfires.
- Protect sensitive environmental resources including cultural resources, special status cultural resources, and others.
- Reduce the risk of wildfires by maintaining the transmission lines.

The project will also include:

- Replacing old poles and towers with new ones
- Upgrading substations
- Clearing vegetation along power lines
- Replacing transmission lines and associated equipment

The project will be divided into two phases:

Phase 1: The initial phase of the project will focus on the southern portion of the transmission lines.

Phase 2: The second phase will focus on the northern portion of the transmission lines, including the completion of the initial phase and the installation of new poles and towers.

The project is expected to be completed by June 30, 2016.
Design Features
Maps

Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest
Medicine Bow - Routt National Forests

Western Area Power Administration Reauthorization Project
Meeting Handouts
Scoping Brochure
Comment Form

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the public scoping process. Please submit your comments at a public scoping meeting or by mail or email by May 26, 2010.

Mail: Jim Hartman, Environmental Manager
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 3700, Loveland, CO 80539-3003
E-mail: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov

For more information, visit the project website at: www.wapa.gov/transmission/Western-fs-EIS.htm

Please tell us how we can reach you:

Name: ___________________________ Organization: ___________________________
Address: _________________________
City: _____________________________ State: ______________ Zip: ______________
Email Address: ____________________

Please note that all submissions will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. Your name and address will become part of the public record. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law.

PLEASE PRINT DATE: __________________

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Comments can also be sent to: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov
For more information visit: www.wapa.gov/transmission/Western-fs-EIS.htm
Sign-in Card

Meeting Location

First Name: ____________________________ Last Name: ____________________________

Organization: ____________________________

Phone: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________

City: ____________________________ State: ____________________________ Zip Code: ____________________________

I wish to receive additional information about this project (check one) □ yes □ no

Please include your email address.

We are trying to maximize resources by utilizing electronic notifications and project updates.
Website Information

Website

Western - Forest Service Right-of-Way Vegetation Management and Authorization

Transmission

DAMS

Function

DATT/Revision

Transmission

Infrastructure projects

Maintainance and Vegetation Management along Existing Western Transmission Line Rights of Way on National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska. Western Area Power Administration proposes to improve the way it manages vegetation along its rights of way (ROW) on National Forest System lands in the states of Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska. Implementing the proposal would include modifying existing Forest Service authorizations or issuing new authorizations to accommodate Western's proposal and other routine maintenance.

In response to North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) requirements and changing industry practices, Western proposes to modify its overall approach to vegetation management. The new approach involves evaluating existing vegetation conditions on the ROW, defining actions needed to manage vegetation and then implementing the actions and monitoring the ROW.

Implementation would include a variety of vegetation management activities designed to reduce or eliminate threats to facilities, mitigate ROW fuel load conditions, and meet other objectives listed below. In general, trees that grow to heights that may present a safety hazard are considered impracticable. These species would be targeted for management. About 237 miles of transmission line ROW are proposed for initial treatment to meet these objectives.

Learn more about the project:

Western and the U.S. Forest Service invite you to attend public scoping meetings for the Environmental Impact Statement for maintenance of Western’s existing transmission lines on National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska. Scoping provides an opportunity for you to learn more about the project, provide comments and identify potential issues to be analyzed in the EIS. Public scoping meetings will be held:

Thursday, April 22, 3 to 7 p.m.,
Ronada Vista Denver North
25 East 120th Avenue
Denver, CO 80233

Friday, April 23, 3 to 7 p.m.,
Ronada Vista Denver North
25 East 120th Avenue
Denver, CO 80233

Monday, April 26, 3 to 7 p.m.,
Utah Beas Applied Technology College,
410 North 200 West
Orem, UT 84057

Would you like to comment on this proposal?

Comments are welcome on this proposal. The public scoping period ends May 26, 2010. Please get your comments to Western by May 26, 2010 (postmarked by May 26, 2010, accepted). Comments will be taken throughout the NEPA review process, but comments must be received by the end of the established scoping period to be considered as the DEIS is being prepared.

Where should I send my comments?

Comments on the project should be sent to Western or by regular mail to the address below. Comments sent to the Forest Service should also be sent to these addresses:

You may e-mail your comments: WesternFS-EIS@Blen.gov
You may mail your comments:

Mr. Jim Hartman
Environmental Manager, 16400
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80538

Who is the Forest Service contact for this project?

Mr. David Leomis
Regional Environmental Planner
U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region
240 Simms St., Golden, CO 80401

How can I get my name removed from the mailing list, add my name to the mailing list, or request notification that the DEIS is available for review?

All requests may be made through the online comment form, emailed or sent via regular mail to the address above under "Where should I send my comments?"

Resources

http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/Western-FS-EIS.htm

6/30/2010
Background Information

Transmission Line Management Issues on Forested Rights-of-Way

A Brief Overview
Objectives

- Protect public and worker safety
- Reduce the risk of wildfires caused by transmission lines
- Ensure power system reliability
- Comply with current industry standards and mandatory reliability standards
- Achieve technical and economic efficiencies
- Reduce the risk to transmission system from wildfire
- Maintain flexibility to accommodate changing requirements in transmission system operation and maintenance
Goal: Manage rights-of-way to ensure safe, reliable transmission and incorporate environmental values
Transmission line contact with trees is common cause of power outages

- Northwest Blackouts of August 1996 caused by a power line that sagged into filbert trees near Hillsboro, Oregon
- Main cause of the Northeast Blackout of August 2003, blamed on a power company’s failure to trim trees. Loss of power to millions of customers in eastern Canada, Michigan to New York.
- Outages result in loss of service to residences, businesses, hospitals and are costly.
Transmission line conductors (wires) can sag in response to increased temperature. This can cause problems if vegetation below the transmission line is too tall.
Wind can blow conductors away from center toward vegetation along the sides of the ROW. This can cause problems if tall trees are too close.
Vegetation management requires consideration of both transmission line sag and swing.
Vegetation management on steep slopes requires additional consideration of trees upslope of the line.
Scorched tree tops are a common sight under many lines, indicating the tree top is too close to the conductor.
Vegetation regeneration and debris buildup in the ROW increases fuel load and the threat of wild fires.
The ROW vegetation was not managed adequately when this line was constructed. Now the dense vegetation must be addressed.
Natural re-vegetation of many transmission line maintenance roads disrupts access and may slow response during emergencies.
Maintenance road vegetation needs to be managed to prevent the build-up of fuels that could result in wild fire and to ensure access to the line.
Vegetation encroachment near towers prevents access for repair and maintenance. Trees may fall and damage structures or result in fuel sources too close to the structures.
Legislation and Administrative Actions that focused attention on the utility grids

► Executive Order E.O. 13212
  ▪ Signed in May of 2001
  ▪ Declared the Electric Utility Grid to be a matter of national security
  ▪ Improve and expedite cooperation among federal agencies to insure the supply and availability of energy for the country

  ▪ Required federal agencies to expedite approvals to comply with applicable reliability standards
  ▪ Directed FERC and NERC to develop and enforce reliability standards
  ▪ Specifically addressed vegetation management in electric utility ROWs
  ▪ Enforcement began February 2007
Considerations

► Compliance with NEPA, endangered species, cultural resource protection, water and other protections

► Powerlines and Forested Areas
  - Transmission line routes are permanently altered areas; tall trees are not compatible with power lines.
  - Electric utility rights-of-way need to be maintained to reduce wildfire risk, incorporate multiple use objectives, reduce fuels and ensure safety and reliability.
Proposal

Transition from a **Reactive** to a **Proactive** approach to maintaining electrical transmission line ROWs. Get out in front of the problem to effectively manage it.

- Use integrated vegetation management practices.

Develop a phased, staged approach to implement changes.
- Short-term - Clear ROWs of tall tree species
- Mid-term - Manage vegetation threats to structures and conductors
- Long-term - Maintain transmission lines and ROWs to ensure safety and reliability
Short-term — remove tall vegetation species from the ROW.
Mid-term — manage vegetation to reduce potential threats to structures and conductors.
Long-term — maintain transmission lines and ROWs to ensure safety and reliability.
### Design Features (Draft)

**Examples of Design Features, Draft**

March 22, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designator</th>
<th>RESOURCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Before implementing new vegetation treatments and ground-disturbing maintenance activities, the section area will be reviewed using existing data or if appropriate surveyed for listed and Proposed Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (PTEES) plant species and plant species of local concern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>FS will identify activity restrictions and requirements in areas of known declining plant species (e.g. Timing, measures to provide connectivity/linkage of habitats, etc.) so that the activity would not increase the trend toward Federal listing or loss of population viability.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Developed Recreation Sites, Trails, Trailheads, and Administrative Sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Western would coordinate closure of trailheads, administrative sites, campgrounds, and travel corridors with local Ranger District to minimize impacts to the public and other permitted users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historic Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A Cultural Resource Inventory will be completed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) prior to project activities, if no previous surveys of the activity areas have been conducted. The SHPO must have concurred with a determination that no eligible or potentially eligible historic properties would be affected or no eligible or potentially eligible historic properties would be adversely affected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Activity will not occur in areas with identified eligible or potentially eligible historic resources until the appropriate avoidance or other measures that were concurred in by the SHPO are implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>A 50-foot buffer surrounding historic properties (cultural resources that are eligible for or are listed on the National Register of Historic Places) within the area of potential effect will be marked on the ground and the exclusion area included in contracts. No heavy equipment or mechanical vegetation removal will be allowed within these exclusion areas. If treatment is necessary, these sites and the 50-foot buffer will be hand-treated for hazard trees and accumulated fuel buildup. Slash pile burning would be allowed in areas reviewed by and approved by a qualified archaeologist prior to the implementation of the burn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>An archaeologist will review access roads, temporary roads, skid trails and landing areas identified during project planning. If the actions are located in areas not covered by the original inventory and are in areas with a high</td>
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Examples of Design Features, Draft
March 22, 2010

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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>If previously unidentified prehistoric or historic materials are found during the course of the proposed activity, work in that area will cease. Work in the area of the cultural resource will not resume until the site has been evaluated for cultural materials and potential effects and Section 106 is complied with. The discovery must be protected until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>If requested by the SHPO or an Indian tribe, the Forest Service or Western will consult to identify properties of traditional cultural and religious significance to Indian Tribes or other interested parties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Prior to construction, supervisory construction personnel will be instructed on the protection of cultural and environmental resources and the locations of areas that are off-limits shall be clearly communicated to construction personnel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Heavy trucks and other equipment would not cross eligible sites when unimproved access roads are wet. Upgrading or maintenance of access roads within the boundaries of eligible sites would be avoided wherever possible. Where avoidance is not possible, a mitigation plan would be prepared and implemented prior to any construction or roadwork. The plan would include mitigation of adverse effects. These guidelines apply not only to roads surveyed as project access roads, but also to roads beneath the transmission lines that were included in the transmission line survey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The Forest Service may conduct surveys to determine noxious weed occurrence and the risk of spread prior to treatment(s) in and around power line corridors. This may result in noxious weed eradication efforts prior to treatment. The surveys may also help identify areas in which disturbance or activity would be avoided or minimized, if feasible, due to expected abundance of noxious weed seed banks in the soil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Off-road equipment shall not be moved into project area without having first taken reasonable measures to ensure it is free of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, or other debris that could contain noxious weed seeds. Equipment may also be inspected prior to moving it from areas infested with invasive species of concern to areas free of such invasive species. Reasonable measures include pressure-washing or steam cleaning in an offsite location where containment of oil, grease, soil and plant debris provides optimal protection of project areas. All equipment surfaces should be cleaned especially drive systems, tracks and “pinch points” to ensure removal of potentially invasive species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Re-vegetation may be required on areas where ground cover is disturbed (e.g., landings, burned slash pile sites, skid trails, etc.). As a general guideline, ground cover should recover to its normal range of variability for the land type and geo-climatic area by the end of the first entire growing season after treatment. Native plant species should ultimately dominate the site, although use of non-persistent species may be used to ensure vegetation cover initially.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Re-vegetation will be conducted with approved certified weed-free seed mixes to prevent soil erosion or noxious weeds. The Forest Service will designate the seed mixture to be used, and approve appropriate substitutions based on availability of seed. Certification tags from the seed mixture would be provided to the Forest Service. If necessary, seeding would be accomplished as designated by the Forest Service.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Examples of Design Features, Draft

**March 22, 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>16</th>
<th>Public Safety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance Level 2 - 5 roads, county, state and federal highways shall be posted with warning signs and traffic control devices shall be employed in accordance with the “Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>17</th>
<th>Maintenance Level 3 - 5 roads:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Shall be maintained for through traffic during felling, slash treatment, or removal operations. Traffic delays may occur for a maximum of one-half (½) hour.</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Shall be left in a condition that will adequately accommodate traffic at the end of each work day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Shall be marked with barricades or proper signs placed at traffic hazards in or adjacent to the road at the end of each workday. All felled trees and slash shall be removed from the bladed, mowed, or brushed road corridor each day.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) No felling, slash treatment, and/or removal operations shall occur adjacent to level 3-4 roads on weekends, holidays, or one day prior to the opening of each of the four big game rifle seasons.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 18 | Maintenance Level 2 roads shall be temporarily closed to general public access during felling, slash treatment, and/or removal operations. Temporary closures may range from one day to two weeks. |

| 19 | Western will design and include mitigation to eliminate problems of induced currents and voltages onto conductive objects sharing a ROW, to the mutual satisfaction of the parties involved. Western will install fence grounds on all fences that cross or are parallel to the proposed line and in which induced currents are a problem. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20</th>
<th>Riparian Areas, Aquatic Resources, and Water Quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equipment staging areas and refueling locations will be located at least 250 feet away from streams and wetlands.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 21 | Vehicles, including heavy equipment, trucks, and ATV’s will be allowed to cross perennial and intermittent streams, with defined beds and banks at open channel crossings (without bridges or culverts) only at locations designated by the Forest Service. If the Forest Service determines that it is needed, open channel crossings will be restored following use to restore the channel to appropriate dimensions, stabilize stream banks and prevent erosion, and allow for vegetation recovery. |
Examples of Design Features, Draft
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Stream crossing structures and other in-stream structures (e.g., culverts, bridges, etc.) will be designed to provide for passage of flow and sediment, withstand expected flood flows, and allow free movement of resident aquatic life. Stream crossing structures will be removed following completion of vegetation management, unless written approval is obtained from the Forest Service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Equipment will not be permitted within 100 feet from the edge of streams, or the edge of riparian or wetlands/ferns vegetation, except as noted below and authorized by the Forest Service. Hand felling of hazardous trees is permitted in the 100-foot buffer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 24   | For hazardous trees felled within riparian buffers:  
|      | a) Trees should be directionally felled away from streams and wetlands in areas immediately adjacent to culverts (within 50 feet) or when trees are too small to be sufficiently anchored and would provide problems during high flows by being transported downstream and potentially block culverts.  
|      | b) Trees that are large enough to be anchored and would provide instream aquatic habitat should be felled directly across the stream. This simulates natural conditions and provides a large woody component to the stream for aquatic organisms and fisheries habitat. Which trees that will be felled across the stream and used for habitat versus being felled away from the stream will be determined by the Forest Service in perennial streams with fish.  
|      | c) Trees should be removed using at least one-end (partial) suspension.  
|      | d) Trees should not be skidded across perennial or intermittent stream courses. |
| 25   | If appropriate and consistent with the need to reduce fuel loading and maintain access, felled trees would be left in place whenever possible. If appropriate, slash would be hopped and scattered to a depth of less than 24 inches. Where leaving felled trees may create unacceptable fuel loading, fail to meet visual objectives, interfere with transmission line maintenance or unacceptably limit wildlife access to streams and riparian areas, trees may be removed. |
| 26   | For isolated wetlands that occur within the power line corridors, trees within the wetland and wetland buffer should be left standing, if the trees will not violate applicable electrical safety standards. |
| 27   | For some streams, terrain may limit the extent of riparian vegetation, and upland vegetation within the Water Influence Zone (WIZ). For these streams, conventional logging equipment may be used within the WIZ with Forest Service approval. Larger trees and woody debris should be kept in the riparian zone and be used for instream aquatic habitat when feasible and consistent with protection of other resources. |
| 28   | Burn piles will be located away from perennial streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands and riparian areas. The minimum distances are 50 feet for hand-dug piles and at least 200 feet for machine-made piles. For intermittent or ephemeral streams, hand-dug burn piles would be located 50 feet from or outside of the inner gorge, whichever is less. |
**Examples of Design Features, Draft**

*March 22, 2010*

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Isolated wetlands that occur under tree canopy may not have been mapped and may not be visible on aerial photos. In these cases, power line corridors should be surveyed to identify wetlands and riparian areas prior to use of mechanical equipment so that the appropriate design criteria are planned and implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Excavated material or other construction materials shall not be stockpiled or deposited near or on stream banks, lake shorelines, or other water course perimeters where they could be washed away by high water or storm runoff or can in any way encroach upon the actual water source itself. The contractor or Western shall comply with all NPDES requirements and obtain the appropriate permits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Waste waters from construction-type operations shall not enter streams, water courses, or other surface waters without use of turbidity control methods such as settling ponds, gravel-filler entrapment dikes, filter fences, approved flocculating processes that are not harmful to fish, recirculation systems for washing of aggregates, or other approved methods. Waste waters discharged into surface waters shall be essentially free of suspended material. These actions shall comply with all applicable NPDES permitting requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Minimize activities in riparian areas or span riparian areas. Avoid disturbance to riparian vegetation whenever practical.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Prior to the activity personnel will be instructed on the protection of environmental resources and the locations of areas that are off-limits shall be clearly communicated to all construction personnel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>If Aquatic Noxious Species are likely to occur, their spread would be controlled by equipment cleanings before crossing streams and other water bodies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Scenic Byways, Special Interest Areas (SIAs), and Research Natural Areas (RNAs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trees cutting and clearing should be done by hand within power line corridors that are adjacent to scenic byways and SIAs. Branches would be left in place, slash will be topped and scattered to a depth of less than 24 inches unless it would result in unacceptable fuel loading, interfere with wildlife travel, interfere with maintenance of the line, or impact other resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Machinery will be used on slopes greater than 35% grade, except for slopes less than 100 feet in length.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>The contractor and Western shall preserve the natural landscape. Activities shall be conducted to minimize scarring, or defacing of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the work. Except where clearing is required for excavation operations, vegetation shall be preserved and shall be protected from damage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examples of Design Features, Draft
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| 40 | Heavy equipment will not be operated for land treatments when soils are "too wet". Soils are too wet when soil can be molded into a ball that holds together under repeated tosses, or if the soil can be rolled into a 3mm thread without breaking or crumbling. |
| 41 | On soils rated high for susceptibility to compaction and if skid trails are greater than or equal to 75 feet apart, then half of these skid trails will be rehabilitated to bring the compaction below 15%. |
| 42 | The organic ground cover of each land unit shall be maintained so that pedestals, rills, and surface runoff from the land unit are not increased. Maintain a ground cover of 65% or greater within the activity areas. |
| 43 | Chipped material depth may be limited based on further coordination with the FS. Areas exceeding depth and cover limits should be re-spread. |
| 44 | If landings, roads or skid trails are constructed by removing topsoil:  
  a) Topsoil will be stockpiled for re-spread. 
  b) Inclusion of stump and woody debris with topsoil will be minimized. 
  c) Handling topsoil during wet conditions will be avoided. 
  d) Topsoil piles will be protected from traffic and water erosion and will not be buried by slash. 
  e) The consistency of the surface of the re-spread topsoil will be suitable for the subsequent seeding (if seeding is to be done). 
  f) Slash will be scattered on the soil surface to provide some erosion control until vegetation is established. 
  g) Where rehabilitation treatments will include both tillage and topsoil re-spread, the sequence of operations will be planned to avoid re-compacting tilled areas. Tillage can take place after topsoil is re-spread with a minimum of mixing. |
| 45 | Sub-soilting and/or ripping shall occur when soil moisture is such that the soil is friable, which means dry enough to crumble (rather than smear) but not so dry to turn to powder. |
| 46 | Landing debris will be used to help provide soil amendments. Ash from burn piles will be spread along with topsoil and other debris to create a source of organic matter. |
| 47 | All scarification and other site prep work should be laid out with the terrain contour. |
| 48 | Slash and debris will be kept out of road ditches and drainage channels. |

**Transportation**
## Examples of Design Features, Draft
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Hauling that results in excessive road damage and may contribute to possible sediment discharges into stream channels will be suspended on native surface roads during periods of precipitation. Hauling will be suspended until the road sub-grade can adequately carry trucks and road damage will not occur.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>On haul roads, roads, holes and washboards shall be removed by scarifying or cutting the bottom of the defects. Fines accumulated while grading roads or from drainage ditches shall not be wasted over fill shoulders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Temporary or unauthorized roads will be rehabilitated by depositing excavated soils and rock to fill in road cut, where feasible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Water bars, cut slopes the prism and cross drains will be installed as needed to remove surface water and stabilize road surfaces. Stumps, rocks, slash and logs will be placed on the rippled road surface to a density and depth to mimic the surrounding ground. Specific rehabilitative methods would be determined on a case by case basis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Equipment and materials staging areas shall be located and arranged in a manner to preserve trees and vegetation to the maximum practicable extent. The area shall be regraded, as required, so that all surfaces drain naturally, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate natural revegetation, provide for proper drainage, and prevent erosion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Visual

54 Clumps and/or islands of trees will be left within openings of hazard tree removal (where sagging lines and ground clearance are not a concern) to break sight distance and to maintain natural appearing landscape mosaic pattern.

### Wildlife


56 Activities that may occur in areas with sensitive species, sensitive life cycle needs (e.g. lambing areas, crucial winter ranges, sensitive nesting areas) would be modified to minimize or avoid adverse impacts based on additional coordination with the FS.

57 Avian nesting surveys would be conducted prior to activities to ensure ground-disturbing activities do not result in the "take" of an active nest or migratory bird protected under the MBTA. If activity occurs during the raptor nesting seasons, surveys would be conducted and buffers would be established to ensure noise and human disturbance do not result in nest abandonment.
### Examples of Design Features, Draft

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>In areas with active osprey nests, Western would work outside of the osprey nesting season (May 1 through September 1).</td>
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<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Prior to activities, supervisory personnel will be instructed on the protection of environmental resources and the locations of areas that are off-limits shall be clearly communicated to all personnel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>When treatments occur within or near known amphibian breeding sites, a decontamination protocol may be required to prevent the spread of chytrid fungus. This would be predicated on whether the equipment has been exposed to sites that are known to harbor or are highly suspected of harboring chytrid fungus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>For Proposed Endangered and Threatened Species or Species of Local Concern with identified viability concerns, the Forest Service will identify activity restrictions (e.g., activity timing, vegetation management prescriptions, etc.) so the activity will not result in adverse effects, a trend toward Federal listing, or loss of population viability.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Winter Logging**

| 62   | In areas with soils with high susceptibility for compaction, activities will be limited when soils are "too wet" (as described under Soils). If harvesting during conditions when soil moisture cannot be determined (i.e. when soil is covered with snow), either a soil scientist will be consulted or the following guidelines will be used:  
|      | a) Frozen soil is 4 inches deep or greater.  
|      | b) Compactable snow or a combination of compactable snow and frozen soil is 12 inches in thickness. Snow quality should compact and form a running surface for equipment by being moist and non-granular.  
|      | c) Designated skidtrails are NOT REQUIRED except for other resource concerns.  
|      | d) Conditions that would be monitored closely during operations are: soil being "too wet" (as described in Soils); bare soil in trails; and day time temperatures exceeding 35°F for an extended period. |
| 63   | For soils rated low or moderate for susceptibility to compaction, harvesting will not be done when soils are "too wet" (as described in Soils). These soil types may be harvested on year-round as long they are not wet. Snow or frozen soil is NOT required to protect soils. |

**Waste Management.**

| 64   | Activities shall be performed by methods that prevent accidental spills of solid matter, liquids, contaminants, debris, and other pollutants and wastes into flowing streams or dry water courses, lakes, playas, and underground water sources. These pollutants and wastes include, but are not restricted to, refuse, garbage, cement, concrete, sanitary waste, industrial waste, oil and other petroleum products, aggregate processing tailings, mineral salts, and thermal pollution. |
Examples of Design Features, Draft
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Burning or burying of waste materials on the ROW or at the site is not allowed. The contractor shall remove all waste materials from the area. All materials resulting from the contractor's clearing operations shall be removed from the ROW and disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Air Quality</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>The contractor shall use such practicable methods and devices as are reasonably available to minimize emissions of air contaminants. This includes particulates from soil disturbance and activities, excessive exhaust from internal combustion engines, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>Equipment and vehicles that show excessive emissions of exhaust gases due to poor engine adjustments, or other inefficient operating conditions, shall not be operated until corrective repairs or adjustments are made.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project Description

Proposed Project Description Summary

The proposed action consists of maintenance activities typical of electrical industry practices for maintaining right-of-way (ROW), access, structures and other equipment along approximately 280 miles of existing transmission lines located on National Forest System (NFS) lands. Part of the proposal is to change the approach to vegetation management. In response to North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) requirements and changing industry practices, Western proposes to modify its overall approach to vegetation management. The new approach involves evaluating existing vegetation conditions on the ROW, defining actions needed to manage vegetation and then implementing the actions and monitoring the ROW. Implementation would include a variety of vegetation management activities designed to reduce or eliminate threats to facilities, mitigate ROW fuel load conditions, and meet other objectives listed below. In general, trees that grow to heights that may present a safety hazard are considered incompatible. These species would be targeted for management. About 237 miles of transmission line ROW are proposed for initial treatment to meet these objectives. Western’s proposal includes a long term approach that will involve monitoring and re-treatment of these and other areas at appropriate intervals based on the re-growth rates for incompatible species. Forest Service authorizations for Western’s transmission lines on NFS lands would need to be modified to accommodate this proposal.

Several objectives would be met by the proposed action;

- Ensure sufficient access to the facilities for maintenance.
- Ensure that Western’s transmission facilities can be maintained to ensure that they are operational for the useful life of the facility.
- Protect public and worker safety by ensuring safe conditions on the ROW and well maintained facilities.
- Manage vegetation more effectively to ensure the reliable operation of the power system.
- Comply with current industry practices and mandatory reliability standards and maintain flexibility to accommodate future changes in requirements.
- Reduce the risk and duration of power flow interruptions caused by wildfire events, and enhance the overall fire survivability of Western’s facilities. This includes managing ROW fuel loads.
- Increase management flexibility to address a variety of conditions and risks while effectively meeting other natural resource protection objectives such as minimizing visual impacts; protecting sensitive areas; minimizing effects on special status species and habitats, controlling noxious weeds; protecting cultural resources; and others.
- Minimize risks of power interruptions, fire starts and damage to the transmission lines from vegetation growing into or too close to conductors (wires).
• Minimize the risks of power interruptions, fire starts and damage to the transmission lines from vegetation falling into structures and conductors.

• Maximize cost containment and improve maintenance efficiency. This may be done by balancing the frequency and intensity of vegetation treatment on the ROW in the short term and over the long term by choosing control methods based on effectiveness, environmental effects, site characteristics, safety, security and economics.

The ROWs cross through a variety of vegetation communities at elevations ranging from approximately 6,000 feet to 11,000 feet. The widths of the transmission line ROW vary based on the voltage of the line and typically range from 75 feet to 175 feet. Western and the Forest Service will evaluate impacts on a variety of environmental resources that may occur along the approximately 4,000 total acres of right-of-way. Design criteria will be developed to minimize these impacts.

Some vegetative communities pose more risk to transmission lines than others and treatment proposals would be based on the characteristics of each community. Vegetation treatment methods and future treatment intervals would vary on a ROW depending on the vegetation type, vegetative regrowth, environmental protection requirements, and risks to the transmission line. For example, in ROW areas with relatively low conductor to ground clearances, the proposal would typically include managing for lower growth plant species through more frequent reentries and selectively reducing or eliminating species that at mature height would threaten the reliability of the transmission line. Species that would be promoted would generally be grasses, forbs, shrubs, and occasional small or low growth tree species.

In ROW areas where there is generally sufficient conductor to ground clearance even with mature trees, vegetation management actions would be less intensive. For example in areas of extremes in terrain, such as in drainages and canyons spanned by the line, mature trees may not pose significant risks to the transmission lines. However, the same tree species may pose unacceptable risks on the crests of the adjacent slopes where these trees could grow into or fall into the structures or conductors.

The vegetation management proposal includes an initial pass through areas that have been identified as requiring immediate treatment. The initial pass will affect approximately 237 miles of the approximately 278 miles of transmission line ROW on NFS lands. These areas are proposed for mechanical treatment, to remove tall growth species in forested areas, and address a build up of fuels resulting from several decades of previous vegetation management activities, in which trees were cut and left. Treatments may include logging, chipping, and grinding of trees and existing debris using mechanized equipment, and other activities developed in concert with the Forest Service and public involvement. Longer term vegetation management activities would shift to lower intensity treatments that encourage the recruitment, retention, and stabilization of more compatible plant communities.
Maps

Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest
Online Comment Form

Scoping comment form for Western-FS-EIS

We need your input to help identify issues and concerns for the Environmental Impact Statement for maintenance of Western's existing transmission lines on National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska.

Your comments will help us define issues and alternatives for evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposed project. If you have any issues, concerns or questions that you would like addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement, please complete this response form and click the 'Submit' button at the bottom of the page to send it to us. Please provide your comments by May 28, 2010.

Please share your issues, concerns or questions with us:

Replace this text to list concerns or questions you have about the proposed project.

You can also send additional concerns, issues, questions or comments to:

Mr. Joe Wallmeyer, Environmental Manager, HQ-1000
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 3720
Loveland, CO 80539
E-mail: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov

Receive future announcements about Maintenance and Vegetation Management along Existing Western Transmission Line Rights of Way on National Forest System Lands in Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska.

To have your name added to or removed from our mailing list for this project, check the appropriate box and complete the contact information below.

[ ] Yes, add my name to the mailing list to receive future information. Please send me information by regular mail only.

[ ] Yes, add my name to the mailing list to receive future information. Please send me information by e-mail.

[ ] No, please remove my name from my mailing list.

Tell us how to reach you:

Include your name, address and e-mail address, so we may keep you up to date about this project.

Contact Information (optional)

Name: [ ]

Representing: [ ]

Address: [ ]

City: [ ]

State: [ ]

Zip code: [ ]

E-mail address: [ ]

Submit

http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/Western-FS-EIS/scopingcomment.htm

6/23/2010
Scoping Meeting Brochure

Welcome!
Western Area Power Administration (Western) and the US Forest Service (FS) are jointly preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the power transfer agreement of Western's existing transmission lines on FS lands in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. Western proposes to maintain those lines and to continue their operation as a means of generating, transporting or delivering energy to customers.

Throughout the EIS process, the FS will engage the public and other interested parties to provide comments and information on a variety of issues. The public scoping comment period ends on May 26, 2010.

Project Objectives:
- Enhance the ability of the facilities to incorporate and accommodate the needs of the growing population.
- Protect the environment:
  - Implement measures to avoid or minimize adverse impacts.
  - Mitigate adverse impacts:
    - Implement measures to protect and enhance the environment.
  - Use of existing facilities to the maximum extent practical.
- Improve the ability of the facilities to meet growing energy demands.

How are they Used?
- Existing transmission lines are used to deliver power from generation facilities to areas of high demand.

Design Feature Examples:
- A SITE SAFETY CONSTRUCTION STATION:
  - Provides a safe and efficient environment for construction activities.
  - Protects workers and the environment from potential hazards.
- A SITE SAFETY CONSTRUCTION STATION:
  - Enhances site safety and efficiency.

What are Design Features?
- Design features are specific engineered actions and stations that the proposal will be implemented. Design features are designed to avoid or minimize impacts.

Project Timeline:
- April 8, 2010: Notice of Intent Published in Federal Register.
- April 22, 2010: Public Scoping Meeting Notice Published.
- April 23, 2010: Public Scoping Meeting
- April 26, 2010: Public Scoping Meeting
- May 26, 2010: Notice of Availability of First EIS - Record of Decision.
- Spring 2010: Notice of Availability of First EIS - Record of Decision.

For more information, please visit the project website at: www.wapa.gov/powerindustry/whistler-fees.html
Design Features Display Boards

National Environmental Policy Act Display Boards
Project Description Display Boards
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