MAINTENANCE AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ALONG EXISTING WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHTS-OF-WAY ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS, COLORADO, UTAH, AND NEBRASKA

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FINAL SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT
(DOE/EIS-0442)

July 2010

Western Area Power Administration

Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
ROW	Rights-of-way
Forest Service	U.S. Forest Service
Western	Western Area Power Administration

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1.0 Introduction

On April 8, 2010, the Western Area Power Administration (Western) and the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) (75 *Federal Register* 17913) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for Maintenance and Vegetation Management Along Existing Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Rights-of-Way on National Forest System Lands, Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska (Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Management Reauthorization Project). The EIS will address the Western proposal to alter its vegetation management practices in forested areas to facilitate compliance with new electrical utility regulations and standards designed to increase transmission system reliability, reduce infrastructure damage, and protect public health and welfare; and address other routine maintenance activities along the rights-of-way (ROWs).

Implementing the proposal would include modifying existing Forest Service authorizations or issuing new authorizations to accommodate Western's vegetation management proposal and maintenance of the electrical transmission facilities. Western and the Forest Service are joint lead agencies in the preparation of the EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 United States Code 4321 *et seq.*, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) NEPA implementing procedures (10 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Part 21), and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500 – 1508). The EIS will address the environmental effects associated with the way Western manages vegetation along its ROWs on National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska.

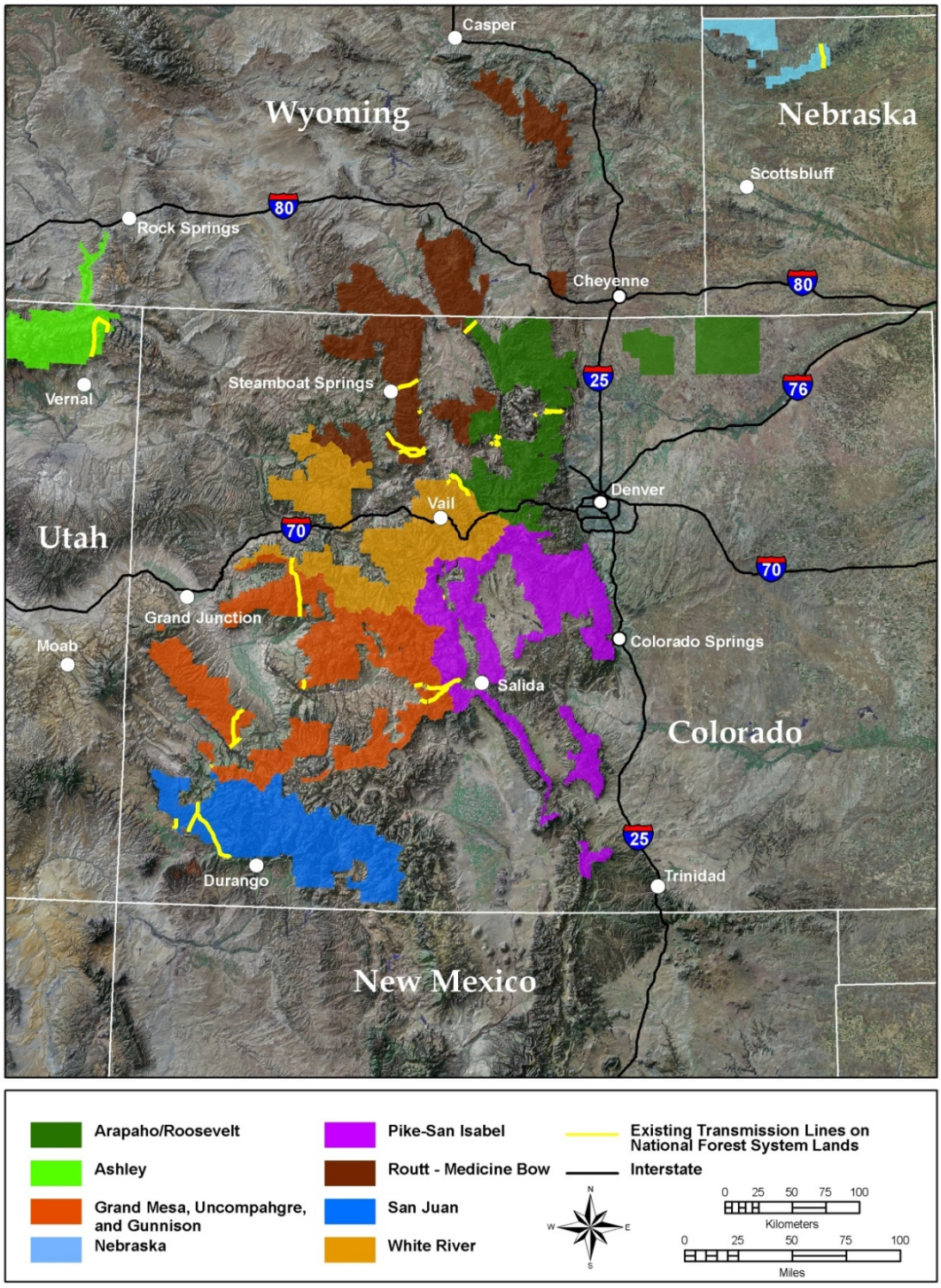
The Western need for action is to ensure that it can safely and reliably operate and maintain its existing electrical transmission facilities. Western must meet North American Electric Reliability Corporation mandatory vegetation management and maintenance standards (FAC-003-1) in accordance with section 1211 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and industry standards. These industry standards are designed to ensure safe and reliable operation of the transmission line system.

This report documents the public scoping process performed as part of the NEPA process for the Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Management Reauthorization Project.

1.1 Project Description

Western proposes to improve the way it manages vegetation along its ROWs on National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska (Figure 1). National Forests in Colorado in which Western maintains transmission lines include Arapaho-Roosevelt, Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison, White River, Routt, San Juan, and Pike-San Isabel. The project also includes the Nebraska National Forest in Nebraska and the Ashley National Forest in Utah. Western maintains approximately 300 miles of ROWs in these National Forests.

Figure 1. Project Area for the Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Reauthorization Project



Not all areas of the Western ROWs would require the proposed changes to vegetation management. Vegetation management approaches would vary along ROWs depending on site conditions, identified risks to the transmission lines, and other factors. Over the life of its facilities, Western would implement proposed vegetation management changes in locations along its ROWs where vegetation could interfere with Western's ability to reliably operate and maintain the facilities. In general, Western proposes to change its vegetation management practices in the following ways:

- Establish and then maintain vegetation conditions along ROWs that reduce risk to the transmission lines from vegetation-caused interference with the maintenance and operation of transmission lines. 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 from a largely reactive approach of cutting danger trees during annual ROW reentry cycles to a proactive approach that incorporates integrated vegetation management. The objectives would be to control vegetation that, at mature height, presents a risk to transmission line maintenance and operation, and allows for longer ROW reentry intervals.
- Reduce as necessary and manage the amount of fuel loading on ROWs to reduce the risk of transmission line-caused wildfires and to reduce the potential impacts of wildfires to transmission lines and structures.

1.2 Scoping

CEQ NEPA implementing regulations at 40 CFR 1501.7 require an early and open "scoping" process as part of preparing an EIS. Scoping is the process by which lead agencies solicit input from the public and interested agencies on the nature and extent of the actions, alternatives, and impacts to be addressed in the EIS and the methods by which they will be evaluated. To help lead agencies in their scoping efforts, the CEQ issued an advisory memorandum in April 1981, *Council on Environmental Quality, Scoping Guidance: Memorandum for General Counsels, NEPA Liaisons and Participants in Scoping*, which explains how to conduct an effective scoping process.

The scoping process begins with publication in the *Federal Register* of an NOI to prepare an EIS. Section 2.0 of this report describes the scoping process for this project.

1.3 Purpose of the Scoping Summary Report

The purpose of this scoping summary report is to explain the scoping process and to describe the tools Western and the Forest Service used to provide information to the public about the project and solicit comments on the scope and content of the EIS. Information reviewed in preparation of this report included comments submitted at the public scoping meetings, and comments submitted via U.S. mail, email, or electronically on the project website during the scoping period. Section 3.0 of this report summarizes the comments Western and the Forest Service received during the scoping period.

2.0 Scoping Process

The scoping process began with publication of the NOI on April 8, 2010, and ended on May 26, 2010, a period of 48 days. The NOI invited public participation in the EIS scoping process and solicited public comments on the scope and content of the EIS. Appendix A includes a copy of the NOI. Scoping activities included publication of the NOI, direct mail notifications, press releases and advertisements, and public scoping meetings, as described below.

2.1 Notification

Western and the Forest Service compiled a list of interested individuals, organizations, interest groups, and agencies to be notified of scoping. The agencies generated the notification list from previous public involvement efforts that included local, state, and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations, individuals, news media, and businesses. Personnel from each of the eight National Forests in the project area contributed to the list. Appendix B includes the notification list. This list will be updated throughout project development.

Western distributed a total of 962 postcards and emails on April 2, 2010. The postcard and email provided information about the project and the times, dates, and locations of the scoping meetings, the date the scoping period closed, and contact information. The postcard and email also provided the project email and website addresses. Appendix A includes copies of the postcard and email.

To provide notice of the public scoping meetings, Western distributed a news release on April 21, 2010, to the 17 newspapers and 10 radio stations listed in Table 1. The press release included times, dates, and locations of the public meetings, provided information about the project, invited public comment, provided contact information, provided the date scoping comments were due, and provided a link to the project website. Appendix A includes a copy of the content of the news release.

Western published advertisements in local newspapers before the dates of the scoping meetings. Table 2 lists the local newspapers that published the advertisements. Appendix A includes copies of the advertisements.

Western created a project website to provide project-related information to the public. Western will update the website throughout EIS development. Information posted on the website during the scoping period included the dates, times, and locations of the public scoping meetings; an invitation to comment on the project, including how to submit comments, an online comment form, and notice of when the scoping period would close; contact information for Western and the Forest Service; background information on the project; draft design features with an explanation of what design features are and how they are used; a project description; maps depicting the transmission line ROWs in each National Forest included in the project area; a scoping meeting brochure; and the three-panel display boards prepared for the public scoping meetings. The website can be accessed at http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/Western-FS-EIS.htm.

Table 1. News Release Distribution

Media	Location
Newspapers	
Summit Daily News	Breckenridge, Colorado
Delta County Independent	Delta, Colorado
Denver Post	Denver, Colorado
Durango Herald	Durango, Colorado
The Coloradoan	Fort Collins, Colorado
Sky-Hi News	Granby, Colorado
Grand Junction Daily Sentinel	Grand Junction, Colorado
Gunnison Country Times	Gunnison, Colorado
Montrose Daily Press	Montrose, Colorado
Leadville Chronicle	Leadville, Colorado
Chaffee County Times	Salida, Colorado
Steamboat Pilot	Steamboat Springs, Colorado
High Country News	Paonia, Colorado
Chadron Record	Chadron, Nebraska
Salt Lake Tribune	Salt Lake City, Utah
Deseret News	Salt Lake City, Utah
Vernal Express	Vernal, Utah
Radio Stations	
KRAI	Craig, Colorado
55 Country	Craig, Colorado
96.9 FM KBCR	Steamboat Springs, Colorado
High Country Radio Network	Steamboat Springs, Colorado
610 AM KCSR	Chadron, Nebraska
98.5 FM KIFX	Roosevelt, Utah
1250 AM KNEU	Roosevelt, Utah
102.7 FM KSL	Salt Lake City, Utah
94.3 FM KXRQ	Vernal, Utah
105.5 FM KLCY	Vernal, Utah

Table 2. Advertisement Publication

Newspaper	Location	Date of Publication
Denver Post	Denver, Colorado	April 21, 2010
Grand Junction Daily Sentinel	Grand Junction, Colorado	April 21, 2010
Vernal Express	Vernal, Utah	April 21, 2010
Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret News	Salt Lake City, Utah	April 23, 2010

Western notified more than 115 federal, state, and local agencies of scoping, including the following:

- Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado Division of Water Resources
- Colorado Natural Areas Program
- Colorado Natural Heritage Program
- Colorado State Historic Preservation Office
- Colorado State Forest Service
- County Commissioners, planning departments, and other county agencies in Colorado, Nebraska, and Utah
- National Park Service
- Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
- Nebraska State Forest Service
- Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District
- Officials of cities and towns located in the vicinity of the project area in Colorado, Nebraska, and Utah
- Utah Department of Natural Resources
- Utah Department of Transportation
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Utah Division of Water Rights
- Utah State Historic Preservation Office
- Utah State Parks and Recreation
- Utah Trust Lands Administration
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service

See Appendix B for the complete list of agencies notified.

Western is the lead agency for Tribal Consultation and for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and other cultural resource protection regulations. Western sent a letter dated March 26, 2010, to 44 Native American Tribes, initiating government-to-government consultation. The letter invited tribes to participate in project review and consultation under NHPA and NEPA. Western also requested any information tribes might have on special ethnographic or archaeological resources in or near the proposed project area.

2.2 Scoping Meetings

Western and the Forest Service held three public scoping meetings during April 2010. Table 3 lists meeting dates, facilities, and locations.

The scoping meetings were in an open house format from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to facilitate public attendance at each location. Western and the Forest Service also held agency scoping meetings at each location on the same dates from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Table 3. Scoping Meeting Locations

Date of Meeting	Facility	Location
Thursday, April 22, 2010	Ramada Plaza Denver North	10 East 120th Avenue, Denver, Colorado
Friday, April 23, 2010	Museum of Western Colorado, Whitman Education Center	248 South 4th, Grand Junction, Colorado
Monday, April 26, 2010	Uintah Basin Applied Technology College	450 North 2000 West, Vernal, Utah

At the scoping meetings, Western and the Forest Service representatives were available to respond to public comments and questions. Representatives included the Western and Forest Service project managers, and a Western special programs manager. The project manager, public involvement specialist, and project assistants from ICF International, the contractor assisting Western with EIS preparation, also attended and assisted with meeting logistics.

Scoping materials on display at the meetings included large-format three-panel display boards, maps of each National Forest in the project area, and a brochure. The display boards provided information about NEPA, the scoping process, and making effective comments; described the project, its objectives, timeline, and its proposed design features; and provided a map of the project area. Eight maps displayed the locations of ROW transmission line segments in each National Forest in the project area. The brochure provided information about the project, NEPA, design features, and the project timeline. Comment cards were provided in a designated area where participants could sit down and fill them out. In addition, a computer was available for public use to submit comments. Sign-in cards recorded attendance at the meetings. Appendix A includes copies of all scoping materials.

2.3 Scoping Meeting Attendance

Seventeen individuals signed in at the scoping meetings that were affiliated with the agencies, businesses, and organizations listed below.

- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado Wild
- Grand County Department of Natural Resources
- Holy Cross Energy
- Mid-West Electric Consumers
- Pull Ink 360
- Tri State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.
- Uintah County Public Lands
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Wasatch County
- Western Slope ATV Association
- Xcel Energy

Additional attendees included personnel from Western, the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region, and National Forests in the project area.

3.0 Public Comments

Western received a total of 13 letters and emails during the scoping period of April 8, 2010, through May 26, 2010. Of the 13 letters and emails, seven provided comments on the project. The other communications received included one letter expressing support for the project, two requests to be added to the project mailing list, and one request to be removed from the mailing list because the email address was no longer active. Western received one request from the Colorado Division of Wildlife asking for Geographic Information System information and a request from the Bureau of Land Management in Utah to review administrative drafts of the alternatives and the EIS and be added to the mailing list. Appendix D includes copies of the letters and emails received during scoping.

The seven comment documents that provided comments included one letter and one comment card submitted at the scoping meetings, one online comment posted on the project website, and four comment letters submitted by email to the project email address at: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov.

Two individuals, three non-governmental organizations, one federal agency, and one county agency submitted comments during the scoping period. Agencies and organizations were as follows:

- Colorado Wild
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Wasatch County Commissioners
- Western Slope ATV Association
- Quiet Use Coalition

Western used a multi-step process to identify and summarize the concerns expressed in each comment into broader issue topics, as follows:

- Assigned each comment document a unique identifier (referred to as a document number) and used that number for tracking and to ensure the identification of issues and comments.
- Electronically scanned the comment documents and reviewed them to identify individual comments.
- Entered comment-document excerpts into a spreadsheet and assigned each comment to an issue topic based on the substance of the comment.
- Throughout the process, Western divided or condensed topics and moved comments between topics to best reflect the substance of each comment. Issue topics are broad resource categories used to consolidate comments expressing similar areas of concern (see the Public Comments Section). Appendix C contains a list of the issues and comments from each letter, organized by topic.
- Finally, Western summarized the comments by topic to provide an overview of the issues raised during scoping.

This scoping comment summary report does not include comments expressing general support for the proposed project, requests for information, or other comments that do not relate to the scope of the EIS.

Western organized issues and comments by topic as presented below, and will consider these during EIS preparation.

Access and Transportation

- Employ effective closure techniques to prevent unauthorized public use of maintenance and ROW access routes, including side spur routes that branch off designated roads or around gates to minimize impacts to resources from such use.
    - Use gates and signs to clearly identify routes closed to the public.
    - Close the unauthorized route around the gate on National Forest System Road 225.B on the Salida District, and sign or gate transmission line ROW access off National Forest System Road 225.A.
    - Consider regular law enforcement patrols, in particular during big game rifle hunting season, to prevent violations.
- Revegetate and recontour abandoned access routes in transmission line ROWs and routes where treatment has been completed and will not be required for many years.
- Ensure permit holders and authorized agents use designated routes and gates.
- Maintain access routes to Forest Service management specifications.
- Design, construct, and maintain access routes to the minimum standard necessary to accommodate vegetation treatment, repair and maintenance, and the frequency of required access.
- Determine if an approved Travel Management Plan designates the existing routes the public is using in transmission line ROWs are for public use or for administrative use.
- Maintain access to all water-related facilities such as dams, reservoirs, delivery systems, monitoring facilities, communications sites, and power-line corridors.

Alternatives

- Describe what the current Forest Service authorization for Western's use of National Forest lands allows and requires, including how this would change under the proposed project and any alternatives to it.
- Minimize the width of vegetation treatment corridors to be as narrow as possible consistent with safety and reliability of the transmission lines.
- Be as specific as possible regarding the treatment that would be implemented under each alternative and under what circumstances in which specific areas. Develop design criteria that specify tree-removal widths.
- Design and discuss methods for slash disposal that would minimize resource impacts and threats while sufficiently reducing slash at a reasonable cost. Discuss the benefits and detriments of the slash disposal or reduction methods and combinations of methods. Design criteria should state which methods will be used in which areas or situations, and in what proportions. Monitor areas where slash was treated to assess impacts, including any weed introduction and spread, and to modify future treatments as needed.

Climate Change

- Minimize the effects of global warming.

Floodplains, Wetlands, and Water Resources

- Comply with Clean Water Act Section 404 and Forest Service Watershed Conservation Practices Handbook 2509.25.
- Design treatment activities near wetland and riparian areas to avoid or mitigate damage to soils, water quality, and nontarget vegetation.
- Prohibit use of heavy equipment in riparian, wetland, and floodplain areas. Instead, use hand-felling techniques to cut trees and then treat in place or skid the material out, whichever will result in minimal damage. The exception would be if the fisheries biologist believes woody debris would create, maintain, or enhance fish habitat, in which case some tree bole sections could be retained in the water influence area or stream itself.
- Manage watersheds to allow for multiple use, to preserve the quality and quantity of water, to preserve environmental values, and to support existing and futures uses.

Health and Safety

- Concern for the effects of herbicides on human health.

Land Use

- Comply with requirements of the General Management Plans for each National Forest in the project area.

Process and Public Involvement

- Concern that public meetings are during hours when the public is at work and therefore have no voice during the public process.
- Disclose if the proposed project relates to or overlaps the Emergency Powerline Clearing Project in the Arapaho-Roosevelt, White River, and Routt National Forests.

Recreation

- Remove cut trees in the transmission line ROW in the Hightower Area of Grand Mesa to prevent blocking existing all-terrain-vehicle routes and creation of unauthorized all-terrain-vehicle routes.
- Manage off-highway vehicle use responsibly and uniformly across jurisdictional boundaries. Apply laws related to off-highway vehicles uniformly across jurisdictional boundaries.

Roadless Areas

- Protect roadless area characteristics in compliance with the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (36 CFR 294.11). Minimize new road construction, consider non-road construction alternatives, prohibit slash piling, and eradicate weeds.

Social and Economic Values

- Promote opportunities for harvesting merchantable forest products in accordance with the National Healthy Forest Initiative (Public Law 108-148).

Soils

- Design, install, and maintain erosion control structures and culverts on access routes.
- Use water diversion structures and revegetate with grasses and other plants to prevent soil instability and erosion on high-altitude slopes. Establish native vegetation as soon as possible after treatment, and use sterile, annual, non-native plant species while native species become established on sites difficult to revegetate. Monitor revegetation sites to assess the progress of vegetation reestablishment.
- Apply effective practices to maintain vegetative cover to prevent soil erosion and protect resources.
- Recognize the Natural Resources Conservation Service soil survey as the authority in soil conservation matters.

Special Status and Sensitive Species

- Limit the removal of mature trees and other vegetation that adversely alters habitat of sensitive species that rely on a continuous forest canopy, including, but not limited to, Canada lynx, American marten, northern goshawk, boreal owl, golden-crowned kinglet, olive-sided flycatcher, and red crossbill.
- Work with Forest Service biologists to minimize adverse impacts to Canada lynx habitat for all proposed treatment. Maintain and protect landscape linkages to ensure connectivity of lynx habitat.
- Perform botany surveys in all areas proposed for treatment to identify any plants listed as threatened, endangered, or candidate for Endangered Species Act listing; Forest Service sensitive species or species otherwise known to be rare, including those identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. Mark plant populations to be avoided and provide buffer areas to allow plants to propagate.
- Comply with procedures specified in Forest Service Manual 2672.42 and 2672.43 for sensitive plant and wildlife species.

Vegetation

- Concern for effects on vegetation.
- Concern for overuse of prescribed burning and herbicides.
- Identify areas in need of immediate treatment and areas that are of a lower priority. Discuss the treatments proposed in each area.
- Perform surveys to identify noxious weeds before treatment and eradicate noxious weeds to the extent practicable. After treatment, perform surveys for noxious weeds and eradication for two full growing seasons. To prevent the spread of noxious weeds, require vehicle washing before entering National Forest lands each day.

Visual Resources

- Minimize the width of vegetation treatment corridors to be as narrow as possible and transition cutting intensity to minimize visual impacts by "feathering" the edges where trees are cleared.
- Comply with Forest Service management plan standards and guidelines regarding visual resources.

Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

- To maintain and facilitate wildlife habitat connectivity across transmission line ROWs, leave areas with cover vegetation to provide migration corridors for forest-dwelling species. Work with Forest Service biologists to identify appropriate areas.
- Concern for effects of herbicide on wildlife and general impacts of vegetation treatment on wildlife habitat.

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:
Gracia Hillman,
Commissioner, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.
[FR Doc. 2010–8171 Filed 4–6–10; 4:15 pm]
BILLING CODE 6820–KF–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.

PLACE: EAC Standards Board Virtual Meeting Room at *http://www.eac.gov.*

Once at the main page of EAC's Web site, viewers should click the link to the Standards Board Virtual Meeting Room. The virtual meeting room 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 provide comment on a draft version of the EAC Research Department's *Recounts and Contests* study. The draft version contains information about the laws and procedures each States uses to govern recounts, contests, and standards for what constitutes a valid vote. The study includes best practices that States use with respect to recounts and contests. The EAC Standards Board Virtual Meeting Room was established to enable the Standards 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 board meeting. The Standards Board will not take any votes or propose any resolutions during the 12-day forum of May 3–May 14, 2010. Members will post comments about the draft version of the *Recounts and Contests* study.

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 also may view *recounts and contests,* which will be posted on EAC's Web site beginning April 26, 2010. The public may file written statements to the EAC standards board at *standardsboard@eac.gov* and by copying Sharmili Edwards at *sedwards@eac.gov.* Data on EAC's Web site is accessible to visitors with disabilities and meets the requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.

PERSON TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION: Bryan Whitener, Telephone: (202) 566–3100.

Gineen Bresso Beach,
Commissioner, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.
[FR Doc. 2010–8174 Filed 4–6–10; 4:15 pm]
BILLING CODE 6820–KF–P

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–0442)

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) authorizations 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 (FAC–003–1) 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 proposed Project 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 26, 2010. Western and the Forest Service will consider all electronic and written scoping comments that are received or postmarked by midnight May 26, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Western and the Forest Service will host 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, Whitman Educational Center, 248 S. 4th (4th and Ute), Grand Junction, CO 81501; and Monday, April 26, 2010, at the Uintah Basin Applied Technology College, 450 N. 2000 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 80539–3003, *e-mail: Western-FS-EIS@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. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC–54, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585–0119, telephone (202) 586–4600 or (800) 472–2756, facsimile (202) 586–7031. 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 (303) 275–5008.

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 FS 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 lines. 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 it can safely and reliably operate and maintain its existing electrical transmission facilities to deliver electrical power. Western must ensure access to its transmission facilities for maintenance and emergency response. Western must also ensure that the costs associated with maintaining the 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, maintain, and access 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 rates
- Reduce the risk of wildfires caused by vegetation growing into or falling onto transmission lines
- Reduce the risks to facilities from fires
- Control the spread of noxious weeds
- 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 locations along its ROW where vegetation could interfere with Western's ability to reliably operate and maintain the facilities. 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. 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 from a largely reactive approach of cutting danger trees with annual ROW re-entry cycles to a proactive approach that incorporates integrated vegetation management. The objectives would be to control vegetation that, at mature height, presents a risk to transmission line maintenance and operation, and allow for longer ROW re-entry intervals.
- Reduce as necessary 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 lines and structures.

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. Danger trees would be managed as they are now using a reactive approach with annual re-entry cycle to locate and cut danger trees. Other alternatives may be identified based on public and agency comments.

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 Pike-San Isabel. The project also includes the Nebraska National Forest 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 11,000 feet. The widths of the transmission line ROW 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 include design criteria and other actions to avoid or minimize impacts. The EIS will also present the results of compliance with other environmental regulations including the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and others.

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 involve 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

resources, traditional cultural properties, or other resources important to the tribes. These consultations will be conducted in accordance with Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments* (65 FR 67429), the President's memorandum of April 29, 1994, *Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments* (59 FR 22961), DOE-specific guidance on tribal interactions, and applicable natural and cultural resources laws and regulations.

The public is encouraged to provide information and comments on issues it believes should be addressed in the EIS. Comments on the scope of the EIS will be addressed by Western and the Forest Service. Comments will be accepted at any time during the EIS process. Comments received outside of the scoping period may be addressed in the draft EIS if practicable, otherwise they will be addressed later in the process, such as in the final EIS.

Western has set up a Web site at *http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/Western-FS-EIS.htm* to facilitate the distribution of project information including meeting notices, project documents, schedules and other information. The public will be able to obtain documents for review from this Web site or request digital or hardcopies of documents for review.

Western anticipates that the EIS process will take about 15 months, and will include public scoping meetings; consultation and coordination with appropriate Federal, State, county, and local agencies and tribes; distribution of and public review and comment on the Draft EIS; a formal public hearing on the Draft EIS; distribution of a Final EIS; and publication of the Record of Decision in the **Federal Register.**

Responsible Officials

Western: Administrator; Forest Service: Rocky Mountain Regional Forester.

Dated: March 24, 2010.

Timothy J. Meeks,

Administrator.

Dated: March 24, 2010.

Randall Karstaedt,

Acting Deputy Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 2010–7724 Filed 4–7–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA–HQ–OAR–2003–0079; FRL–9135–2]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; 8–Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard, EPA ICR No. 2236.03, 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) 2236.03—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:

- *http://www.regulations.gov:* Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
- *E-mail: a-and-r-docket@epa.gov.*
- *Fax:* (202) 564–9744.
- *Mail:* Environmental Protection Agency, Air and Radiation Docket, Mailcode 2822T, 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. Please include a total of two copies.
- *Hand Delivery:* EPA Docket Center, Public Reading Room, EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20004. 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 Dail, Air Quality Policy Division, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Mail Code C539–01, Environmental Protection Agency, T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; telephone number: (919) 541–2363; fax number: (919) 541–0824; e-mail address: *dail.lynn@epa.gov.*

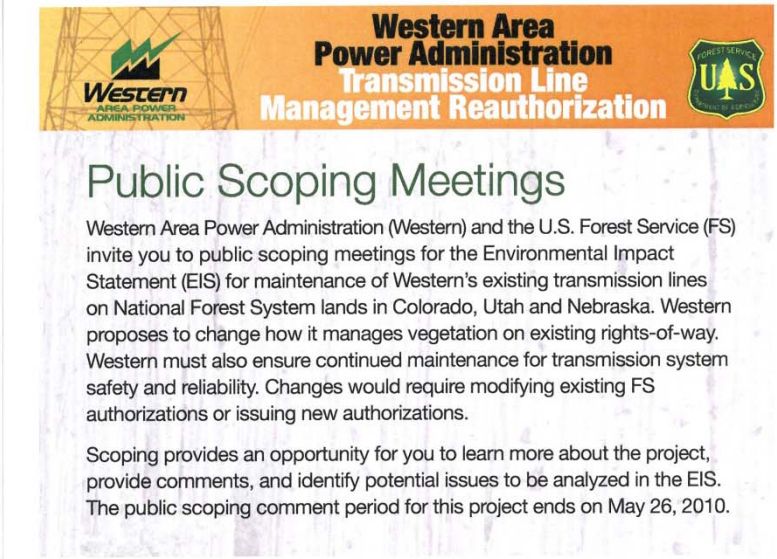
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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,* or in person viewing at the Air Docket in the EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA/DC 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 202–566–1744, 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



Western Area Power Administration
Transmission Line Management Reauthorization

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**	Ramada Plaza Denver North 10 East 120th 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**	Uintah 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
P.O. Box 3700, Loveland CO 80539-3003

Western Area
Power Administration
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80539

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

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO
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Museum of Western Colorado
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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 Wilkerson, 720-962-7056, wilkerson@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
- Monday, Apr. 26, **Vernal, Utah**, Uintah Basin Applied Technology College, 450 N. 2000 W., Vernal, UT 84078

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.

PO Box 281213 Lakewood, CO 80228-2802 • Phone: 720-962-7050 • Toll Free: 1-800-982-4523
Fax: 720-962-7059 • E-mail: CorpComm@wapa.gov • Web site: http://www.wapa.gov

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-

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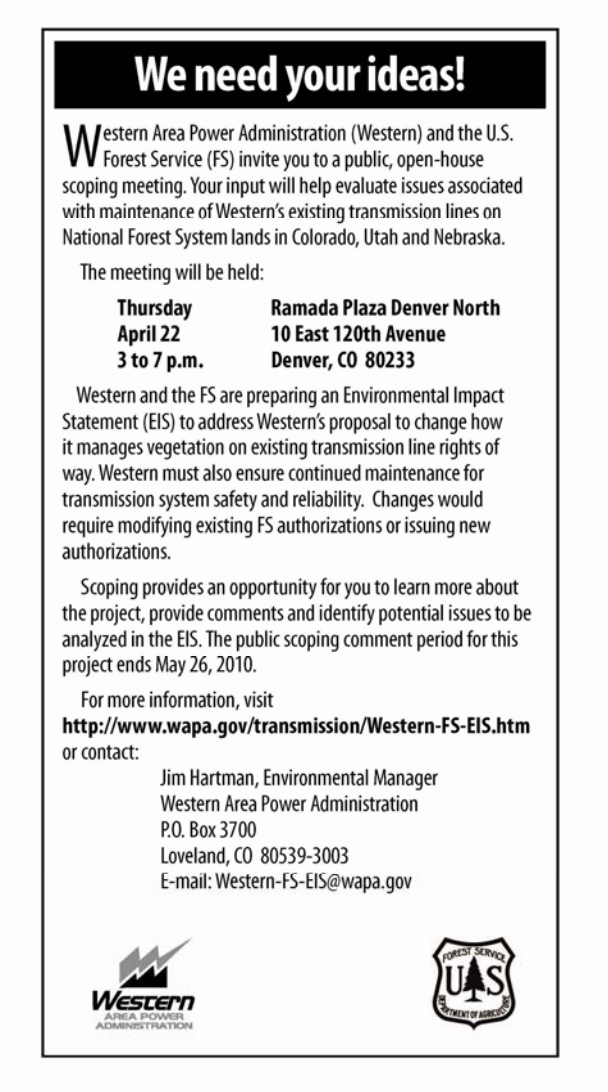

We need your ideas!

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	**Ramada Plaza Denver North**
April 22	**10 East 120th Avenue**
3 to 7 p.m.	**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
Loveland, CO 80539-3003
E-mail: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov

Western AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

FOREST SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

iPad demand costs buyer part of finger

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — A thief's thirst for a brand new iPad cost a Colorado man not only a much-coveted device but also two-thirds of a pinky finger.

Doctors had to amputate part of Bill Jordan's left pinky after a man Thursday yanked away a bag containing an iPad that Jordan had just purchased at a Denver mall.

Jordan, 59, had the cord of the bag wrapped around his left hand when the thief "completely blind-sided" him and jerked the bag off his hand, stripping the flesh of Jordan's finger down to the bone.

"He kept pulling until something had to give, and it wound up being my finger," Jordan said in an interview Tuesday.

Jordan, of Aurora east of Denver, said he had no idea anyone was following him when he left the Apple store at Cherry Creek Mall, and he didn't expect to be robbed of his purchase in broad daylight.

Denver police have security footage from the scene and have obtained the serial number of the iPad from the Apple store.

RESORT: $100 million expansion seen

➤ Continued from Page One

corporating alternative energy sources into future development.

Williams said resort officials have held three neighborhood meetings about the resort community with Gateway residents and property owners.

"We've pretty well vetted this thing in the community for two to three years," he said.

Jackie Bevan, president of the Gateway Property Owners Association, said Gateway residents largely have been silent about the expansion.

"Everyone has had ample opportunity to bring their concerns," Bevan said. "There really hasn't been any."

Hendricks told commissioners he has invested more than $50 million in capital in Gateway Canyons thus far and expects to sink a total of more than $100 million into it by the time the resort and the residential community are fully developed.

Despite that hefty investment, the resort currently is losing money — about $2 million this year — as Hendricks noted the difficulty of recouping an investment in a remote destination. He hopes to reduce his losses to $500,000 next year and have the resort break even in 2013.

He then hopes to recoup $15 million of his capital investment by 2025. To recoup another $85 million and, thereafter, the full $100 million, he said he would have to sell a minimum of 309 of the 340 lots at an average price of $275,000.

"We're confident this is a very special part of America that people are going to discover," Hendricks told commissioners.

The founder of the Discovery Channel said the Experius Academy, which will open in June, will offer weeklong retreats for individuals and groups to explore questions about science, technology, medicine and other topics. The academy and the Discovery Channel are partners in the production "Curiosity: The Questions of Our Life," a five-year, 60-episode series that will premier next year.

BILL: Opponents criticize attempt to eliminate late fee

➤ Continued from Page One

get people to opt for registering their automobiles for two years rather than the usual one.

But opponents said it was a back-door attempt at getting rid of the controversial late fee.

"If we're going to have a bill that deals with the late fee, we ought to come out and just say it," said Rep. Randy Fischer, D-Fort Collins, who introduced an amendment to take that provision out of King's House Bill 1288. "Let's not try to obfuscate the fact that what we're doing here is creating a loophole that would allow people to basically never have to pay a late fee again."

King, however, said he only was trying to offer motorists an incentive to use the two-year option. Motorists benefit from not having to return each year, and the state can get additional money up front, earning interest on it in the process, he said.

Currently, motorists who register their vehicles after their tags have expired pay a $25-a-month late fee, capped at $100.

King offered a substitute amendment to lower the maximum late fee to $50 for those who use the two-year option, but that effort failed.

"What we're trying to do is make it more consumer friendly ... to not have to take time off your job to go in and reregister your car," King said. "It is a way of enticing the consumer. There was no attempt to hide anything. It was just trying to give as much benefit to our taxpayers as we can."

A legislative fiscal analysis of King's bill showed it would cost the state about $434,000 a year in lost revenue from the late-fee exemption. Overall, though, the bill would earn the state a one-time increase of nearly $12 million during the first year the two-year option is used.

The bill requires a final House vote, which could come as early as today, before it can head to the Senate for more debate.

THE ACES BOBBY WOLFF

"A learned man is an idler who kills time with study. Beware of his false knowledge: it is more dangerous than ignorance."
— George Bernard Shaw

In today's auction South asked for specific kings with his call of five no-trump, but North bid six hearts, unwilling to go past that contract with just the spade king. However, South knew his partner had to have at least one king for his bidding so far, so quite reasonably moved on to the seven-level.

A casual look at the deal suggests there should be no problem taking 13 tricks in hearts: declarer has 10 tricks in the majors and four tricks in the minors. A second glance reveals the bad spade break, but that appears only to reduce 14 tricks to 13.

The real problem comes with the lead of a diamond, which removes the side-suit entry to the spades. This means real care is necessary — but what else would you expect in a grand slam?

South won the diamond lead in dummy and, after counting the top tricks, prepared to protect himself against possible bad breaks. Since the auction showed that West was the hand far more likely to be short in spades, South decided to protect against this eventuality, with West also holding no more than two trumps. Instead of drawing all the trumps, he cashed the trump ace and queen, then took two top spades. Had they split, he would have completed drawing trump. When they broke badly, he ruffed out the spades, went back to the board with the trump king, and pitched his diamond on the 13th spade. Contract made.

04-21-A

NORTH
♠ K 10 6 4 3
♥ A K 4
♦ A 7 5 3
♣ 4

WEST
♠ 5
♥ 8 3
♦ K Q J 10 8 4
♣ J 8 7 5

EAST
♠ J 9 8 2
♥ 9 7 5
♦ 9
♣ 10 9 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 7
♥ Q J 10 6 2
♦ 6 2
♣ A K Q

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: North

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
		1 ♠	Pass
2 ♥	3 ♦	4 ♦	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 NT	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
7 ♥	All pass		

"Three of the five "aces," counting the trump king as an ace

Opening lead: Diamond king

BID WITH THE ACES

04-21-B

South holds:
♠ K 10 6 4 3
♥ A K 4
♦ A 7 5 3
♣ 4

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	3 ♣	

?

ANSWER: Whether the jump to three clubs is weak or invitational, you cannot afford to sell out now. You must act, and the choice is to double for takeout or bid your spades. While spades might be your best suit, considerations of safety should suggest that the double will help you find your best fit whenever possible

ANNIE'S MAILBOX ADVICE TO YOU

Dear Annie:
I'm 24 years old and confused. I have been in an on-and-off relationship with the same woman for the past eight years.

A year ago, I discovered "Samantha" had been having extended, all-night conversations with "Andrew," the same guy she cheated on me with in high school. I was so hurt that I broke off our relationship.

We got back together a few months later, but during the break, I got involved with "Ava." Ava recently had a baby boy and told me I might be the father. I have asked for a DNA test, but in the meantime, I've become really attached to the child and told Ava she can call on me any time. Even if the baby is not mine, I would still want to be part of his life. The other potential candidate for fatherhood changed his phone number and moved out of town.

Am I wrong to want to be a father to this boy even though I'm back with Samantha now?

— A Man with a Good Heart

Dear Man:
Becoming a father to another woman's child could profoundly change the relationship you have with Samantha. If the child is biologically yours, you have a legal obligation to care for him. If you are not the father, it is kind and generous of you to want to be part of his life, and we hope you will be. But if you intend to stay with Samantha, we recommend you let her be part of the decision. Otherwise, you may have to choose between them

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:

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

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.

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

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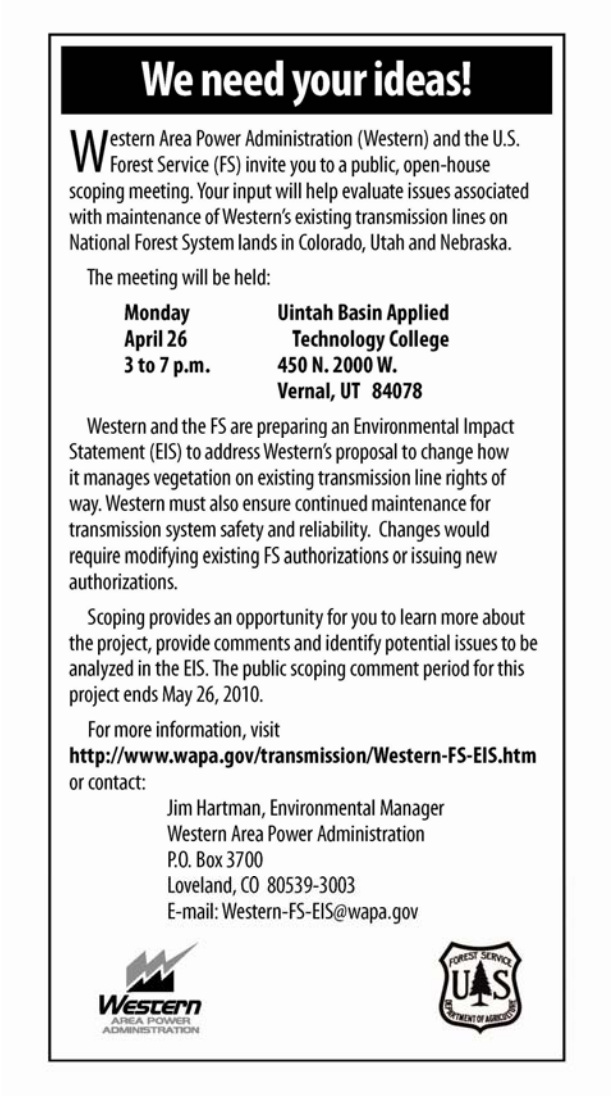

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April 26
3 to 7 p.m.

Uintah Basin Applied Technology College
450 N. 2000 W.
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Western
AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

FOREST SERVICE
US
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

its "reverse seniority" policy last month to avoid potential lawsuits from the Jordan

made by spending their career in the Jordan School District," said Robin Frodge, JEA president. Otherwise, she said,

employees lose their positions and want to go back to the classroom. For instance,

administrators, most of whom have moved up Jordan's ranks as teachers and principals, have the potential to bump

mostly. We are there to support those teachers so they're able to do their job," said

PA and a special-ed bus driver. "We're just sick."

rwinters@sltrib.com

New group aims at halting all executions

Crime » Group's opposition is primarily on moral grounds.

By NATE CARLISLE
The Salt Lake Tribune

A group opposed to capital punishment will introduce itself to the public today, minutes before a judge may sign a death warrant for convicted murder Ronnie Lee Gardner.

The group calls itself Utahns for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and will hold a news conference at 8:30 a.m. at the Matheson Courthouse, 450 S. State St. in Salt Lake City. Dee Rowland, the government liaison for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City and an organizer for Utahns for Alternatives, said a few people may be holding signs, but the group does not plan a demonstration or a picket.

Third District Court Judge Robin Reese will hold a 9 a.m. hearing at the same courthouse to consider what might be Gardner's final judicial appeal. If Reese rules against the appeal, he may sign an order for Gardner's execution. Under state law, the execution must occur 30 to 60 days after the order is signed.

Gardner will be present for the hearing. If Reese orders the execution, Gardner is expected to say whether he wants to die by lethal injection or firing squad.

The Utah Attorney General's Office has argued Gardner's latest appeal has no merit and the judge is obligated to sign the death warrant.

Gardner was sentenced to death for killing lawyer Michael Burdell during an escape attempt at a 1985 court hearing in Salt Lake City. He also was convicted of killing bartender Melvyn John Otterstrom during a 1984 robbery.

Gardner's name did not even appear in a news release announcing Utahns for Alternatives.

"We don't want to tie [our opposition] to a particular crime," Rowland said in an interview Thursday. "It's the issue itself that we think is important."

Utahns for Alternatives is led by the state's Catholics, and Bishop John Wester of the Salt Lake City Diocese plans to attend the news conference. But the group also lists attorneys, physicians, academics and other religious leaders as members.

And while the group's opposition is primarily on moral grounds, Rowland said people may be surprised by the monetary cost of capital punishment. Utahns for Alternatives highlights studies showing executing someone is much more expensive than giving them a long prison sentence.

"There's an illusion that executing a person is cheaper than keeping them in prison and that is not so," Rowland said.

TED HATCH » 1933 - 2010

Utah river rafting pioneer treated passengers like friends

By TOM WHARTON
The Salt Lake Tribune

Vernal » Ted Hatch, a member of one of Utah's best known river rafting company families, died this week in Vernal. He was 76.

Hatch was the son of legendary river pioneer Bus Hatch, who founded Hatch River Expeditions and was among the pioneers of Utah's river rafting industry.

Ted Hatch

When Bus died in 1967, Ted gave up his job as the principal of Manila High School and took over the family business along with his late brother Don. The two split the company 10 years later with Don taking over the Utah operation and Ted running the Grand Canyon operation. His son Steve and daughter-in-law, Sarah, continue to operate Hatch River Expeditions in the Grand Canyon.

Ted Hatch ran his final river last summer on the Main Salmon River in Idaho where he rowed his own boat and was accompanied by his wife, Pat, sons Bruce and Steve and grandchildren.

"He was a fun loving guy who would always do anything for you," said Dee Holladay who founded Salt Lake based Holiday River Expeditions. "I enjoyed his company over the years."

Roy Webb, who wrote a biography of Bus Hatch called *River Man: The Story of Bus Hatch*, said Ted Hatch loved the challenge of running the big rapids in the Colorado River.

"What struck me about Ted was that his philosophy was that passengers are a company's bread and butter and you needed to treat them like friends you never met," Webb said. "They had such a loyal clientele that they never had to advertise until just a few years ago."

Others praised Hatch for the active role he played in professional guides association and in working with the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management to win favorable regulations for commercial guides on western rivers. .

He is survived by his wife, Pat; sons Bruce, of Vernal, and Steve, of Marble Canyon, Ariz.; and daughter, Susan Wadley, of Vernal.

Funeral services are scheduled Saturday at Western Park in Vernal with a viewing from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the Blackburn Vernal Mortuary.

Provo OKs severance packages

Provo » It will cost Provo more than a half-million dollars to remove 26 people from the payroll.

But Mayor John R. Curtis told the Municipal Council on Tuesday that the $625,550 would save $2.5 million a year in salaries.

"These are positions that will not be replaced, so this represents ongoing savings to the city on an annual basis," he said.

The council unanimously approved taking the money from surplus funds to finance the severance packages for employees being laid off or being bought out of their jobs.

Last week, Curtis announced the layoffs and buyouts as a means to balance the city budget in the face of declining sales-tax proceeds. Six employees were laid off last week, and 20 are being given the option to leave voluntarily.

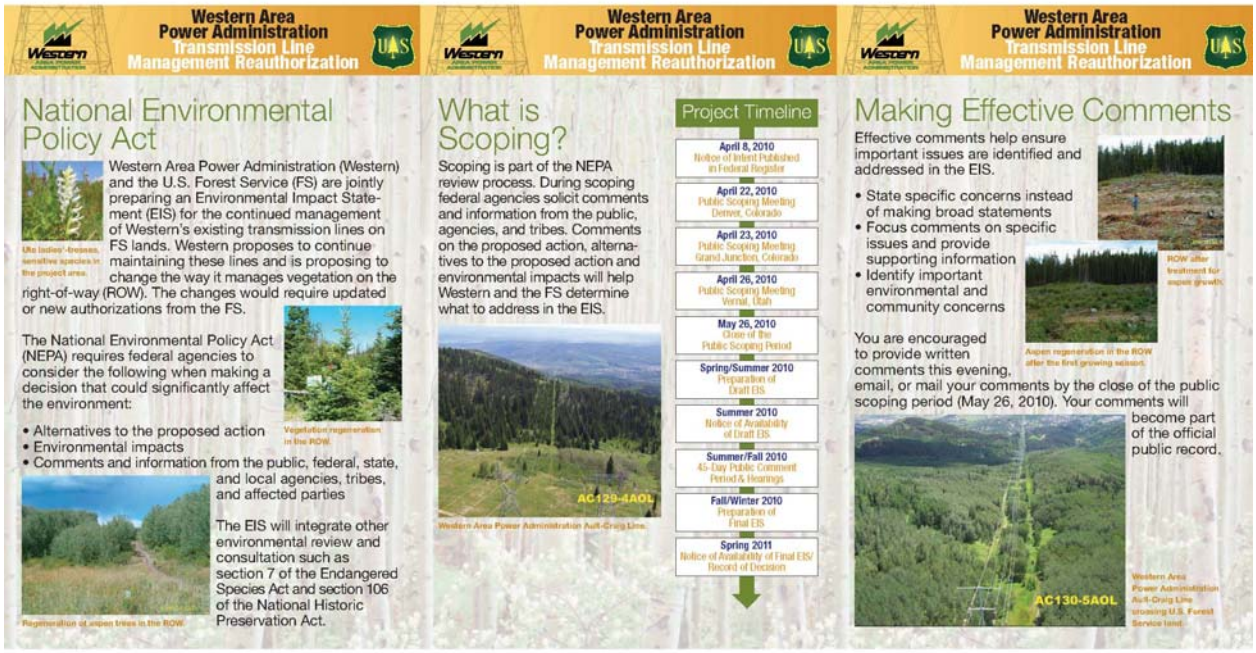
Those who take the buyout will receive one week's severance pay for each year of service with the city, up to 26 weeks, along with a signing bonus of four week's pay and three months of health insurance coverage. If the employees do not step forward, the city will lay off 20 additional employees, and severance packages won't include the bonus or health insurance.

– *Donald W. Meyers*

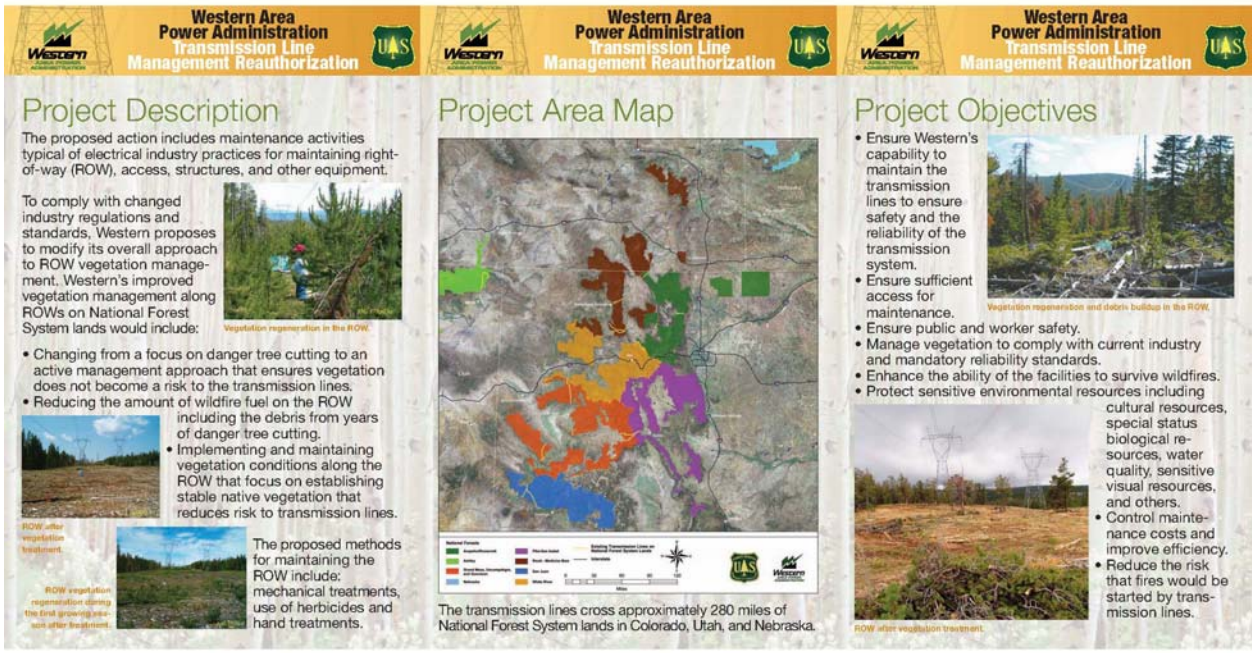
Salt Lake Tribune April 23, 2010

Meeting Displays

Scoping and How to Comment



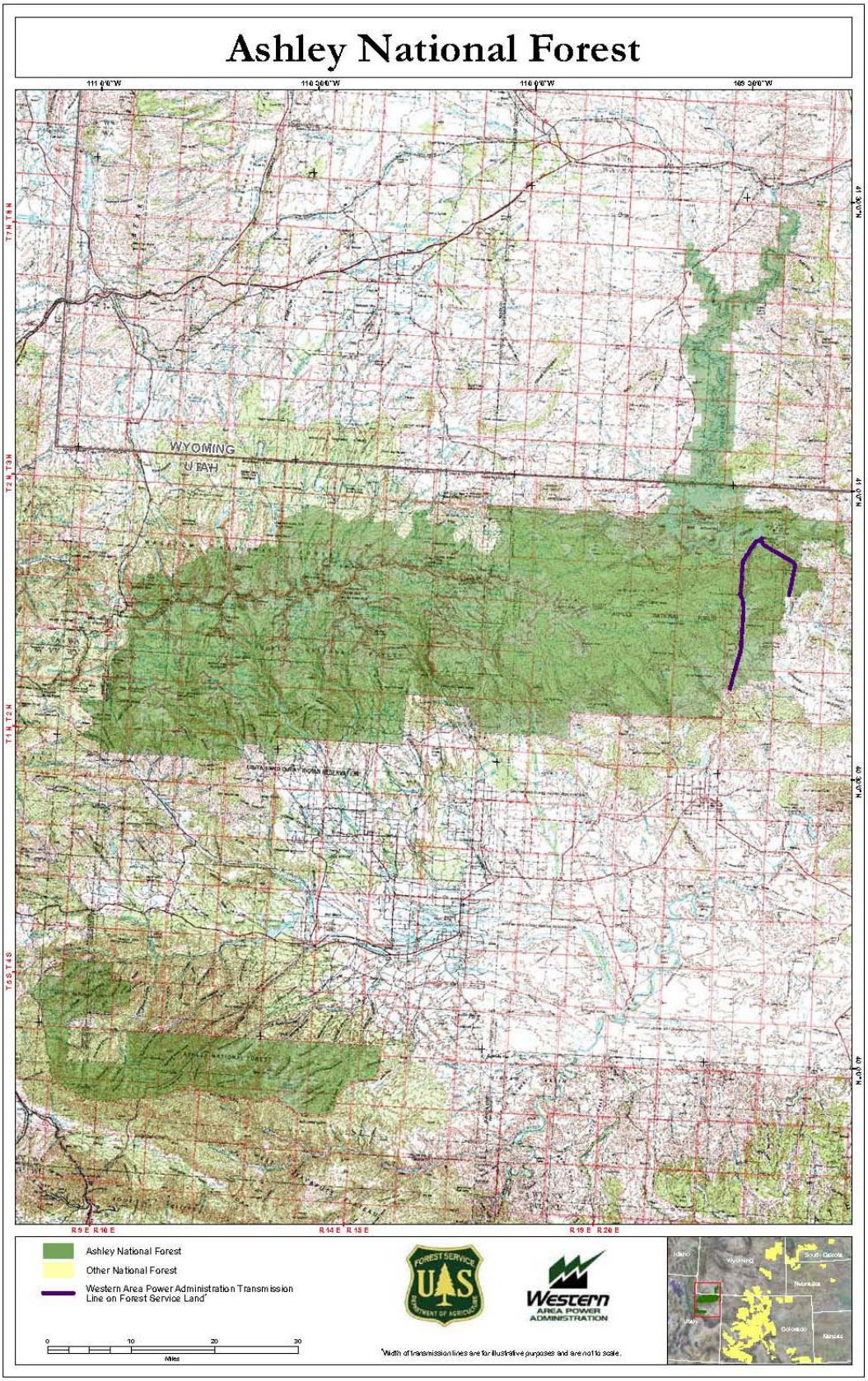
Project Description and Objectives

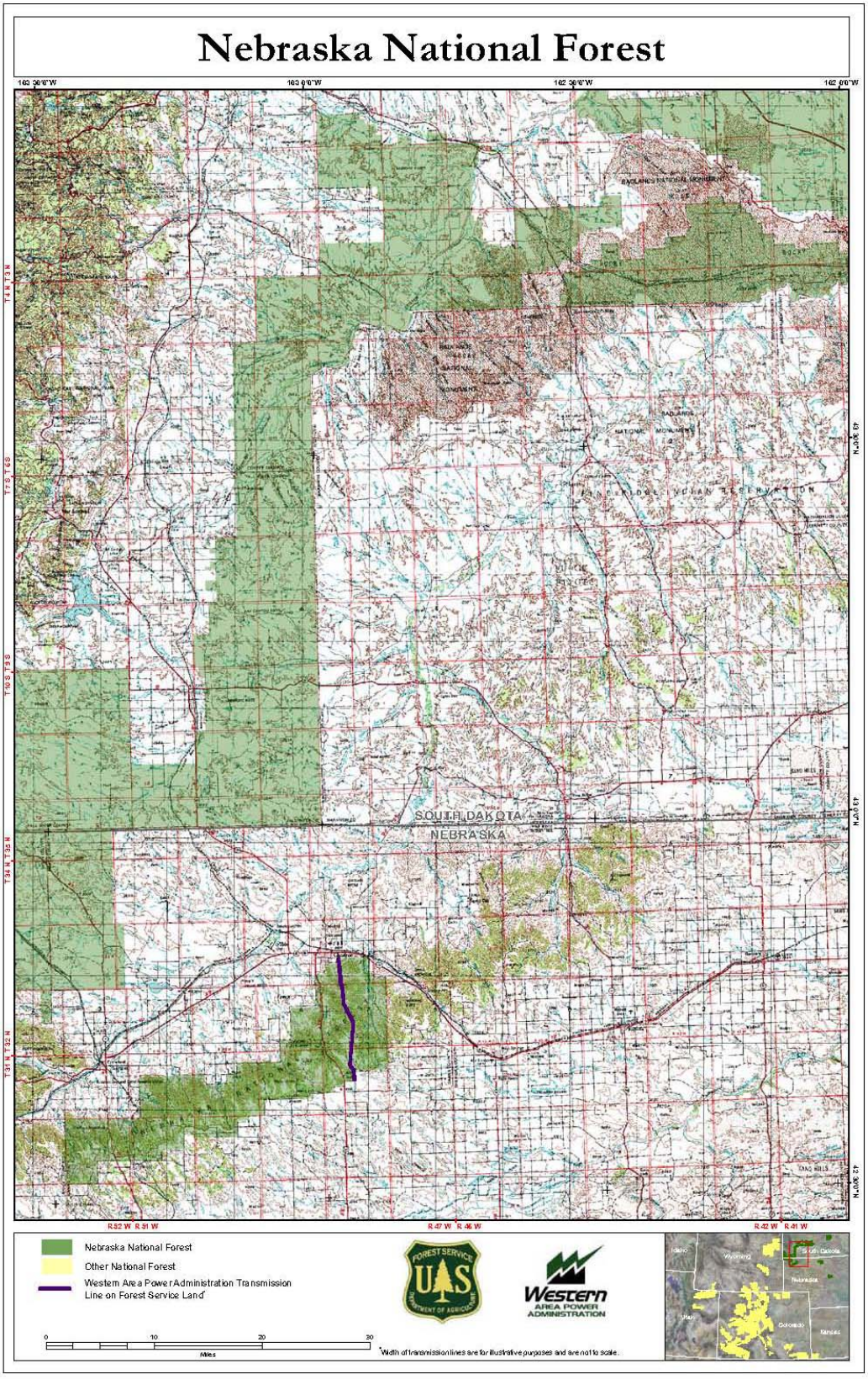


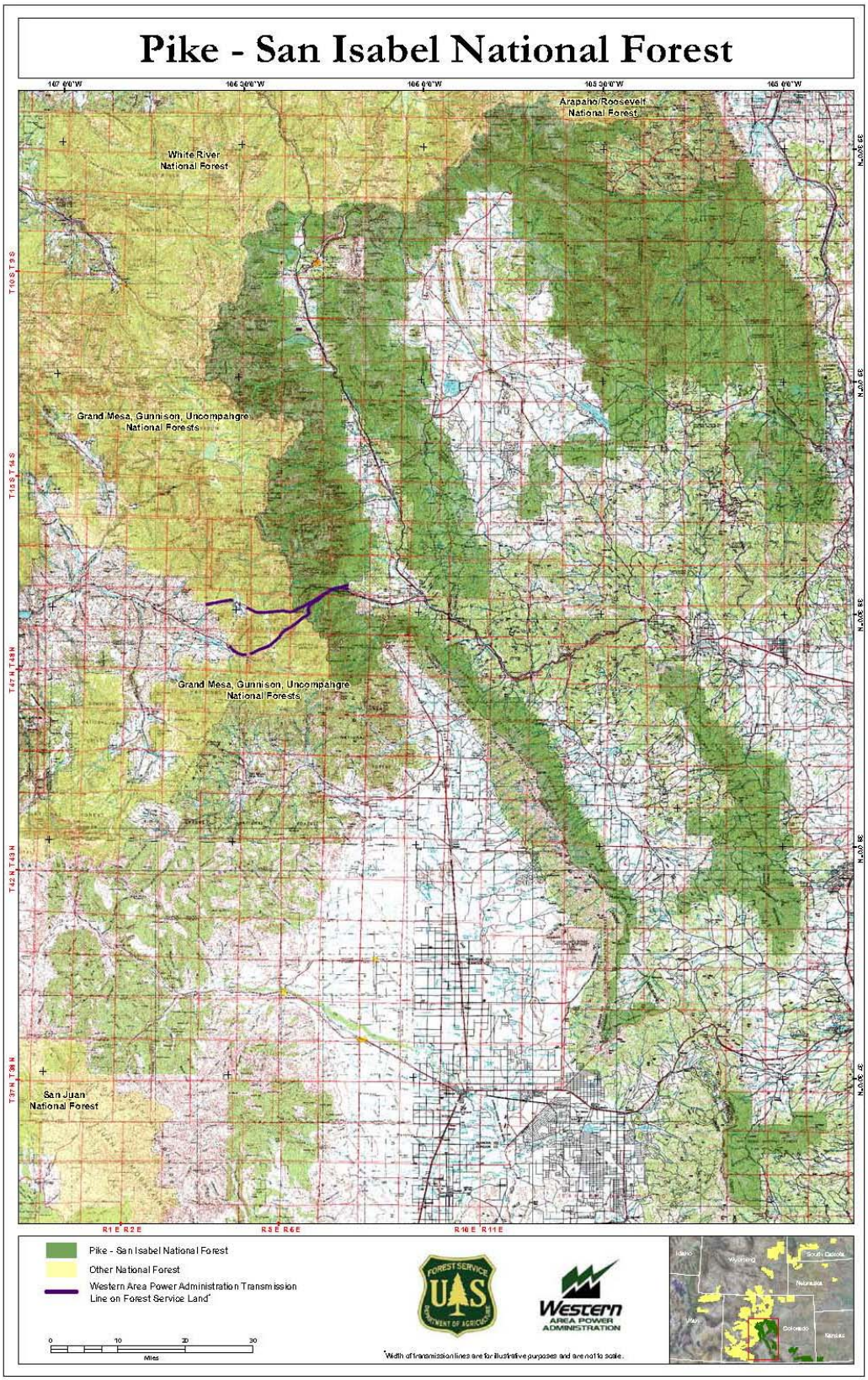
Design Features

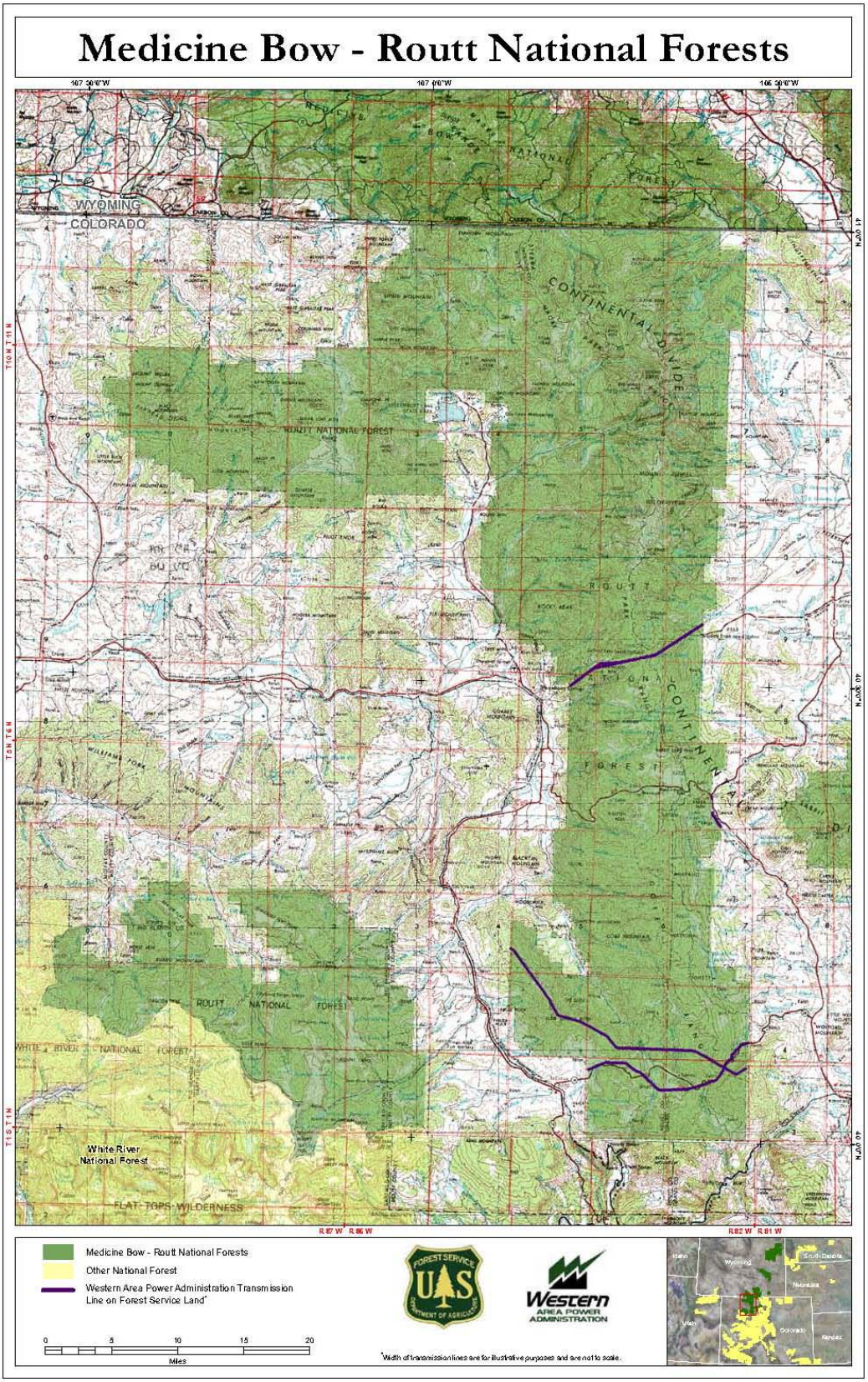
Maps

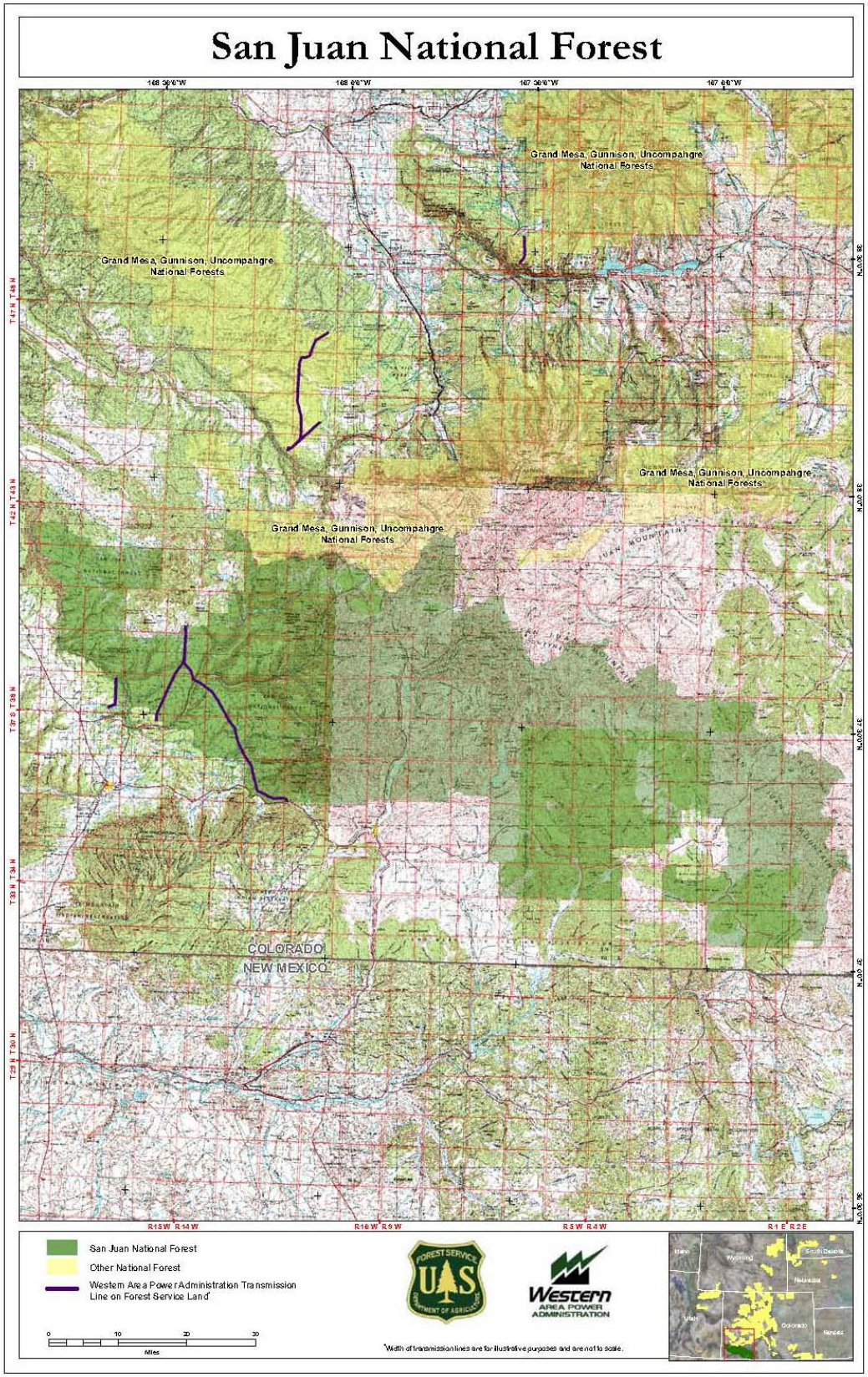

Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest
WYOMING
COLORADO
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests
White River National Forest
Pike-San Isabel National Forests
Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line on Forest Service Land*
Miles
*Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale.
Western AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

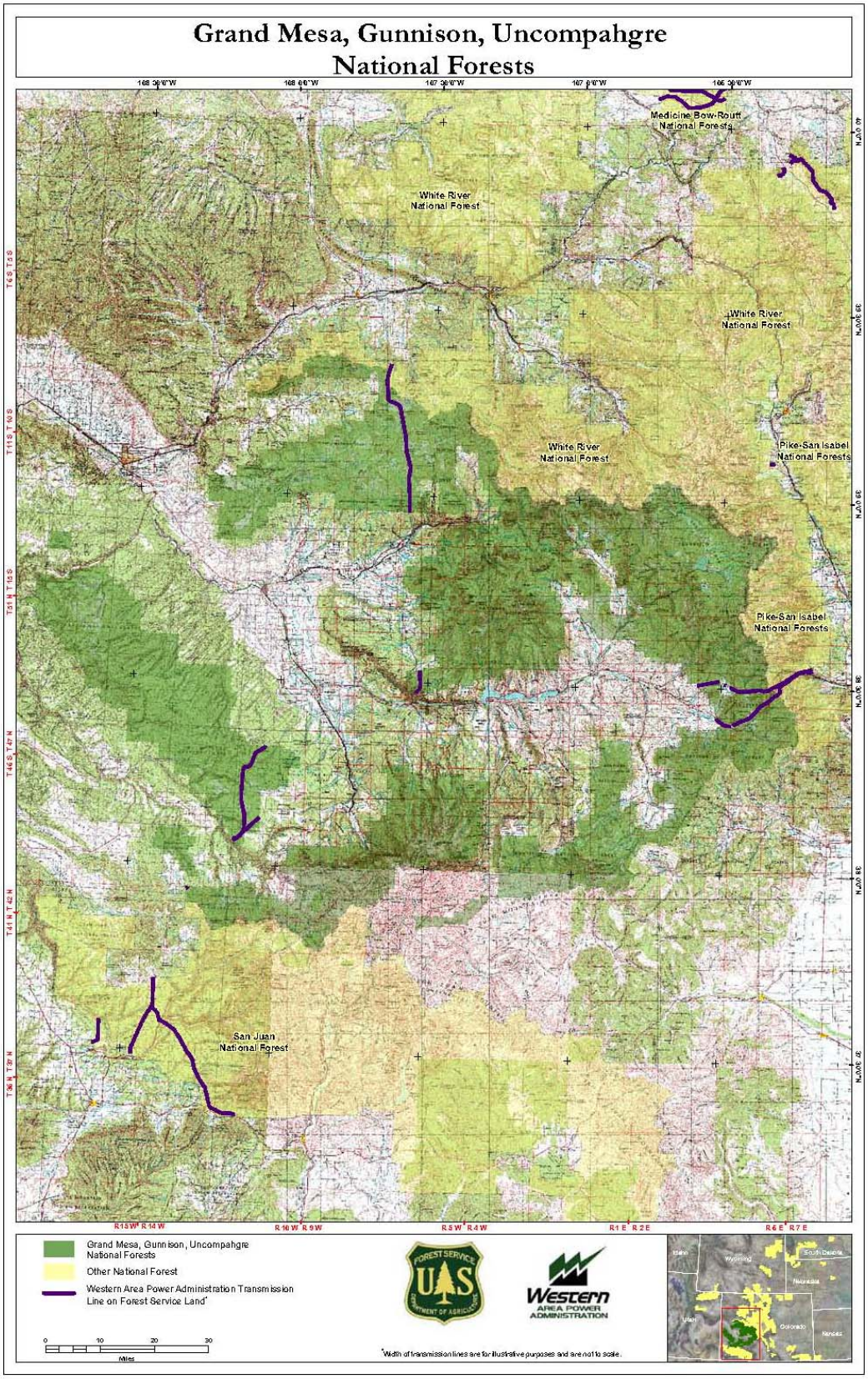

Ashley National Forest
WYOMING
UTAH
Ashley National Forest
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line on Forest Service Land*
0 10 20 30
Miles
*Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale.
FOREST SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Western
AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION


Nebraska National Forest
SOUTH DAKOTA
NEBRASKA
Nebraska National Forest
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line on Forest Service Land*
Miles
*Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale.
Western
AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION


Pike - San Isabel National Forest
Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest
White River National Forest
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre National Forests
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre National Forests
San Juan National Forest
Pike - San Isabel National Forest
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line on Forest Service Land*
Miles
*Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale.
Western AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION


Medicine Bow - Routt National Forests
WYOMING
COLORADO
CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST
ROUTT
NATIONAL CONTINENTAL
FOREST
ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST
WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST
White River National Forest
FLAT TOPS WILDERNESS
Medicine Bow - Routt National Forests
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line on Forest Service Land*
0 5 10 15 20
Miles
*Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale.
Western AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION


San Juan National Forest
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre National Forests
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre National Forests
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre National Forests
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre National Forests
COLORADO
NEW MEXICO
San Juan National Forest
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line on Forest Service Land
Miles
Western AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
*Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale.


Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre
National Forests
Medicine Bow-Routt
National Forests
White River
National Forest
White River
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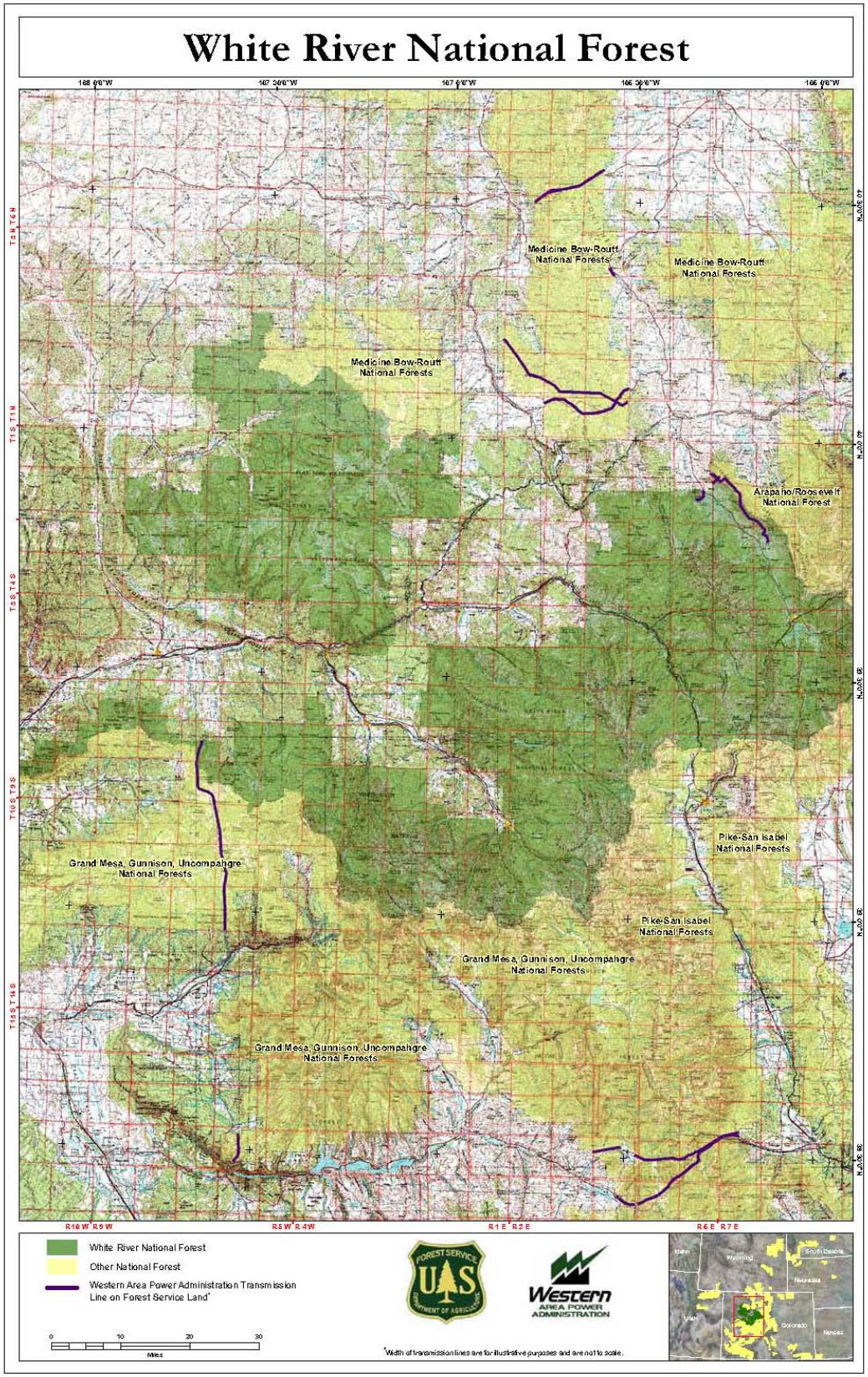
White River
National Forest
Pike-San Isabel
National Forests
Pike-San Isabel
National Forests
San Juan
National Forest
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre
National Forests
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission
Line on Forest Service Land*
Miles
*Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale.
Western
AREA POWER
ADMINISTRATION


White River National Forest
108°0'0"W
107°30'0"W
107°0'0"W
106°30'0"W
106°0'0"W
T2N T6W
T1S T1W
T5S T4S
T10S T3S
T15S T1S
40°0'0"N
39°30'0"N
39°0'0"N
38°30'0"N
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests
Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest
Pike-San Isabel National Forests
Pike-San Isabel National Forests
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre National Forests
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre National Forests
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre National Forests
R10W R9W
R5W R4W
R1E R2E
R6E R7E
White River National Forest
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line on Forest Service Land*
0
10
20
30
Miles
*Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale.
Western AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
Idaho
Wyoming
South Dakota
Nebraska
Utah
Colorado
Nevada

Meeting Handouts

Scoping Brochure

Western Area Power Administration
Transmission Line Management Reauthorization

How to Provide Comments:

Please complete a comment form and place it in the comment box or give it to a meeting representative at the scoping meeting. Comments can also be sent to the following address and must be postmarked by May 26, 2010:

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

Please note that by including your name and address on correspondence, you agree the information may be made public as part of the EIS process.

Your involvement and input on the proposed action, alternatives to the proposed action, and environmental impacts will help Western and the FS determine what to address in the EIS.

Making Effective Comments:

Effective comments help ensure important issues are identified and addressed in the EIS.

- State specific concerns instead of making broad statements.
- Focus your comments on specific issues and provide supporting information.
- Identify important environmental and community concerns.

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

Western Area Power Administration Ault-Craig Line

Project Timeline

- **April 8, 2010** – Notice of Intent Published in Federal Register
- **April 22, 2010** – Public Scoping Meeting, Denver, Colorado
- **April 23, 2010** – Public Scoping Meeting, Grand Junction, Colorado
- **April 26, 2010** – Public Scoping Meeting, Vernal, Utah
- **May 26, 2010** – Close of the Public Scoping Period
- **Spring/Summer 2010** – Preparation of Draft EIS
- **Summer 2010** – Notice of Availability of Draft EIS
- **Summer/Fall 2010** – 45-Day Public Comment Period & Hearings
- **Fall/Winter 2010** – Preparation of Final EIS
- **Spring 2011** – Notice of Availability of Final EIS/ Record of Decision

Welcome!

Western Area Power Administration (Western) and the U.S. Forest Service (FS) are jointly preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the continued management of Western's existing transmission lines on FS lands in Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska. Western proposes to continue maintaining these lines and is proposing to change the way it manages vegetation on the existing rights-of-way (ROW). The changes would require updated or new authorizations from the FS.

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, agencies, and tribes.

The EIS will integrate other environmental review and consultation such as section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Scoping is part of the NEPA review process. Western and the FS are conducting three scoping meetings to provide an opportunity for you to learn more about the project, provide comments, and identify potential issues to be analyzed in the EIS.

Vegetation regeneration in the ROW

The proposed methods for maintaining vegetation in the ROW include:

- Mechanical treatments
- Use of herbicides
- Hand treatments

The proposed action includes maintenance activities typical of electrical industry practices for maintaining ROW, access, structures, and other equipment. To comply with changed industry regulations and standards, Western proposes to modify its overall approach to ROW vegetation management. Western's improved vegetation management along ROWs on National Forest System lands would include:

- Changing from a focus on danger tree cutting to an active management approach that ensures vegetation does not become a risk to the transmission lines.
- Reducing the amount of wildfire fuel on the ROW including the debris from years of danger tree cutting.
- Implementing and maintaining vegetation conditions along the ROW that focus on establishing stable native vegetation that reduces risk to transmission lines.

ABOVE: ROW after vegetation treatment.
BELOW: ROW vegetation regeneration during the first growing season after treatment.

The public scoping comment period ends on May 26, 2010.

Project Objectives

- 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 mandatory reliability standards.
- Enhance the ability of the facilities to survive wildfires.
- Protect sensitive environmental resources including cultural resources, special status biological resources, water quality, sensitive visual resources, and others.
- Control maintenance costs and improve efficiency.
- Reduce the risk that fires would be started by transmission lines.

What are Design Features?

Design features are part of the proposed action and define how the proposal will be implemented. Design features are intended to avoid or minimize impacts.

The transmission lines cross approximately 280 miles of National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska.

How are They Used?

Design features are used during project implementation and may be site-specific or broader in scope.

A SITE-SPECIFIC DESIGN FEATURE USED TO PROTECT SENSITIVE WILDLIFE. Prompt activity within ¼ mile of an active raptor nest during nesting season.

A BROADER SCOPE DESIGN FEATURE USED TO REDUCE THE RISK OF WILDFIRE. Require spark arrestors be installed on all chainsaws.

Design Feature Examples:

TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO PUBLIC AND PERMITTED RECREATIONAL USERS. Western would coordinate temporary closures of trail heads, administrative sites, campgrounds, and travel corridors with the local Ranger Districts.

TO PROTECT RIPARIAN AREAS, AQUATIC RESOURCES, AND WATER QUALITY. Equipment staging areas and refueling locations will be located at least 300 feet away from streams and wetlands.

TO PROTECT SOILS, WATERSHEDS, AND WATER QUALITY. Heavy equipment would not be used on the ROW when soils are too wet.

TO PROTECT AIR QUALITY. 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.

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 *Meeting Date*

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

Serving the West with Federal hydropower

Western Area Power Administration

An agency of the U.S. Department of Energy

Search

Home | About Western | Power Marketing | Transmission | Jobs | EPTC | Energy Services

Corp. Services | Regions | Doing Business | Newsroom | Industry Links | Federal Register Notices

You are here: Western | transmission | Western - Forest Service Right-of-Way Vegetation Management and Authorization

Transmission
OASIS
Functions
OATT Revisions
Interconnection
Infrastructure projects

Maintenance and Vegetation Management along Existing Western Transmission Line Rights of Way on National Forest System Lands in Colorado, Utah, 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 incompatible. 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. Open-house, public scoping meetings will be held:

Thursday, April 22, 3 to 7 p.m.
Ramada Plaza Denver North
10 East 120th Avenue
Denver, CO 80223

Friday, April 23, 3 to 7 p.m.
Museum of Western Colorado
Whitman Educational Center
248 South 4th (4th and Ute)
Grand Junction, CO 81501

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

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, if mailed). 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. Comments are also welcome at the public scoping meetings.

Where should I send my comments?

Comments on the project should be sent to Western online, by e-mail or by regular mail at the address below. Comments meant for the Forest Service should also be sent to these addresses.

You may e-mail your comments: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov
You may mail your comments:

Mr. Jim Hartman
Environmental Manager, J0400
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80538

Who is the Forest Service contact for this project?

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

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

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

Resources

Background information (3.9 MB pdf)

Design features (Draft) (72 kb pdf)

- What are design features?
  - Design features are part of the proposed action. They are intended to avoid or minimize impacts.
- How are they used?
  - Design features are part of the proposed action and define how the proposal will be implemented. Some are site specific. For example: a design feature that prohibits an activity within 100 feet of a perrenial stream, or one that prohibits activity within 1/4 mile of an active raptor nest during the nesting season. Some design features are broader. For example: Spark arrestors shall be installed on all chainsaws.

Project description (78 kb pdf)

Project area maps

- Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest (1.1 MB pdf)
- Ashley National Forest (1.1 MB pdf)
- Nebraska National Forest (1.2 MB pdf)
- Pike National Forest (1.1 MB pdf)
- Routt National Forest (1.1 MB pdf)
- San Juan National Forest (1.1 MB pdf)
- Uncompahgre National Forest (1.1 MB pdf)
- White River National Forest (1.1 MB pdf)

Scoping materials

Comment form (online)

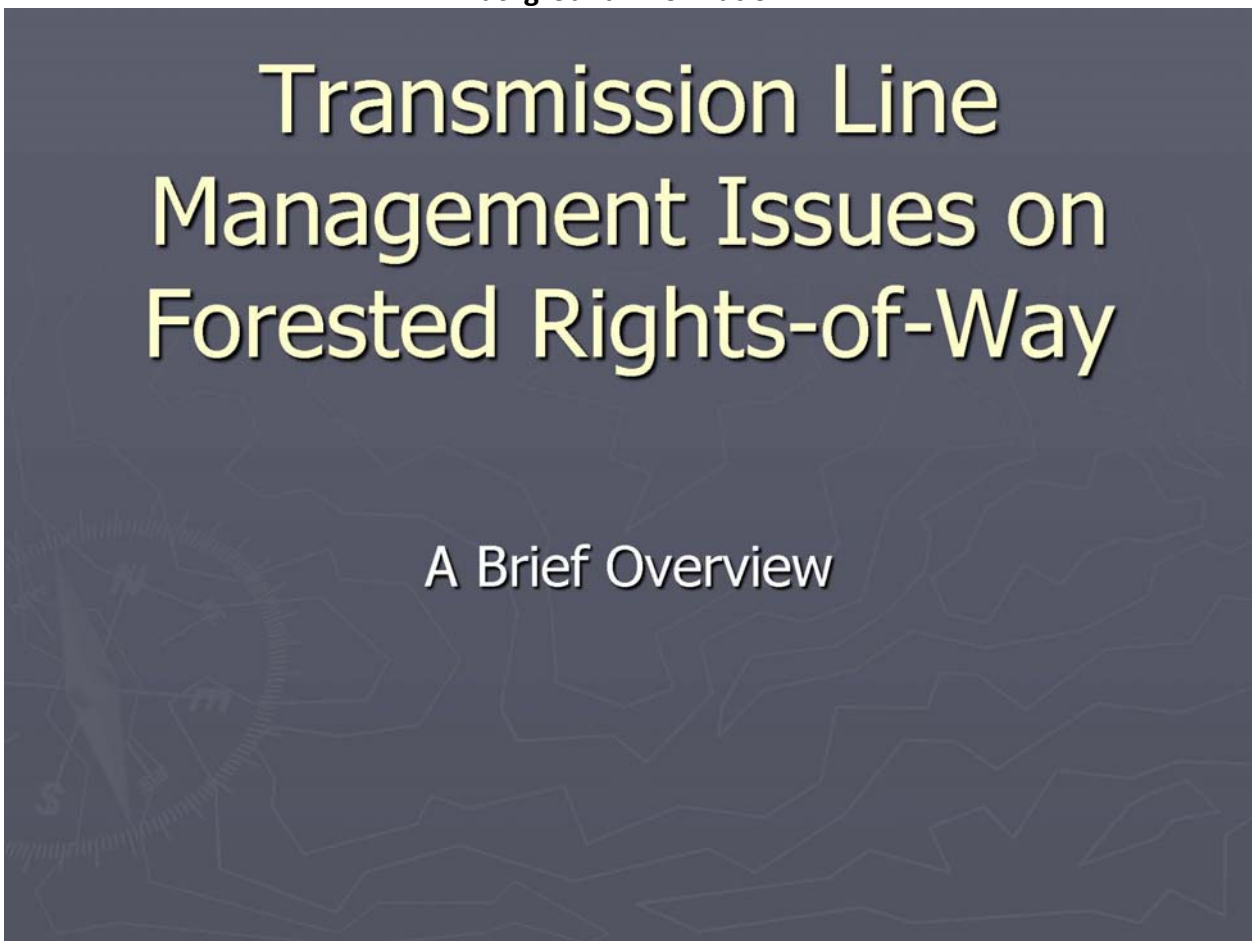
Scoping meeting brochure (1.5 MB pdf)

Design features display boards (907 kb pdf)

NEPA display boards (658 kb pdf)

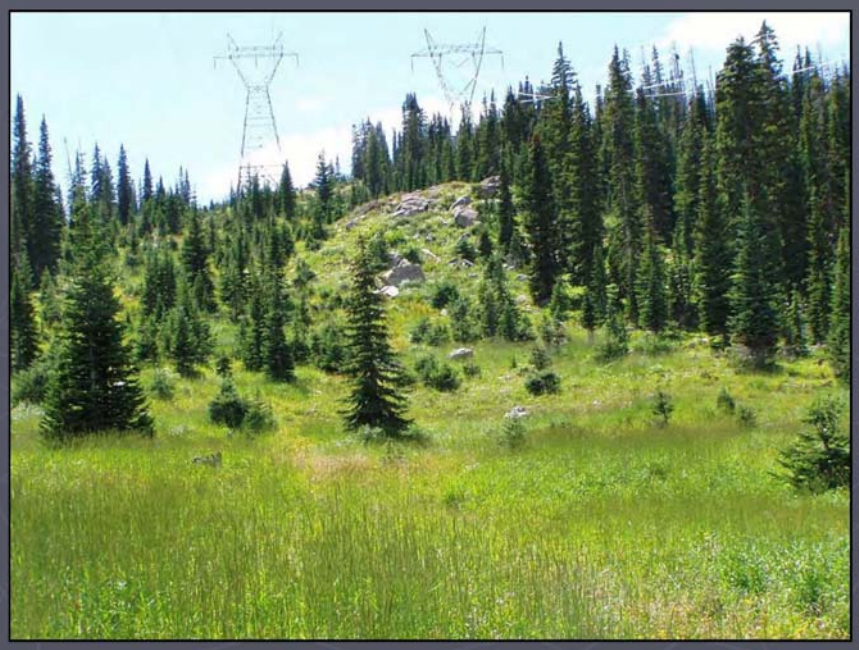
Project description display boards (809 kb pdf)

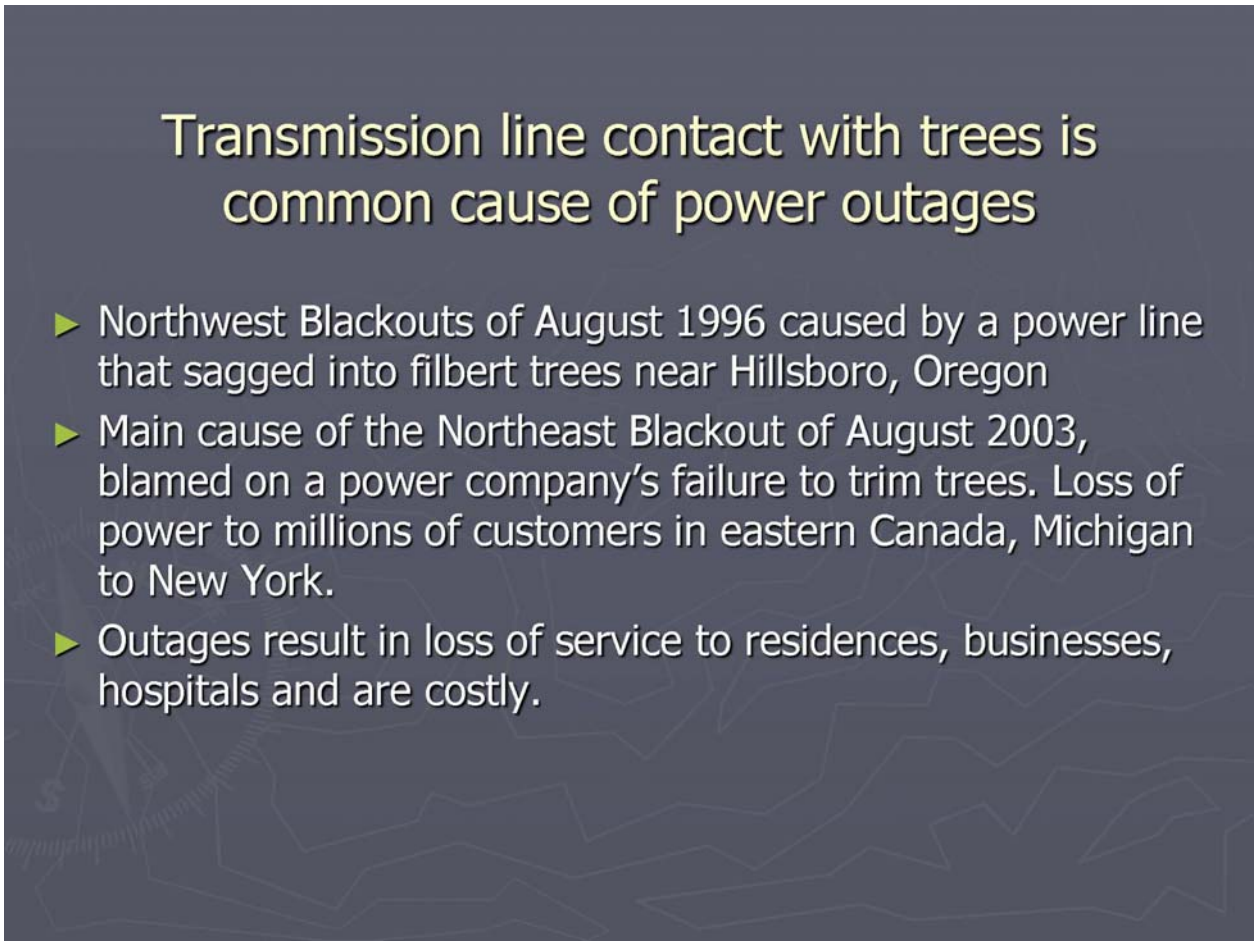
Background Information

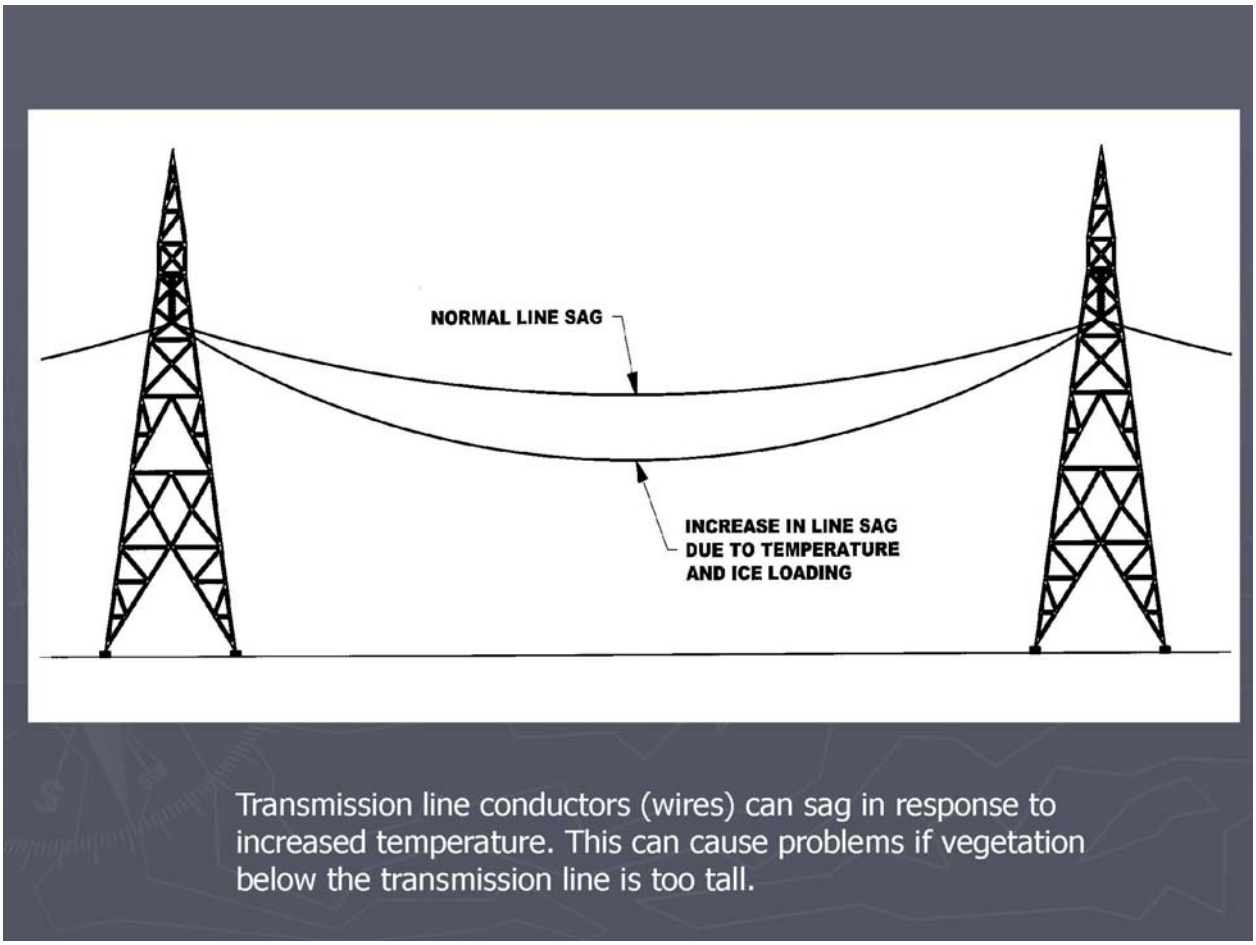



Objectives
Protect public and worker safety
Reduce the risk of wildfires caused by transmission lines
Ensure power system reliability
Comply with current industry standards and mandatory reliability standards
Achieve technical and economic efficiencies
Reduce the risk to transmission system from wildfire
Maintain flexibility to accommodate changing requirements in transmission system operation and maintenance

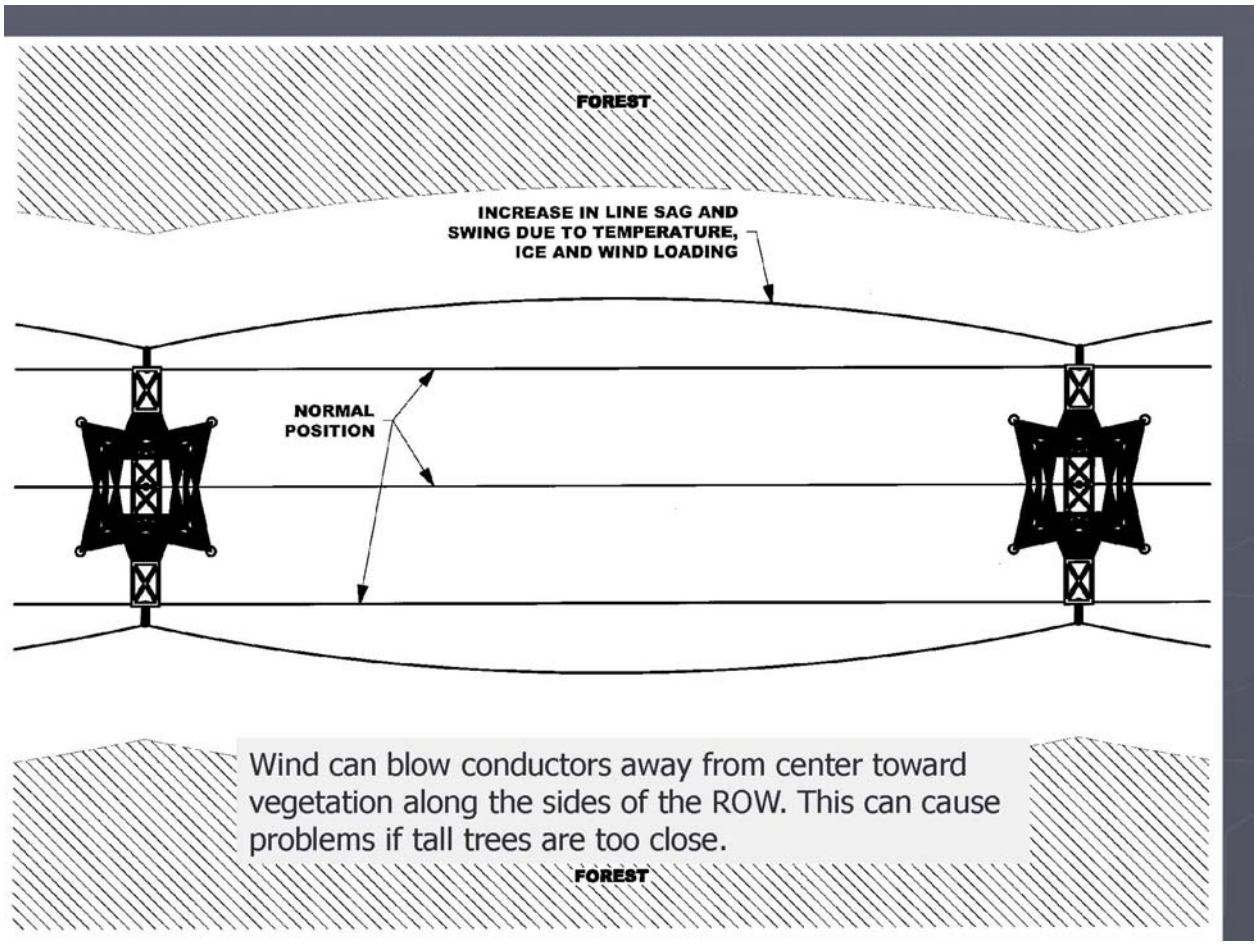
Goal: Manage rights-of-way to ensure safe, reliable transmission and incorporate environmental values

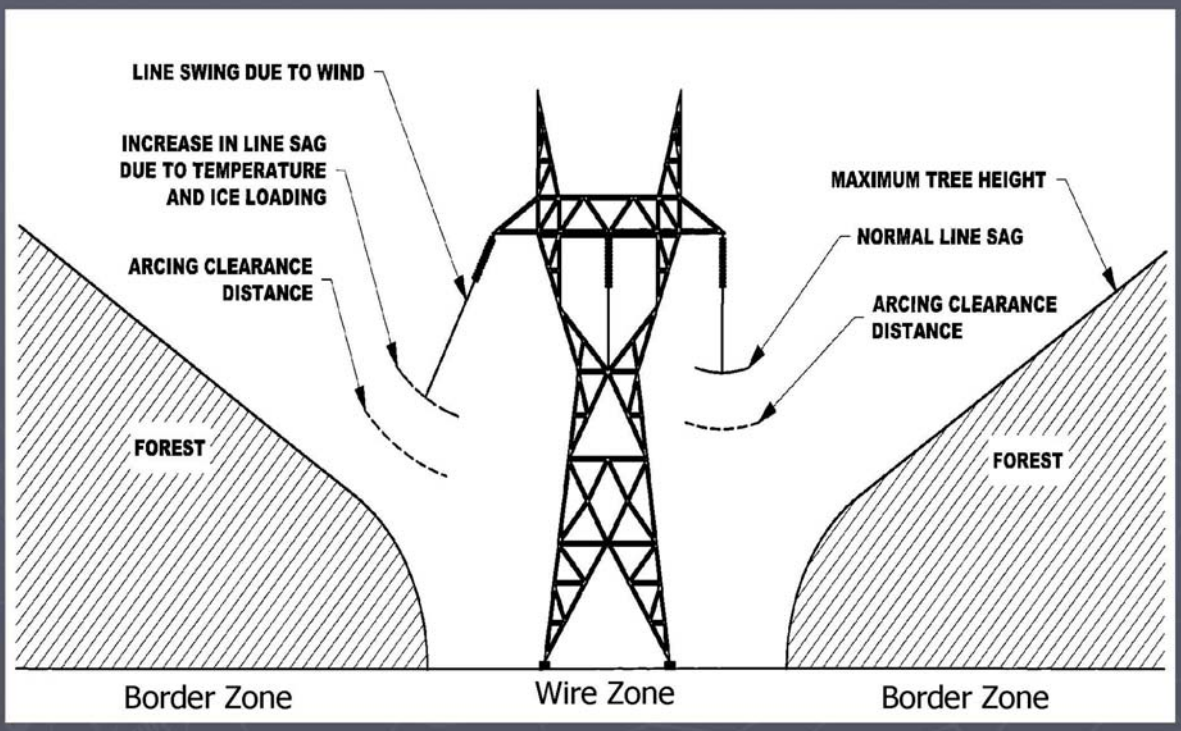



Transmission line contact with trees is common cause of power outages
Northwest Blackouts of August 1996 caused by a power line that sagged into filbert trees near Hillsboro, Oregon
Main cause of the Northeast Blackout of August 2003, blamed on a power company's failure to trim trees. Loss of power to millions of customers in eastern Canada, Michigan to New York.
Outages result in loss of service to residences, businesses, hospitals and are costly.

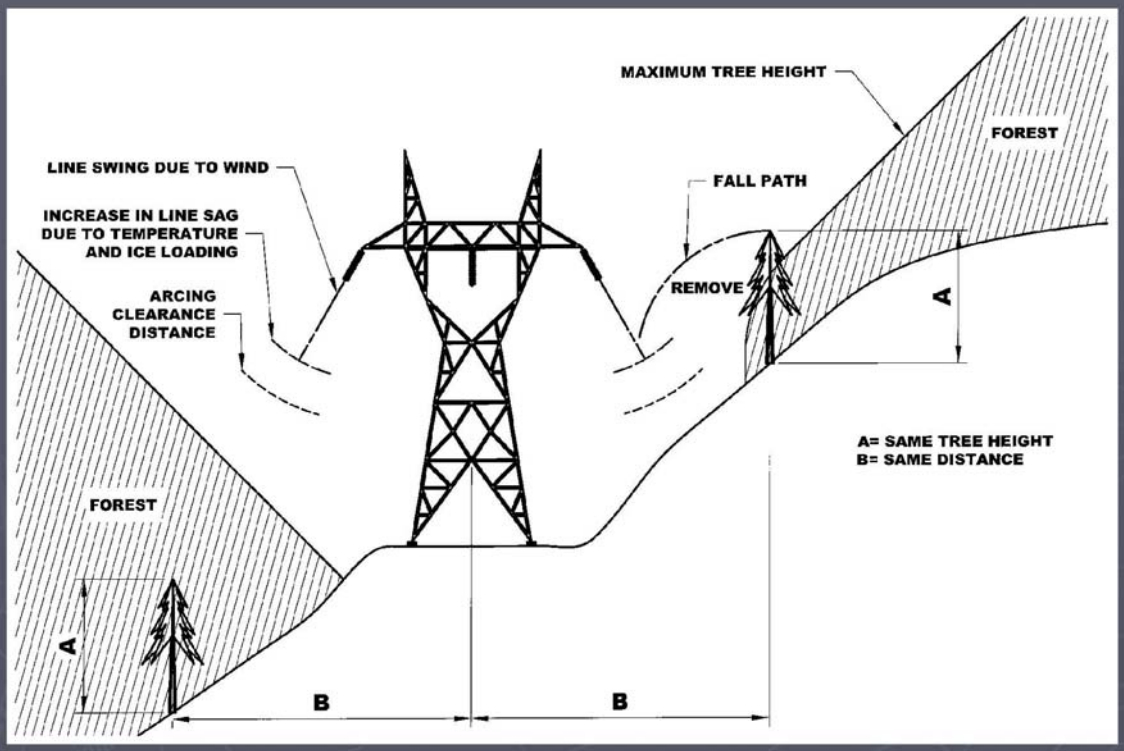


Transmission line conductors (wires) can sag in response to increased temperature. This can cause problems if vegetation below the transmission line is too tall.


FOREST
INCREASE IN LINE SAG AND SWING DUE TO TEMPERATURE, ICE AND WIND LOADING
NORMAL POSITION
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.
FOREST



Vegetation management requires consideration of both transmission line sag and swing.

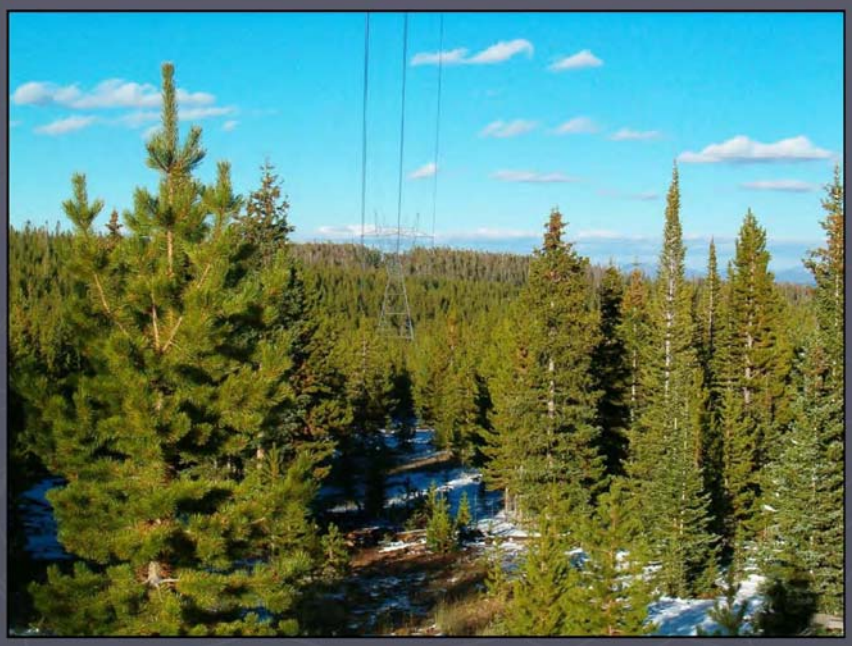


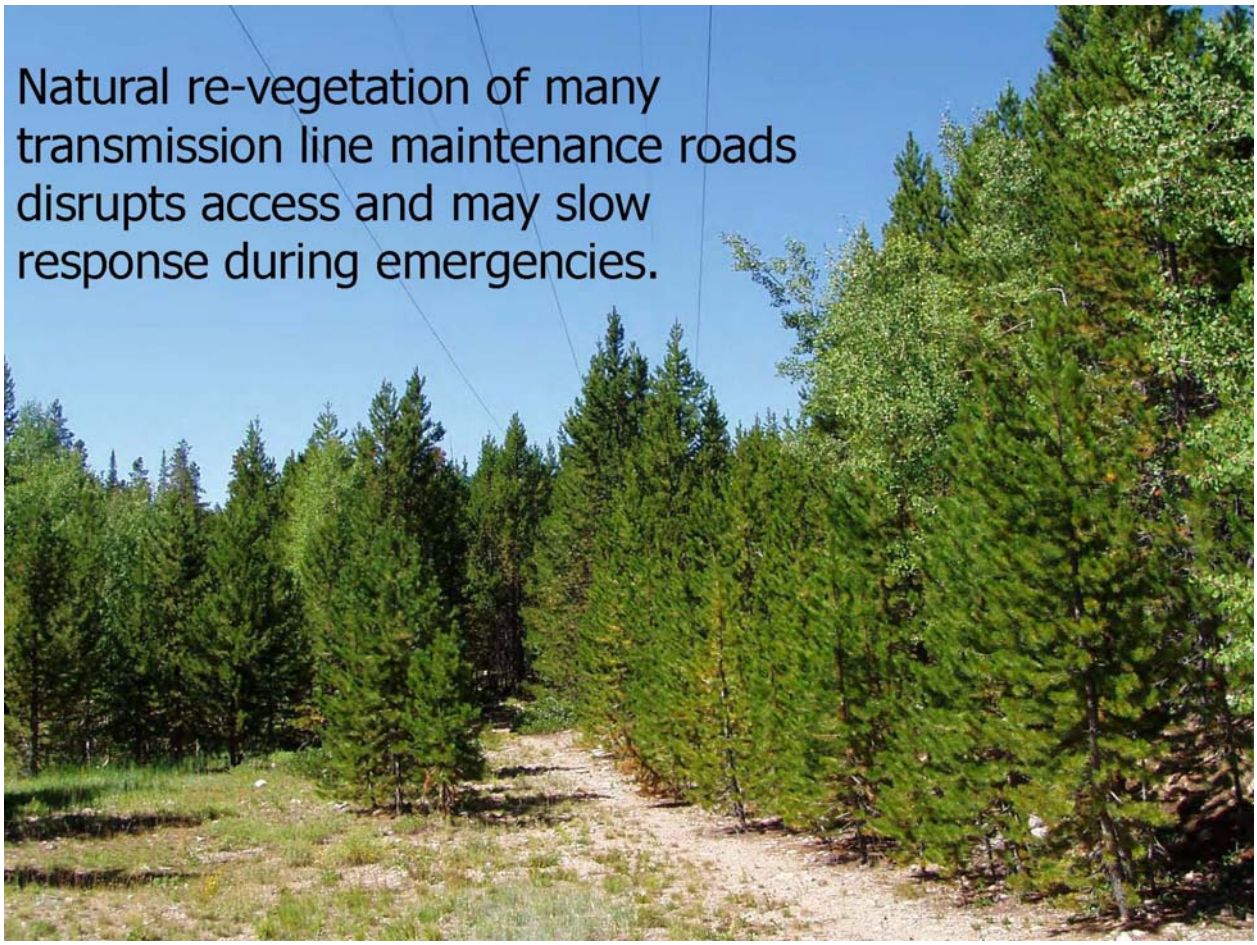
Vegetation management on steep slopes requires additional consideration of trees upslope of the line.

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.



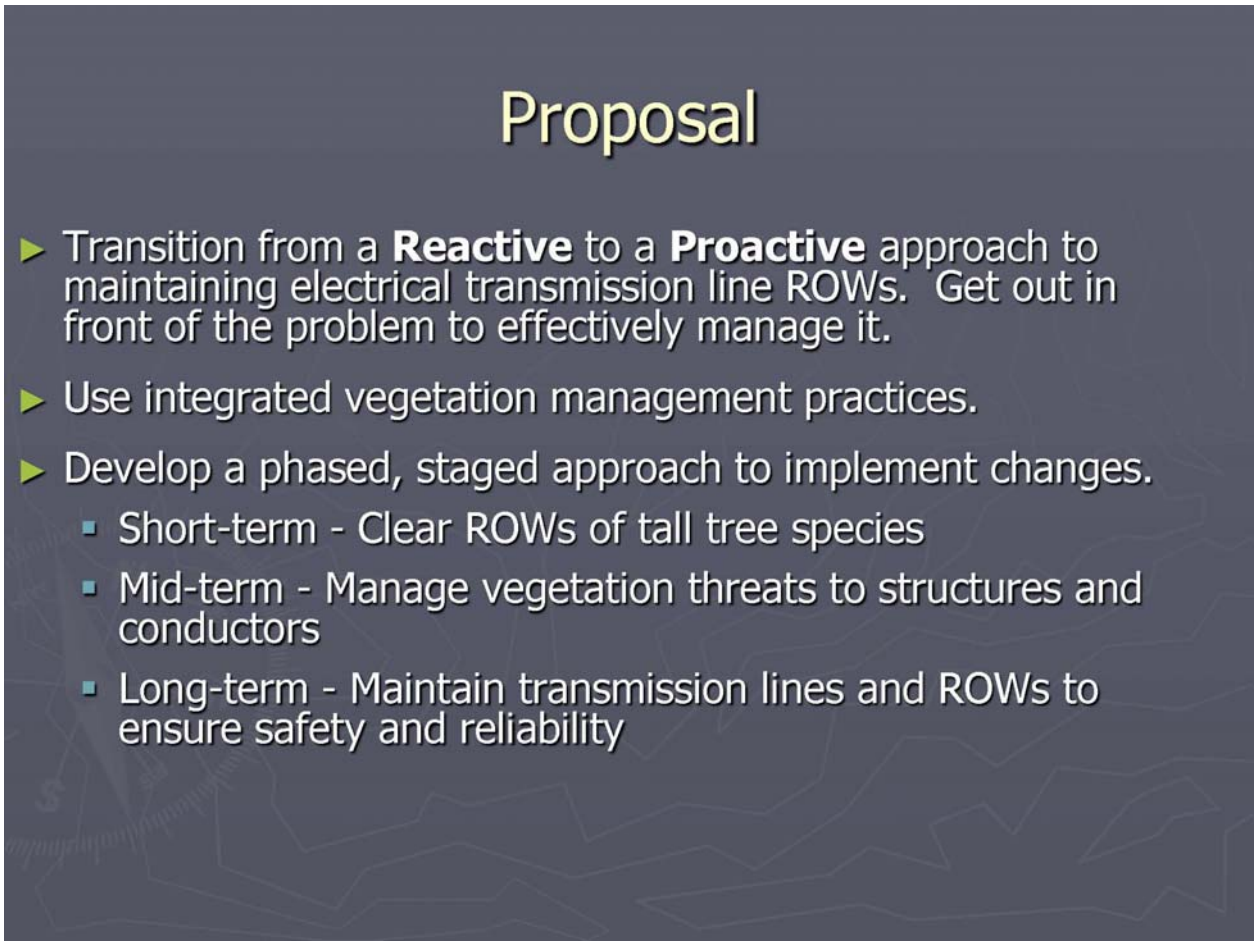

Natural re-vegetation of many
transmission line maintenance roads
disrupts access and may slow
response during emergencies.

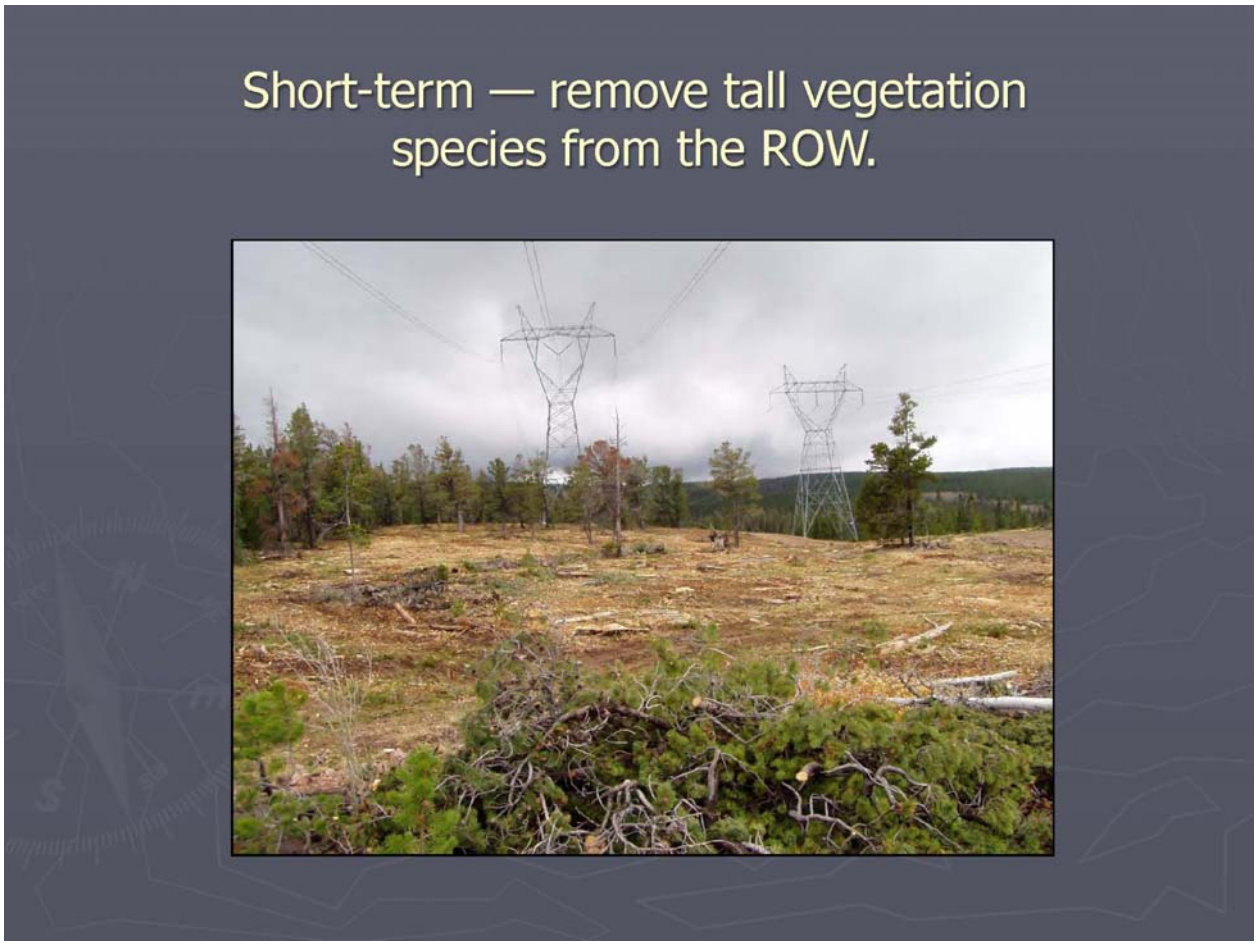

Maintenance road vegetation needs to be managed to prevent the build-up of fuels that could result in wild fire and to ensure access to the line.


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.

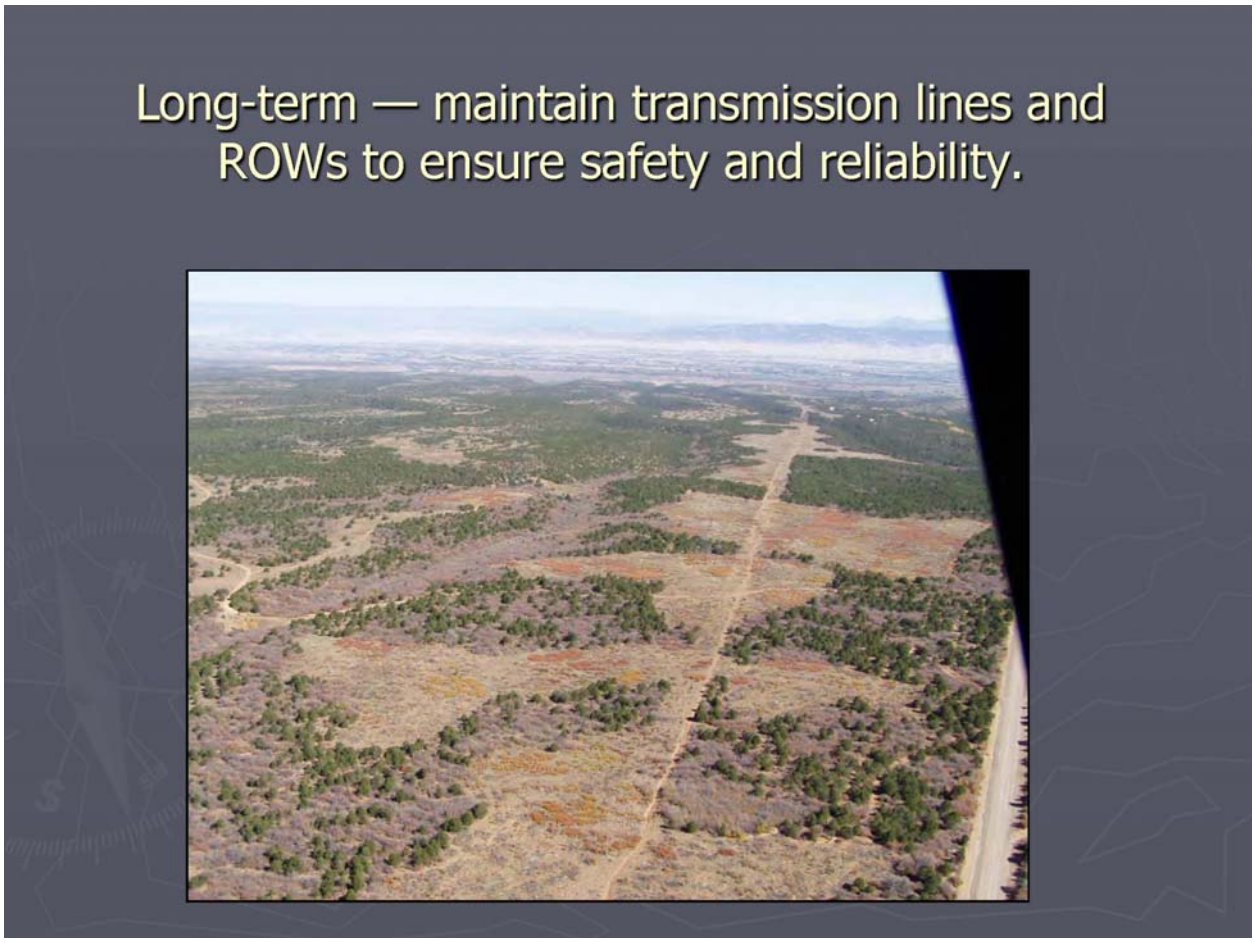

Legislation and Administrative Actions that focused attention on the utility grids
Executive Order E.O. 13212
Signed in May of 2001
Declared the Electric Utility Grid to be a matter of national security
Improve and expedite cooperation among federal agencies to insure the supply and availability of energy for the country
Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58)
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

Designator	RESOURCE
	Plants
1	Before implementing new vegetation treatments and ground-disturbing maintenance activities, the action area will be reviewed using existing data or if appropriate surveyed for listed and Proposed Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (PTES) plant species and plant species of local concern.
2	FS will identify activity restrictions and requirments 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.
	Developed Recreation Sites, Trails, Trailheads, and Administrative Sites
3	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.
	Historic Resources
4	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.
5	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.
6	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.
7	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

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	potential for historic properties, cultural resource inventories will be conducted on these areas. Activities will comply with appropriate Programmatic Agreement (PA) or Section 106 and other applicable requirements.
8	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.
9	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.
10	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.
11	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.
	Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species
12	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 bank in the soil.
13	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).
14	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.
15	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

Examples of Design Features, Draft

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	following completion of activity in an area.
	Public Safety
16	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."
17	Maintenance Level 3 - 5 roads: 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. b) Shall be left in a condition that will adequately accommodate traffic at the end of each work day. c) Shall be marked with barricades or proper signs p laced 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. 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.
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.
	Riparian Areas, Aquatic Resources, and Water Quality
20	Equipment staging areas and refueling locations will be located at least 250 feet away from streams and wetlands.
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 o r culverts) only at locations designated by the Forest Service. If the Forest Service determines that it is needed , open channel crossing locations 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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22	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.
23	Equipment will not be permitted within 100 feet from the edge of streams, or the edge of riparian or wetlands/fens vegetation; except as noted below and authorized by the Forest Service. Hand felling of hazardous trees is permitted in the 100-foot buffer.
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 organism 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 b e 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 approporiate, slash would be lopped 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 violoate 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 protectionof 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 handmade piles and at least 200 feet for machine-made pies. For intermittent or ephemeral streams, hand made burn piles would be located 50 feet from or outside of the inner gorge, whichever is less.

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Examples of Design Features, Draft

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29	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.
30	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.
31	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-filter 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.
32	Minimize activities in riparian areas or span riparian areas. Avoid disturbance to riparian vegetation whenever practical.
33	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.
34	If Aquatic Nuisance Species are likely to occur, their spread would be controlled by equipment cleanings before crossing streams and other water bodies.
	Scenic Byways, Special Interest Areas (SIAs), and Resea rch Natural Areas (RNAs
35	Trees cutting and clearing should be done by hand within power line corridors that are adjacent to scenic byways and SIAs. Boles would be left in place; slash will be lopped 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.
	Soils
38	Machinery will be used on slopes greater than 35% grade, except for slopes less than 100 feet in length.
39	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.

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Examples of Design Features, Draft

March 22, 2010

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-spreading. b) Inclusion of stumps 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-spreading, the sequence of operations will be planned to avoid re-compacting tilled areas. Tilling can take place after topsoil is re-spread with a minimum of mixing.
45	Sub -soiling 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.
	Transportation
48	Slash and debris will be kept out of road ditches and drainage channels.

Examples of Design Features, Draft

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49	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.
50	On haul roads, ruts, holes and washboards shall be removed by scarifying o r cutting the bottom of the defects. Fines accumulated while blading roads or from drainage ditches shall not be wasted over fill shoulders.
51	Temporary or unauthorized roads will be rehabilitated by depositing excavated soils and rock to fill in road cut, where feasible.
52	Water bars, out sloping 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 ripped road surface to a density and depth to mimic the surrounding ground. Specific rehabilitative methods would be determined on a case by case basis.
53	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.
	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
55	Western would design and ensure that repairs and replacements of transmission line structures maintain conformance with Suggested Practices for Protection of Raptors on Power lines (APLIC 1994) and Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2006 (APLIC 2006).
56	Activities that may occur in areas with sensitive species, sensitive live 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 seassons, surveys would be conducted and buffers would be established to ensure noise and human disturbance do not result in nest abandonment.

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58	In areas with active osprey nests, Western would work outside of the osprey nesting season (May 1 through September 1).
59	Prior to activities, supervisory personnel will be instructed on the protection environmental resources and the locations of areas that are off-limits shall be clearly communicated to all personnel.
60	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.
61	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.
	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 wetness 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 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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65	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.
	Air Quality
66	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.
67	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.

Project Description

1 2/26/2010

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 transmision 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 flexibitiliy 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; minimizeing effects on special status species and habitats, controling noxious weeds; protecting cultural resources; and others.
- Minimize risks of power interruptions, fire starts and damage to the tranmsmission 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.

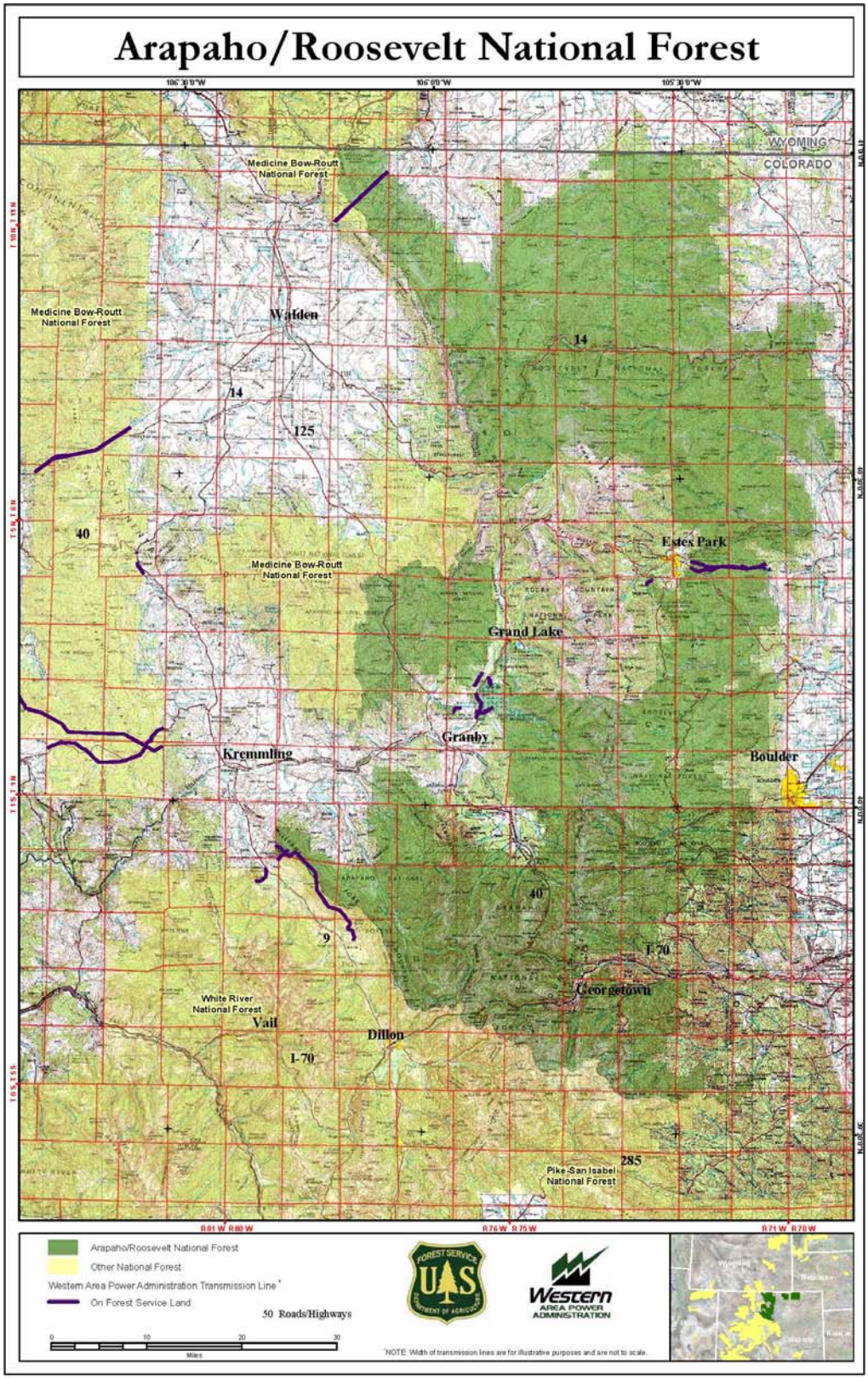
- Maximize cost containment and improve maintenance efficiency. This may be done by balancing the frequency and intensity of vegetation treatment on the ROW in the short term and over the long term by choosing control methods based on effectiveness, enviromental effects, site characteristics, safety,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

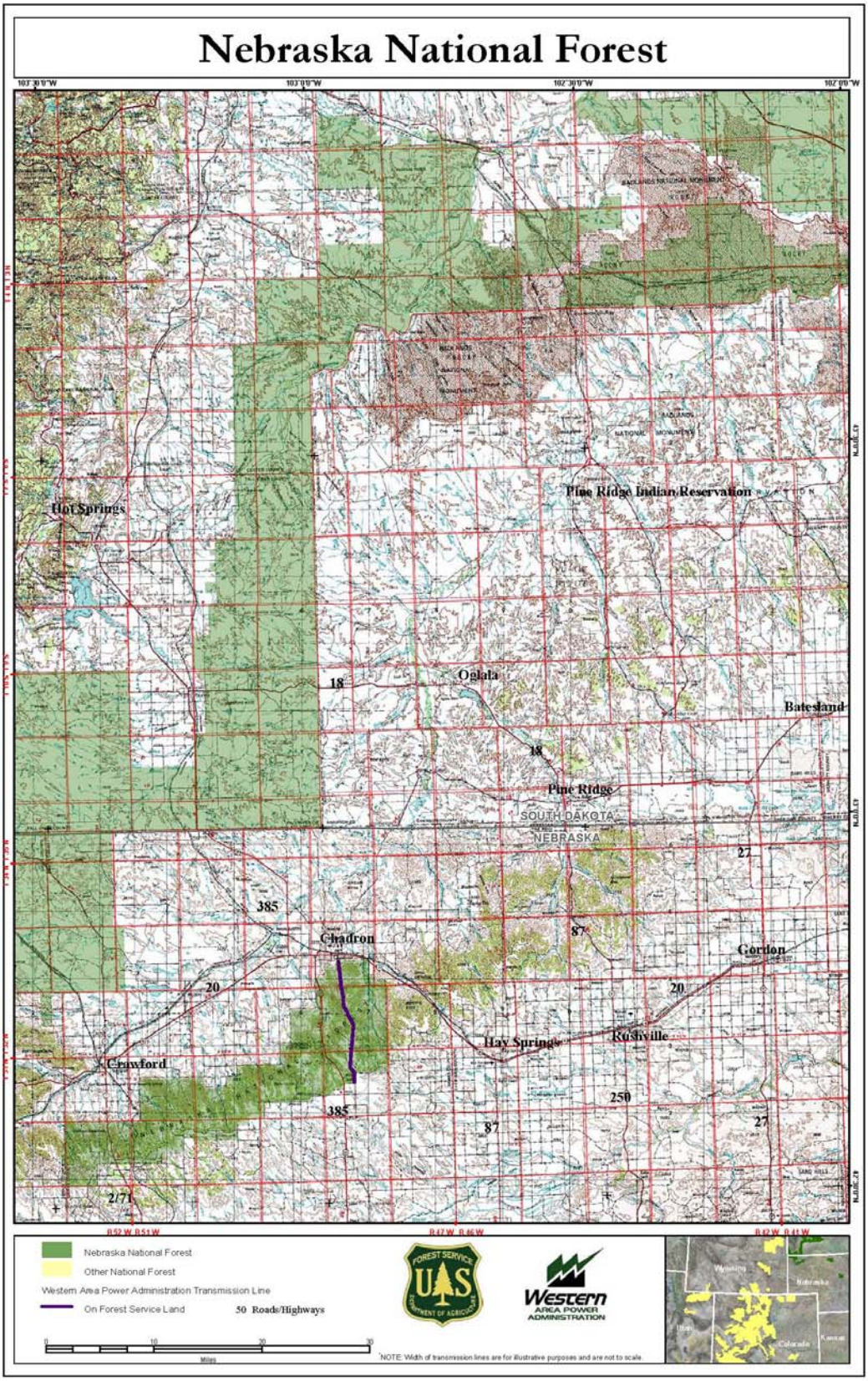
Some vegetative communities pose more risk to transmission lines than others and treatment proposals would be based on the characteristics of each community. Vegetation treatment methods and future treatment intervals would vary on a ROW depending on the vegetation type, vegetative regrowth, environmental 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.

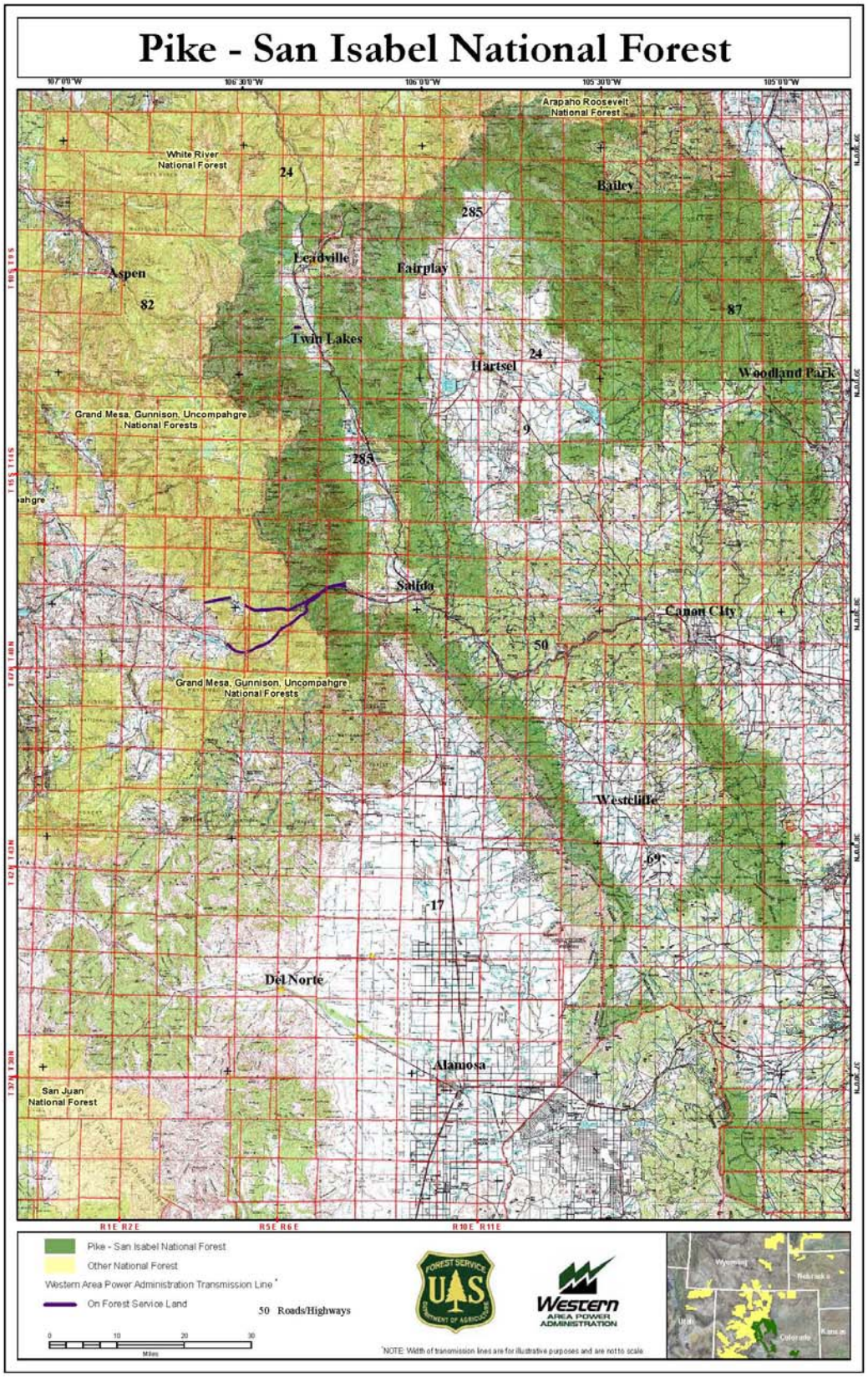
The vegetation management proposal includes an initial pass through areas that have been identified as requiring immediate treatment. The initial pass will affect approximately 237 miles of the approximately 278 miles of transmission line ROW on NFS lands. These areas are proposed for mechanical treatment, 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.

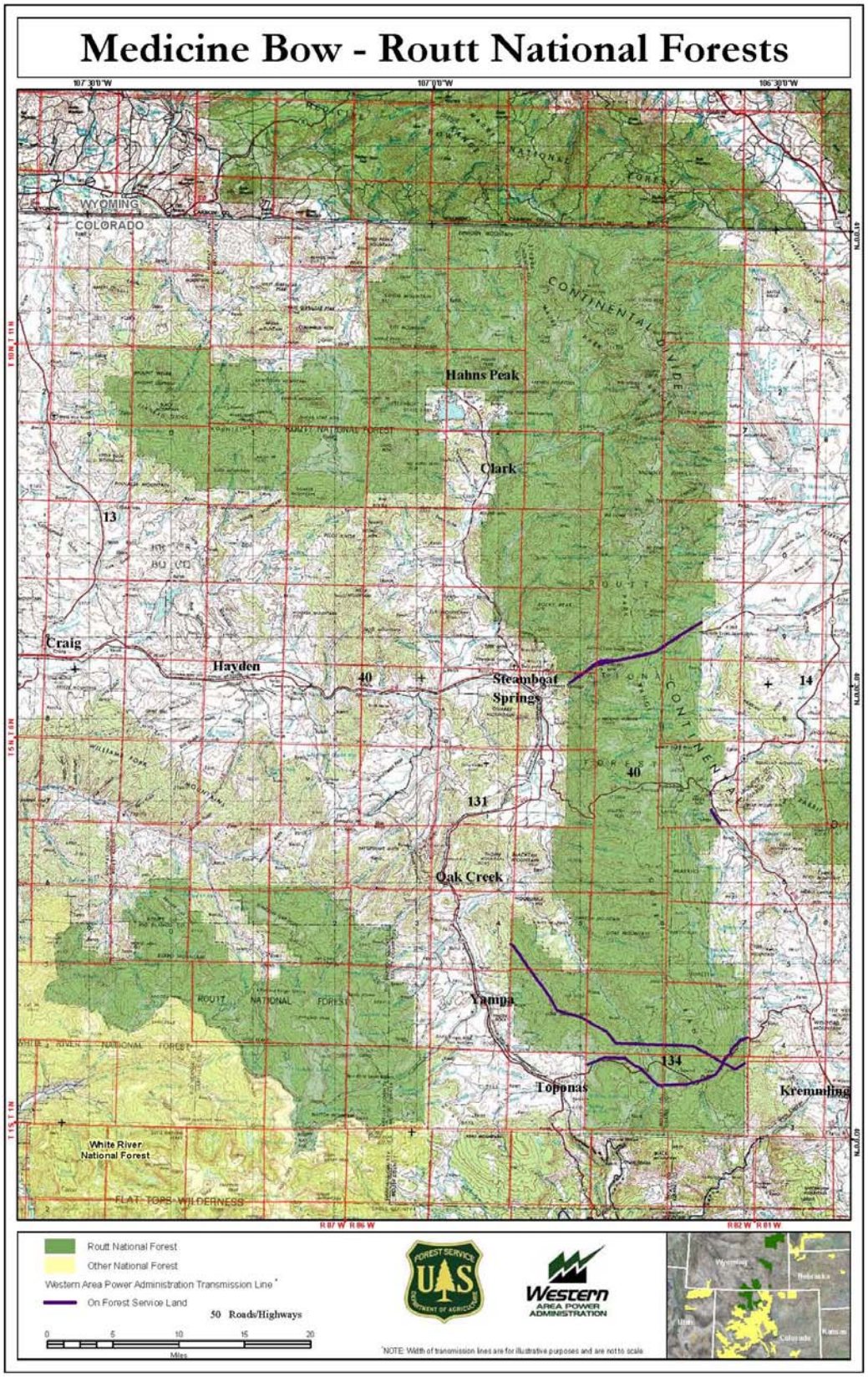
Maps


Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest
WYOMING
COLORADO
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest
Walden
14
125
40
Estes Park
Grand Lake
Granby
Kremmling
Boulder
9
I-70
Georgetown
White River National Forest
Vail
Dillon
285
Pike-San Isabel National Forest
Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line *
On Forest Service Land
50 Roads/Highways
*NOTE: Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale.
Western AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION


Ashley National Forest
I-80
WYOMING
UTAH
530
Manila
Flaming Gorge
Dutch John
44
191
Vernal
121
40
40
Ashley National Forest
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line *
On Forest Service Land
50 Roads/Highways
Miles
*NOTE: Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale
Western
AREA POWER
ADMINISTRATION


Nebraska National Forest
Hot Springs
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
Oglala
Batesland
Pine Ridge
SOUTH DAKOTA
NEBRASKA
Chadron
Gordon
Hay Springs
Rushville
Crawford
18
385
20
87
27
250
2/71
Nebraska National Forest
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line
On Forest Service Land
50 Roads/Highways
Miles
NOTE: Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale.
Western
AREA POWER
ADMINISTRATION


Pike - San Isabel National Forest
Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest
White River National Forest
Bailey
Leadville
Fairplay
Aspen
Twin Lakes
Hartsel
Woodland Park
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre National Forests
Salida
Canon City
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre National Forests
Westcliffe
Del Norte
Alamosa
San Juan National Forest
Pike - San Isabel National Forest
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line *
On Forest Service Land
50 Roads/Highways
*NOTE: Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale
Western AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION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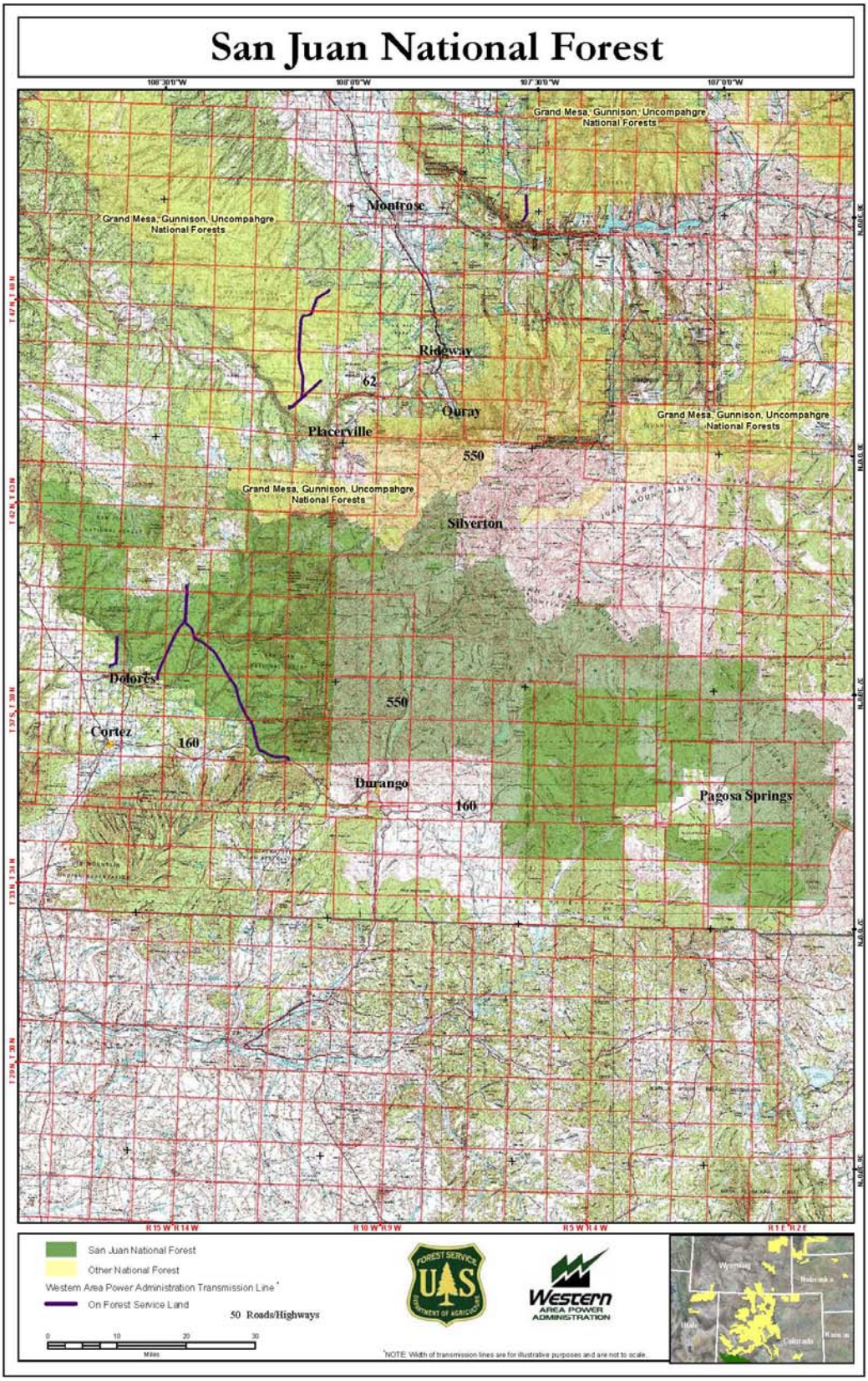
WYOMING
COLORADO
CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
Hahns Peak
ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST
Clark
13
Craig
Hayden
40
Steamboat Springs
14
131
Oak Creek
Yampa
134
Toponas
Kremmling
White River National Forest
FLAT TOPS WILDERNESS
Routt National Forest
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line *
On Forest Service Land
50 Roads/Highways
0 5 10 15 20
Miles
*NOTE: Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale
FOREST SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Western
AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION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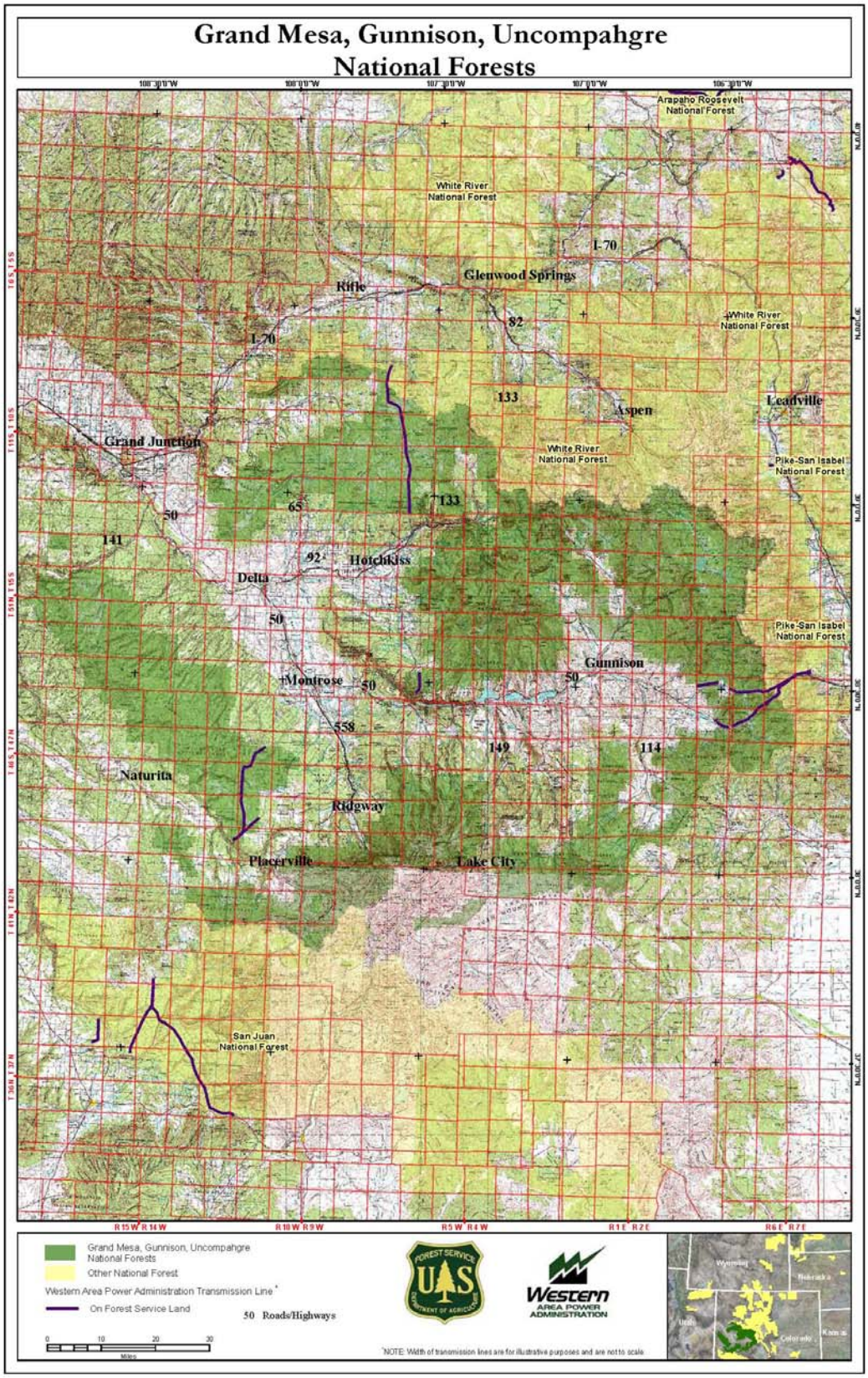
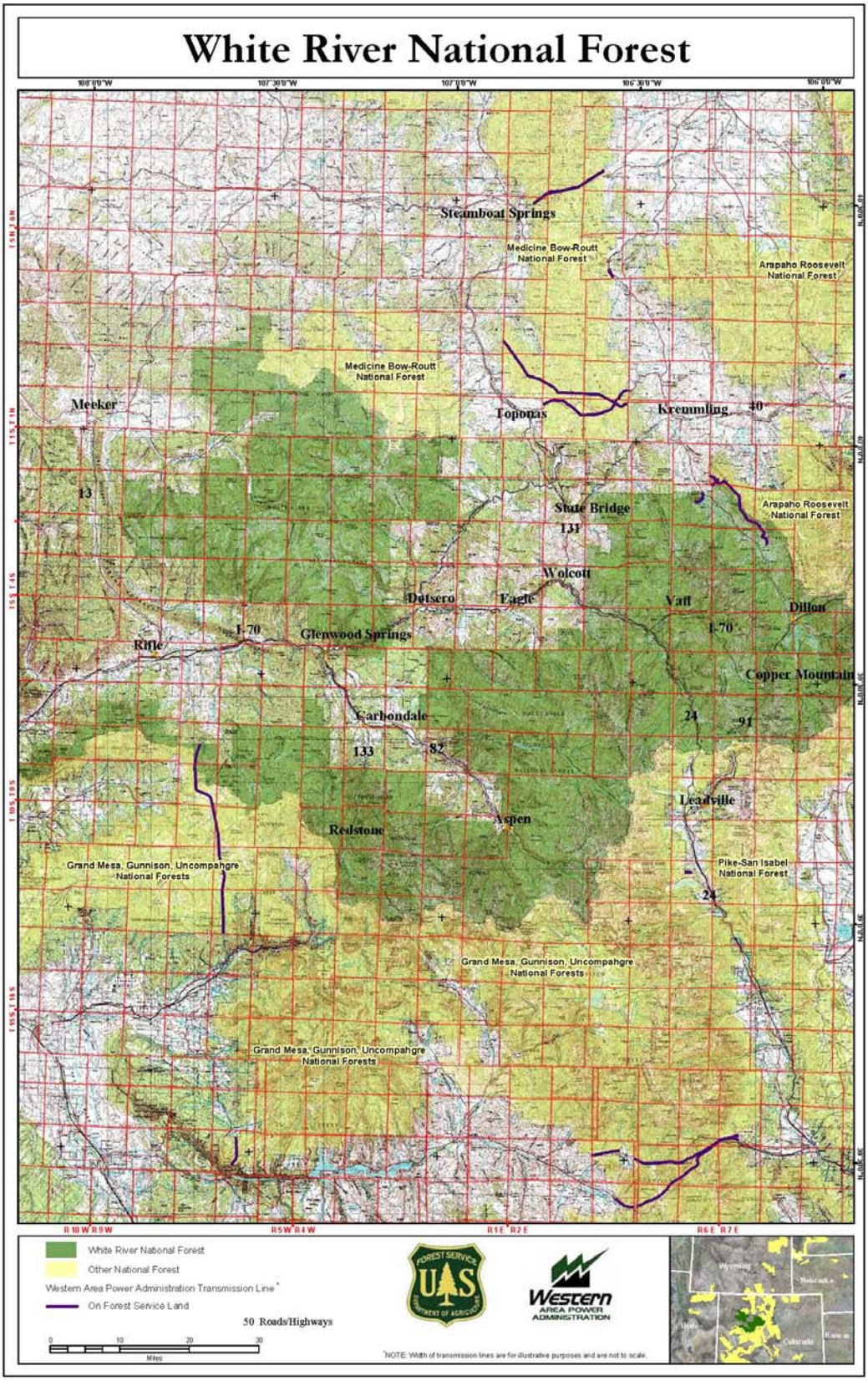
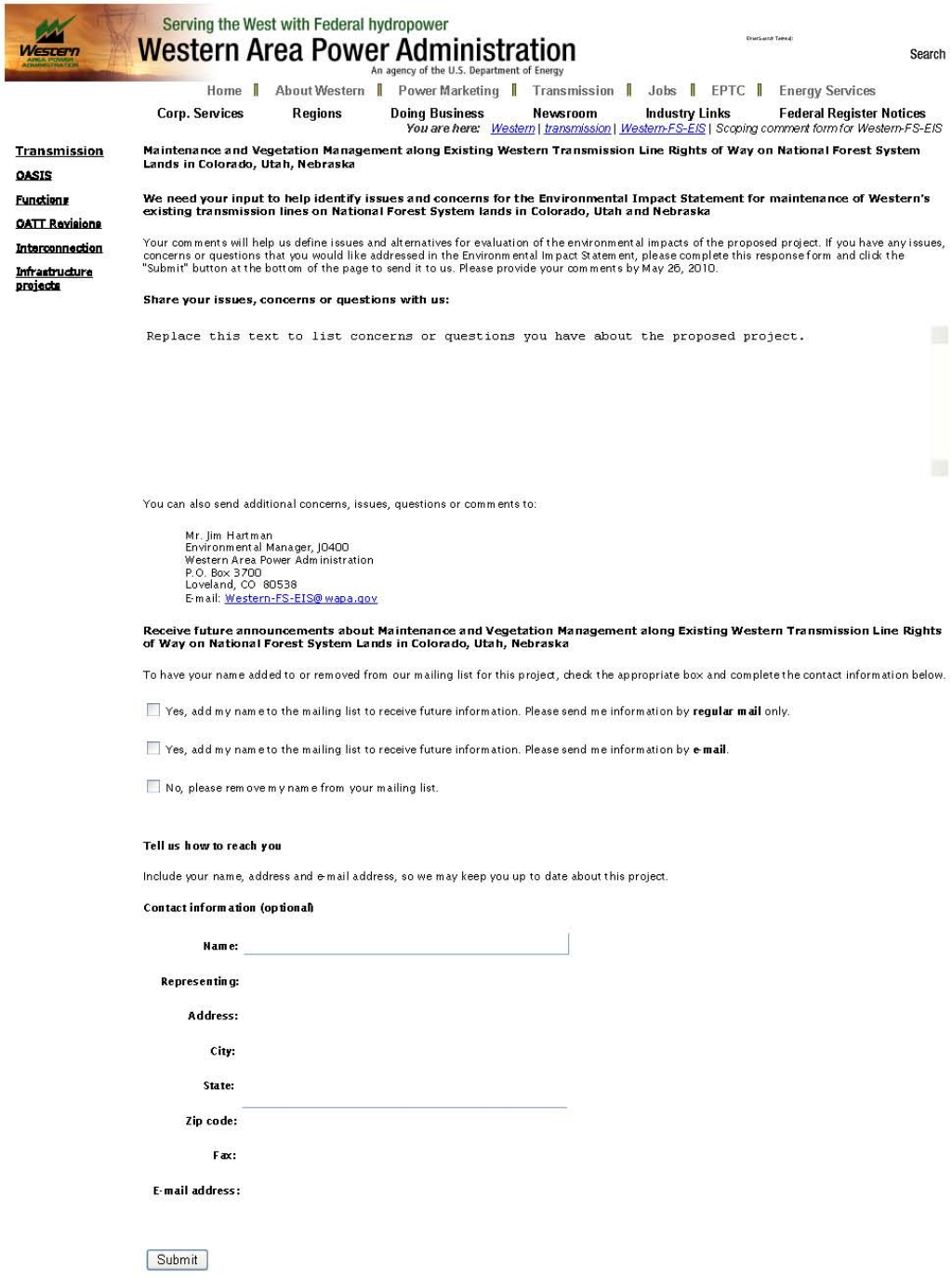
Montrose
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre National Forests
Ridgway
62
Ouray
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre National Forests
Placerville
550
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre National Forests
Silverton
Dolores
550
Cortez
160
Durango
160
Pagosa Springs
San Juan National Forest
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line*
On Forest Service Land
50 Roads/Highways
Miles
*NOTE: Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale.
Western
AREA POWER
ADMINISTRATION


Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre
National Forests
Arapaho Roosevelt
National Forest
White River
National Forest
I-70
Glenwood Springs
Rifle
82
White River
National Forest
I-70
133
Aspen
Leadville
Grand Junction
White River
National Forest
Pike-San Isabel
National Forest
65
133
50
141
92
Hotchkiss
Delta
50
Pike-San Isabel
National Forest
Gunnison
Montrose
50
50
558
149
114
Naturita
Ridgway
Placerville
Lake City
San Juan
National Forest
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre
National Forests
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line *
On Forest Service Land
50 Roads/Highways
0 10 20 30
Miles
FOREST SERVICE
U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Western
AREA POWER
ADMINISTRATION
*NOTE: Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale


White River National Forest
Steamboat Springs
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest
Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest
Meeker
Toponas
Kremmling
40
13
State Bridge
131
Wolcott
Dotsero
Eagle
Vail
Dillon
I-70
Rifle
Glenwood Springs
Copper Mountain
Carbondale
24
91
133
82
Leadville
Aspen
Redstone
Grand Mesa, Gunnison, Uncompahgre National Forests
Pike-San Isabel National Forest
24
R10W R9W
R5W R4W
R1E R2E
R6E R7E
White River National Forest
Other National Forest
Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line*
On Forest Service Land
50 Roads/Highways
0 10 20 30
Miles
*NOTE: Width of transmission lines are for illustrative purposes and are not to scale.
FOREST SERVICE
U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Western
AREA POWER
ADMINISTRATION
Wyoming
Nebraska
Utah
Colorado
Kansas

Online Comment Form



Serving the West with Federal hydropower
Western Area Power Administration
An agency of the U.S. Department of Energy
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You are here: Western | transmission | Western-FS-EIS | Scoping comment form for Western-FS-EIS

Transmission
OASIS
Functions
OATT Revisions
Interconnection
Infrastructure projects

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

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 26, 2010.

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. Jim Hartman
Environmental Manager, J0400
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80538
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, 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 your 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:
Fax:
E-mail address:

Submit

Scoping Meeting Brochure

Western Area Power Administration
Transmission Line Management Reauthorization

How to Provide Comments:

Please complete a comment form and place it in the comment box or give it to a meeting representative at the scoping meeting. Comments can also be sent to the following address and must be postmarked by May 26, 2010:

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

Please note that by including your name and address on correspondence, you agree the information may be made public as part of the EIS process.

Your involvement and input on the proposed action, alternatives to the proposed action, and environmental impacts will help Western and the FS determine what to address in the EIS.

Making Effective Comments:

Effective comments help ensure important issues are identified and addressed in the EIS.

- State specific concerns instead of making broad statements.
- Focus your comments on specific issues and provide supporting information.
- Identify important environmental and community concerns.

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

Western Area Power Administration Ault-Craig Line.

Project Timeline

April 8, 2010
Notice of Intent Published in Federal Register

April 22, 2010
Public Scoping Meeting Denver, Colorado

April 23, 2010
Public Scoping Meeting Grand Junction, Colorado

April 26, 2010
Public Scoping Meeting Vernal, Utah

May 26, 2010
Close of the Public Scoping Period

Spring/Summer 2010
Preparation of Draft EIS

Summer 2010
Notice of Availability of Draft EIS

Summer/Fall 2010
45-Day Public Comment Period & Hearings

Fall/Winter 2010
Preparation of Final EIS

Spring 2011
Notice of Availability of Final EIS/ Record of Decision

Welcome!

Western Area Power Administration (Western) and the U.S. Forest Service (FS) are jointly preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the continued management of Western's existing transmission lines on FS lands in Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska. Western proposes to continue maintaining these lines and is proposing to change the way it manages vegetation on the existing rights-of-way (ROW). The changes would require updated or new authorizations from the FS.

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, agencies, and tribes.

The EIS will integrate other environmental review and consultation such as section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Scoping is part of the NEPA review process. Western and the FS are conducting three scoping meetings to provide an opportunity for you to learn more about the project, provide comments, and identify potential issues to be analyzed in the EIS.

Vegetation regeneration in the ROW.

The proposed methods for maintaining vegetation in the ROW include:
- **Mechanical treatments**
- **Use of herbicides**
- **Hand treatments**

ABOVE: ROW after vegetation treatment.
BELOW: ROW vegetation regeneration during the first growing season after treatment.

The proposed action includes maintenance activities typical of electrical industry practices for maintaining ROW, access, structures, and other equipment. To comply with changed industry regulations and standards, Western proposes to modify its overall approach to ROW vegetation management. Western's improved vegetation management along ROWs on National Forest System lands would include:

- Changing from a focus on danger tree cutting to an active management approach that ensures vegetation does not become a risk to the transmission lines.
- Reducing the amount of wildfire fuel on the ROW including the debris from years of danger tree cutting.
- Implementing and maintaining vegetation conditions along the ROW that focus on establishing stable native vegetation that reduces risk to transmission lines.

The public scoping comment period ends on May 26, 2010.

Project Objectives

- 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 mandatory reliability standards.
- Enhance the ability of the facilities to survive wildfires.
- Protect sensitive environmental resources including cultural resources, special status biological resources, water quality, sensitive visual resources, and others.
- Control maintenance costs and improve efficiency.
- Reduce the risk that fires would be started by transmission lines.

What are Design Features?

Design features are part of the proposed action and define how the proposal will be implemented. Design features are intended to avoid or minimize impacts.

The transmission lines cross approximately 280 miles of National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska.

How are They Used?

Design features are used during project implementation and may be site-specific or broader in scope.

A SITE-SPECIFIC DESIGN FEATURE USED TO PROTECT SENSITIVE WILDLIFE: Prohibit activity within ¼ mile of an active raptor nest during nesting season.

A BROADER SCOPE DESIGN FEATURE USED TO REDUCE THE RISK OF WILDFIRE: Require spark arrestors be installed on all chainsaws.

Design Feature Examples:

TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO PUBLIC AND PERMITTED RECREATIONAL USERS: Western would coordinate temporary closures of trail heads, administrative sites, campgrounds, and travel corridors with the local Ranger Districts.

TO PROTECT SOILS, WATERSHEDS, AND WATER QUALITY: Heavy equipment would not be used on the ROW when soils are too wet.

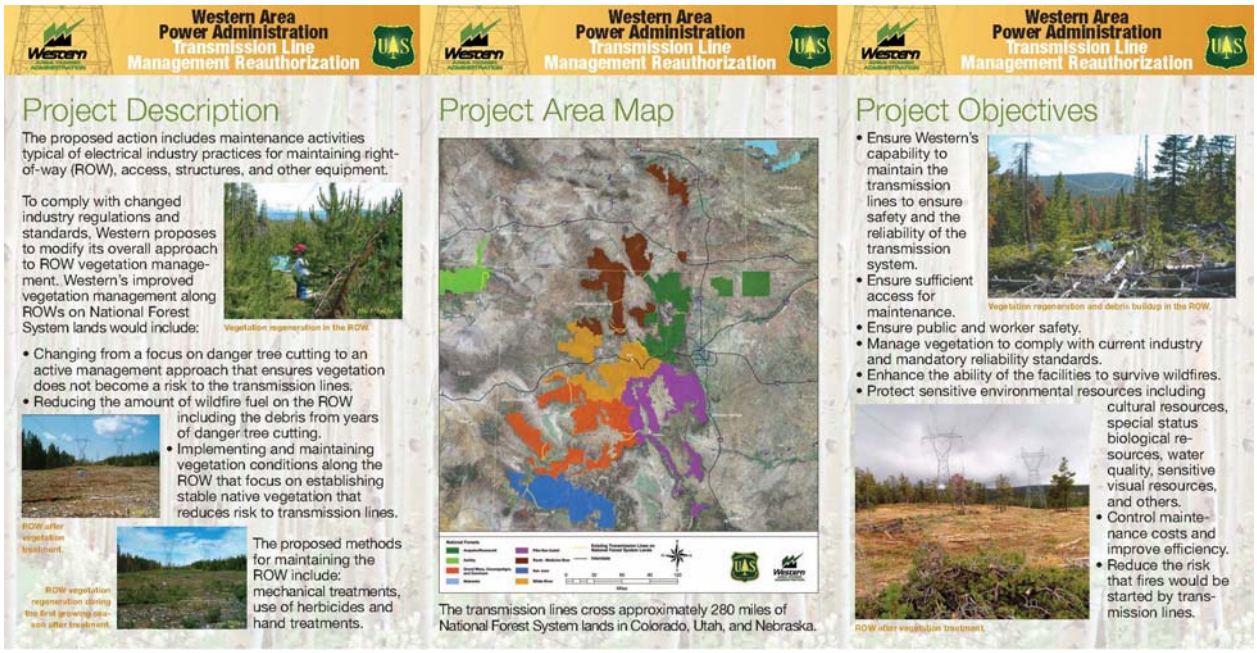
TO PROTECT RIPARIAN AREAS, AQUATIC RESOURCES, AND WATER QUALITY: Equipment staging areas and refueling locations will be located at least 200 feet away from streams and wetlands.

TO PROTECT AIR QUALITY: 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.

Design Features Display Boards

National Environmental Policy Act Display Boards

Project Description Display Boards



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Final Scoping Summary Report

Appendix B

Notification List

APPENDIX B
NOTIFICATION LIST

Table B-1 lists all businesses, local agencies (municipal, county, and state), Federal agencies, and organizations that were notified as part of the public scoping efforts. Western Area Power Administration also notified a total of 315 individuals; however, these individuals are not included in this list. In addition, the list includes the individuals, agencies, and organizations who attended the public meetings and/or submitted comments during the scoping period. Following Table B-1 is a copy of the tribal contact letter and distribution list.

Table B-1. Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Management Reauthorization Project Notification List

Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
Individuals				
Breanne Glover[1,2]	-	-	Grand Junction	Colorado
Jean Public[1]	-	-	Whitehouse Station	New Jersey
Businesses				
Robert Adkins	-	Adkins and Christiansen P.C.	Coalville	Utah
Clifford Allsop	-	North Fork Water Users	Salt Lake City	Utah
Gordon Autry	-	Cimarron and Uncompahgre Valley Canal and Reservoir Company	Montrose	Colorado
Wayne Bankert	-	Laramie Energy, LLC	Grand Junction	Colorado
John Beaslin	-	Dinosaurland Travel Board	Vernal	Utah
Tina Bennington	-	Flaming Gorge KOA Campground	Manila	Utah
Boyd Black	-	Blacks Quarter Horses	Torrey	Utah
Janine Blaeloch	-	Western Land Exchange Project	Seattle	Washington
James Blazzard	-	Blazzard Lumber Company Inc.	Kamas	Utah
Ned Brady	-	Sheep Creek Irrigation Company	Manila	Utah
Dennis Breer	-	Trout Creek Flies	Dutch John	Utah
Felicity Broennan	-	Mancos River Watershed Group	Mancos	Colorado
Lynette Brooks	-	HUPC	Sandy	Utah
Wendy Brooks	-	Telluride Academy	Telluride	Colorado
Richard Brown	President	Evergreen Heights Ditch and Reservoir	Olathe	Colorado
Wes Butch	-	BIO/West Inc.	Logan	Utah
Saffron Capson	-	EPG, Inc.	Salt Lake City	Utah
Bonnie and Scott Carson	-	Smiling Lake Consulting	Evergreen	Colorado
John Carter	-	Western Watersheds Project, Inc.	Mendon	Utah

Table B-1. Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Management Reauthorization Project Notification List

Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
Cattle	-	Ute Agricultural Products	Duchesne	Utah
Shaun Chapoose	-	Ute Indian Tribe, Natural Resources	Fort Duchesne	Utah
Robert Chapoose Jr.	-	Ute Indian Tribe, Fish and Wildlife Department	Fort Duchesne	Utah
Eugene Clark	-	Clark Timber Products	Ashton	Idaho
Ronald Clement	-	Lone Cone Outfitters	Norwood	Colorado
Scott Clow	-	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Environmental Department	Towaoc	Colorado
Jim Clyde	-	Clyde Company	Chadron	Nebraska
Chuck Cogdill	-	Cogdill Enterprises	Chadron	Nebraska
Thomas Colander	-	Colorado Trophies	Redvale	Colorado
H. Maughn Colton	-	Colton Ranch Inc.	Bountiful	Utah
Dr. Tom and Penny Compton	-	Compton Cattle Company	Hesperus	Colorado
Wayne Cooley	-	Colorado State University Tri-River Area Extension Office	Montrose	Colorado
Michael Covington	-	Fantasy Ridge Mountain Guides	Telluride	Colorado
Bob Croll	-	Croll Cabins	Bayfield	Colorado
Mark Davies	-	Chuck Davies Guide Service	Loma	Colorado
Jim Defa	-	Defas Dude Ranch	Hanna	Utah
Eileen Dey	-	Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company	Midland	Texas
Scott Dillon	-	Blue Creek Outfitters	Naturita	Colorado
Gale Eldredge	-	Quarter Circle E Ranch	Lapoint	Utah
Dave Farny	-	Skyline Guest Ranch	Telluride	Colorado
Dewayne and MaryAnn Findley	-	Findley Logging	Cortez	Colorado
Lew Fisher	-	Overland Travel	Williamstown	Massachusetts
Nancy Fishering	-	Colorado Timber Industry Association	Montrose	Colorado
Ivan Flint	-	Weber Basin Water Conservancy District	Layton	Utah
Jim Fox	-	Sugarloaf Grazing Association	Crawford	Nebraska
Ken Francis	Director, Office Communication Services	Fort Lewis College	Durango	Colorado
Clyde Franklin	-	Pine Ridge Job Corps	Chadron	Nebraska
Ron Franks	-	J and Ray's Colorado High Country, Inc.	Montrose	Colorado
Sandy Friedley	-	Ecosphere Environmental Services	Durango	Colorado
Greg Furuiye	-	Reach Mountain Adventures	Galeton	Colorado

Table B-1. Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Management Reauthorization Project Notification List

Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
Bob Galey	-	Soldier Creek Grazing Association	Whitney	Nebraska
George Gardner	-	Tabor Mountain School	Ridgway	Colorado
Dale Garland	-	Hard Rock 100	Silverton	Colorado
Chris Gayer	-	Grasslands Consulting Inc.		
Greg Gilroy	-	Bear Track Outfitters	Vernal	Utah
Dunham Gooding	-	American Alpine Institute	Bellingham	Washington
Kent Grady	-	Adventures Rolling X-Country	Sausalito	California
Steve Green	-	Green Logging Inc.	Vernal	Utah
Joe Hacking	-	Ashley Creek	Vernal	Utah
John Hagman	-	WRR Industries Inc.	Salt Lake City	Utah
Jack and Teresa Harmston	-	Uintah River	Roosevelt	Utah
Tom Harrington	-	Double RL	Ridgway	Colorado
Rock Harrison	-	Central Utah Water Conservancy	Duchesne	Utah
James Harvey	-	Back Country Biking	Telluride	Colorado
Grace and Steve Herndon	-	The Herndon Ranch	Norwood	Colorado
Todd Herrick	-	Telluride Helitrax	Telluride	Colorado
Wade Heutt	-	Recreation Resource Management of American, Inc.	Lakeside	Arizona
Terry Hickman	-	Central Utah Water Conservancy	Orem	Utah
Brad Horrocks	-	B&D RV Center	Vernal	Utah
Dave Howells	-	BCNU	Ogden	Utah
Dick Jackson	-	Aspen Expeditions	Aspen	Colorado
Aran Johnson	-	Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Ignacio	Colorado
Lee Kapaloski	-	Parsons, Behle and Latimer	Salt Lake City	Utah
Kurt Kaufman	-	Croman Corporation	White City	Oregon
Lawrence Kay	-	UELS Inc.	Vernal	Utah
Carol Keim	-	Centennial Saddle Club	Chadron	Nebraska
Gary and Catherine Kennedy	-	Mancos Water Conservancy District	Mancos	Colorado
Kelvin Kent	-	Mineral Farms Water Users Association	Montrose	Colorado
Ashley Korenblat	-	Western Spirit Cycling	Moab	Utah
Don Lantham	-	Sleeping Indian Ranch	Ridgway	Colorado
Sean Larmore	-	ERO Resources Corporation	Durango	Colorado
Colin Larrick	-	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Environmental Programs	Towaoc	Colorado
Priscilla Ledbury	-	Upper and Lower Blue Projects, Our Future Summit	Silverthorne	Colorado
Jim Lekas	-	Lexco	Vernal	Utah

Table B-1. Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Management Reauthorization Project Notification List

Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
Mark Lichtwardt	Associate Vice President	Burns and McDonnell	Centennial	Colorado
Avis Light	-	Public Lands Information Center REI	Salt Lake City	Utah
Howard Linscott	-	Telluride Outfitters/Ouray Livery	Ridgway	Colorado
Brenda Linster	-	EnCana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc.	Denver	Colorado
Bob and Linda Linville	-	Cedar Springs Marina	Dutch John	Utah
Barbara Lube	-	Ashley Valley Water Users	Vernal	Utah
Roger Luck	-	Roger's Radiator	Vernal	Utah
Sharon and Mike Matheson	-	Plateau Environmental Services	Durango	Colorado
John McKinney	-	Faraway Adventure Programs	Telluride	Colorado
Jeff Mead	-	Mamm Peaks Outfitter	Grand Junction	Colorado
Tim Mertens	-	Dinosaur Expeditions	Park City	Utah
Jay Mitchell	-	Action Adventures	Montrose	Colorado
Sean Moore	-	Sugnet Environmental	Durango	Colorado
RuthAnn Morss	-	EnCana Oil and Gas Inc.	Denver	Colorado
Maxine Naches	-	Ute Indian Tribe	Fort Duchesne	Utah
Michael Noonan	-	Cave Creek Bikes	Cave Creek	Arizona
Mike O'Donnel and Mike Gibbs	-	San Juan Mountain Guides	Ouray	Colorado
Clayton Patton	-	Southwest Adventures	Durango	Colorado
Jean Pavillard	-	Adventures to the Edge	Crested Butte	Colorado
Ron Pelletier	-	Peaks Resort and Spa	Telluride	Colorado
Roger and Debbie Pennington	-	San Juan Sledders	Bayfield	Colorado
Andy Petefish	-	Tower Guides	Ouray	Colorado
Alan Peterson	-	Sageriders	Price	Utah
Adam Poe	-	Western Land Group, Inc.	Denver	Colorado
Mike Preston	-	Dolores Water Conservancy District	Cortez	Colorado
Jim Ray	-	Ray Lumber, Inc.	Montrose	Colorado
Julie and Bill Reardon	-	Moon Lake Resort	Pagosa Springs	Colorado
Ellen Reynolds	-	Eagle Creek Ranch	Dutch John	Utah
Jan Roberts	-	Wilderness Trails Ranch	Durango	Colorado
Dave Rote	-	Dave's Mountain Tours	Telluride	Colorado
Thomas Roudebush	-	Telluride Horseback Adventures	Telluride	Colorado
Nora Ruppert	-	ERO Resources Corporation	Denver	Colorado
Antoine Savelli	-	International Mountaineering Center	Ophir	Colorado
Courtney Scales	-	Gunnison Valley Adventure Guides, Inc.	Gunnison	Colorado

Table B-1. Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Management Reauthorization Project Notification List

Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
Greg Schenbeck	-	Pine Ridge Wildlife Management Headquarters	Crawford	Nebraska
Paul Selfe	-	Uintah Basin Sportsmen	Myton	Utah
Sloan Shoemaker	-	Wilderness Workshop	Carbondale	Colorado
Kathleen Siddoway	-	Siddoway Sheep Company	Vernal	Utah
Wayne Simper	-	Simper Lumber Inc.	Vernal	Utah
Mike Simpson	-	Storm King Sled Dog Adventures	Montrose	Colorado
John Sir Jesse	-	Herb Walker Tours	Telluride	Colorado
Cindy Smith[1]	-	EPG, Inc.	Salt Lake City	Utah
Robert Smith	-	Master Mine of Colorado, Inc.	Ouray	Colorado
Rod Smith	-	Smith Lumber Company	Kamas	Utah
Tod Smith	-	Attn - Ute Indian Tribe, Whiteing and Smith	Boulder	Colorado
Artis Steve[2]	-	Pull Ink 360	Aurora	Colorado
Travis Stills	-	Attorney at Law	Durango	Colorado
Bart Traynor	-	Cow Creek Outfitters	Osceola	Wisconsin
Scott Truman	Director	Rural Life Foundation Stewardship Center	Cedar City	Utah
Tom Twitchell	-	Stoltze Aspen Mills	Columbia Falls	Montana
James Utt	-	Alpine Expeditions	Crested Butte	Colorado
Linda Van der Veer	-	Bjork, Lindley, Little, P.C.	Denver	Colorado
Ralph Walchle	-	Sneva Ditch Company	Ridgway	Colorado
Peter Walker	-	Ryder-Walker Alpine Adventures	Telluride	Colorado
Steve Whiteman	-	Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Ignacio	Colorado
Jon Wilde	-	Quarter Circle JR Ranch	Manila	Utah
Gerald Wilkerson	-	Western Land Realty Inc.	Duchesne	Utah
Eric Wilkinson	General Manager	Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District	Berthoud	Colorado
Mark Wilson	-	Red Canyon Lodge	Dutch John	Utah
Lynn Winterton	-	Moon Lake Water Users	Roosevelt	Utah
Mark Wood	-	Wintermoon Sled Dog Adventures	Placerville	Colorado
David Wood	-	Maywood LTD., Inc.	Ouray	Colorado
Lane Wyatt	-	Summit Water Quality Committee	Silverthorne	Colorado
Rick York	-	York Motorsports	Vernal	Utah
-	-	Biota Brands of America, Inc.	Telluride	Colorado
-	-	Black Bear LLC	Ridgway	Colorado
-	-	Colletts Mountain Resort Inc.	Dutch John	Utah
-	-	Davis Tire and Service Center	Montrose	Colorado
-	-	Flaming Gorge Resort	Dutch John	Utah

Table B-1. Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Management Reauthorization Project Notification List

Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
-	-	FLC Environmental Center	Durango	Colorado
-	-	FLC Reed Library	Durango	Colorado
-	-	Gilbert Family Trust	Montrose	Colorado
-	-	Green River Outfitter Guide Association	Dutch John	Utah
-	-	Idarado Mining Company	Ouray	Colorado
-	-	Intermountain Resources, LLC	Montrose	Colorado
-	-	Jensen Welcome Center	Jensen	Utah
-	-	MADA Administrative Offices	Montrose	Colorado
-	-	North American Packgoat Association	Montrose	Colorado
-	-	Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute	Oconomowoc	Wisconsin
-	-	Ridgeview Country Club	Chadron	Nebraska
-	-	Rocking C Ranch	Riverton	Utah
Natural Resources Research Library	-	S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney, Utah State University	Logan	Utah
-	-	San Juan Hut Systems, Inc.	Ridgway	Colorado
-	-	Sterling College	Craftsbury Common	Vermont
-	-	Strawberry River Livestock Inc.	Duchesne	Utah
Northwest Pipeline System	-	Williams Gas Pipelines West	Salt Lake City	Utah
Municipal				
Phil Overeynder	Utility Director	City of Aspen	Aspen	Colorado
Bob Hines	Public Works Director	City of Burlington	Burlington	Colorado
Jerry Atencio	Superintendent of Utilities	Town of Center	Center	Colorado
Fay Mathews	Utility Director	City of Delta	Delta	Colorado
Jerry Foster	Irrigation Coordinator	Denver Water Board	Denver	Colorado
Tommy Lux, Jr.	Mayor	Dolores Town Council	Dolores	Colorado
Dan Noonan	-	Durango Fire and Rescue Authority	Durango	Colorado
Keith Beck	Town Superintendent	Town of Fleming	Fleming	Colorado
Michael Nagy	City Administrator	City of Fort Morgan	Fort Morgan	Colorado
Nanette Fornos	Town Clerk	Town of Frederick	Frederick	Colorado
Robin Millyard	Director of Public Works	City of Glenwood Springs	Glenwood Springs	Colorado
Ken Bradford	Director of Public Works	City of Gunnison	Gunnison	Colorado
Lyle McBride	Town Superintendent	Town of Haxtun	Haxtun	Colorado
Mark Brown	City Superintendent	City of Holyoke	Holyoke	Colorado
-	Administrator	City of Montrose	Montrose	Colorado
-	Administrator	Town of Mountain Village	Mountain Village	Colorado
Jim Photos	Public Works Director	Town of Oak Creek	Oak Creek	Colorado

Table B-1. Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Management Reauthorization Project Notification List

Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
-	Administrator	Town of Ophir	Ophir	Colorado
Walter Rule	-	Ridgeway-Ouray Community Council	Ouray	Colorado
-	Administrator	Town of Ouray	Ouray	Colorado
Joe Croke	Mayor	Town of Rico	Rico	Colorado
-	Administrator	City of Rifle	Rifle	Colorado
-	Administrator	Town of Silt	Silt	Colorado
Liz Mullen	Assistant Executive Director	Northwest Colorado Council of Governments	Silverthorne	Colorado
-	Administrator	Town of Silverton	Silverton	Colorado
-	Administrator	Town of Telluride	Telluride	Colorado
Stan Holmes	City Manager	City of Wray	Wray	Colorado
Doug Sanderson	City Manager	City of Yuma	Yuma	Colorado
Pam Caskie	City Manager	City of Alliance	Alliance	Nebraska
Michelle Fries	City Clerk/Treasurer	City of Bayard	Bayard	Nebraska
Pat Gould	Chief	Chadron Volunteer Fire Department	Chadron	Nebraska
Donny Grantham	Mayor	City of Chadron	Chadron	Nebraska
-	Fire Chief	Crawford Volunteer Fire Department	Crawford	Nebraska
Eianne Born	Mayor	Village of Lodgepole	Lodgepole	Nebraska
Leonard Phillips	Chairman of the Board	Village of Mullen	Mullen	Nebraska
John Hihnke	Public Service Director	City of Sidney	Sidney	Nebraska
Bill Bischoff	Utilities Superintendant	Village of Wauneta	Wauneta	Nebraska
-	-	Manila Town Council	Manila	Utah
Charles Dickison	Mayor	Town of Manila	Manila	Utah
Laurie Womack	-	Roosevelt Public Library	Roosevelt	Utah
Dennis Jones	-	Town of Tabiona	Tabiona	Utah
Ken Bassett	-	Vernal City	Vernal	Utah
Bill Johnson	-	Uintah City - Vernal Economic Development	Vernal	Utah
County				
-	Administrator	Archuleta County	Pagosa Springs	Colorado
Clifford Lucero	Commissioner	Archuleta County	Pagosa Springs	Colorado
Bob Moomaw	Commissioner	Archuleta County	Pagosa Springs	Colorado
John Ranson	Commissioner	Archuleta County	Pagosa Springs	Colorado
-	Board of County Commissioners	Boulder County	Boulder	Colorado
-	Board of County Commissioners	Clear Creek County	Georgetown	Colorado
-	Administrator	Dolores County	Dove Creek	Colorado
-	Board of County Commissioners	Garfield County	Glenwood Springs	Colorado

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Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
-	Board of County Commissioners	Gilpin County	Central City	Colorado
-	Board of County Commissioners	Grand County	Hot Sulphur Springs	Colorado
Richard Bready[2]	Department of Natural Resources	Grand County	Granby	Colorado
Amy Sidner[2]	-	Grand County	Granby	Colorado
Laurie Vierheller	Administrator	Hinsdale County	Lake City	Colorado
-	Board of County Commissioners	Jackson County	Walden	Colorado
Kellie Hotter	Commissioner	LaPlata County	Durango	Colorado
Joelle Riddle	Commissioner	LaPlata County	Durango	Colorado
Wally White	Commissioner	LaPlata County	Durango	Colorado
-	Planning Director	LaPlata County	Durango	Colorado
Rod Cook	Weed Control	LaPlata County	Durango	Colorado
-	Board of County Commissioners	Larimer County	Fort Collins	Colorado
Dale Miller	Director, Larimer County Road and Bridge Department	Larimer County	Fort Collins	Colorado
Dennis Morton	Assistant Director, Larimer County Road and Bridge Department	Larimer County	Fort Collins	Colorado
Karl Kolisch	Commissioner	Mineral County	Creede	Colorado
Ashton Harrison	Administrator	Montezuma County	Cortez	Colorado
Clair Baldwin	Noxious Weed Control	Montrose County	Montrose	Colorado
Bob Wolford	Noxious Weed Control	Ouray County	Ouray	Colorado
Bill Norman	Administrator	San Juan County	Silverton	Colorado
Pete and Pat McKay	Commissioner	San Juan County	Silverton	Colorado
Sheila Grother	Noxious Weed Control	San Miguel County	Norwood	Colorado
Elaine Fischer	Commissioner	San Miguel County	Telluride	Colorado
Joan May	Commissioner	San Miguel County	Telluride	Colorado
Dave Schneck	Environmental Health	San Miguel County	Telluride	Colorado
-	Planning Department	San Miguel County	Telluride	Colorado
-	-	Sisson Library	Pagosa Springs	Colorado
Steve Hill	Special Projects Manager	Summit County	Breckenridge	Colorado
Brian Lorch	Open Space/Trails	Summit County	Frisco	Colorado
Bob French	County Commissioner	Summit County	Breckenridge	Colorado
Jim Curnutte	Planning Department	Summit County	Frisco	Colorado
Patti McGuire	Wildfire Mitigation Specialist	Summit County	Dillon	Colorado
Karl Dailey	Sheriff	Dawes County	Chadron	Nebraska
Becky Paulsen	Weed Superintendent	Dawes County	Chadron	Nebraska

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Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
-	Board of County Commissioners	Dawes County	Chadron	Nebraska
Stewart Leith	County Commission Chair	Daggett County	Manila	Utah
Brian Raymond	Daggett County Courthouse	Daggett County	Manila	Utah
Lynn Burton	Duchesne County Public Land Use Board	Duchesne County	Duchesne	Utah
Ronald Johnson	Weed Control Department	Duchesne County	Duchesne	Utah
Kirk Wood	Commissioner	Duchesne County	Duchesne	Utah
Ron Winterton	Commissioner	Duchesne County	Duchesne	Utah
-	Board of County Commissioners	Duchesne County	Duchesne	Utah
Irene Hansen	Economic Development	Duchesne County	Roosevelt	Utah
Randy Crozier	Water Conservation District	Duchesne County	Roosevelt	Utah
Harvey Shell	Fish and Game Association	Salt Lake County	Murray	Utah
-	Chairperson, Board of County Commissioners	Summit County	Coalville	Utah
Mark Raymond[1]	Commissioner	Uintah County	Vernal	Utah
Darlene Burns[1]	Commissioner	Uintah County	Vernal	Utah
Mike McKee[1]	Commissioner	Uintah County	Vernal	Utah
Mark Raymond	Commissioner	Uintah County	Vernal	Utah
-	Board of County Commissioners	Uintah County	Vernal	Utah
Irvin Haws and Scott Ruppe	Water Conservancy District	Uintah County	Vernal	Utah
Diane Coltharp	Uintah County Public Lands	Uintah County	Vernal	Utah
Drake Coltharp[2]	Uintah County Public Lands	Uintah County	Vernal	Utah
-	Chairperson, Board of County Commissioners	Utah County	Provo	Utah
Robert Riddle[1,2]	Board of County Commissioners	Wasatch County	Midway	Utah
Federal				
Michael Bodenchuk	-	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Wildlife Services	Salt Lake City	Utah
Ken Gruver	-	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Wildlife Services	Pueblo West	Colorado
-	Superintendent	Bureau of Indian Affairs	Towaoc	Colorado
-	Superintendent	Bureau of Indian Affairs	Fort Duchesne	Utah
-	Field Manager	Bureau of Land Management	Montrose	Colorado
-	Field Manager, San Juan Field Office	Bureau of Land Management	Durango	Colorado
Steve Bennett	Glenwood Springs Field Office	Bureau of Land Management	Glenwood Springs	Colorado

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Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
Mike Stiewig	Field Manager, Vernal Field Office	Bureau of Land Management	Vernal	Utah
Mark Mackiewicz	National Project Manager	Bureau of Land Management	Price	Utah
John Ruhs	Field Manager, Kremmling Field Office	Bureau of Land Management	Kremmling	Colorado
Howard Bailey	Safety and Security Specialist, Eastern Colorado Area Office	Bureau of Reclamation	Loveland	Colorado
Jerry Westbrook	-	Bureau of Reclamation	Loveland	Colorado
Michael Francis	-	Bureau of Reclamation	Durango	Colorado
Alan Christensen	-	Bureau of Reclamation	Provo	Utah
David Krueger	-	Bureau of Reclamation	Provo	Utah
Dave Trueman	Director	Bureau of Reclamation	Salt Lake City	Utah
Beverley Heffernan	Environmental Protection - Provo Area Office PRO-770	Bureau of Reclamation	Provo	Utah
-	Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission	Bureau of Reclamation	Salt Lake City	Utah
Reed Murray	Central Utah Project Completion Act Office	Bureau of Reclamation	Provo	Utah
Joe Cothern	National Environmental Policy Act Coordination Team Leader	Environmental Protection Agency	Kansas City	Kansas
Dana Allen	Department of Energy Reviewer	Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8	Denver	Colorado
Cindy Cody	Chief, National Environmental Policy Act Team	Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8	Denver	Colorado
Larry Svoboda	National Environmental Policy Act Director	Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8	Denver	Colorado
-	Wetland Coordinator	Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8	Denver	Colorado
Jim Dunn[2]	-	Forest Service	Delta	Colorado
Allan Loy	Mesa Verde National Park	National Park Service	Mesa Verde	Colorado
George SanMiguel	Mesa Verde National Park	National Park Service	Mesa Verde	Colorado
Marilyn Collier	Natural Resources, Mesa Verde National Park	National Park Service	Mesa Verde	Colorado
Mary Risser	-	National Park Service	Dinosaur	Colorado
-	-	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Montrose	Colorado
Robin Foulk	-	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Chadron	Nebraska
Mike Rich	-	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Cortez	Colorado
Sterling Moss	-	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Durango	Colorado

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Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
Randall Julander	-	Natural Resources Conservation Service-Snow Survey	Salt Lake City	Utah
Leslie Jones	-	Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning	Montrose	Colorado
Robert Heinrich	Contracting Officer	Schriever Air Force Base	Schriever	Colorado
Tom Rokita	Contract Administrator, Air Force Academy	U.S. Air Force	USAF Academy	Colorado
Vince Guthrie	Utility Programs Manager, CEM, Director of Public Works, Fort Carson	U.S. Army	Colorado Springs	Colorado
Paul Helgar	Management Analyst, Pueblo Army Deport	U.S. Army	Pueblo	Colorado
Travis Morse[1]	Regulatory Project Manager	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Grand Junction	Colorado
Jason Gipson	Utah Regulatory Office	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Bountiful	Utah
Nathan Green	Colorado/Gunnison Basin Office	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Grand Junction	Colorado
Nicholas Mezei	Colorado/Gunnison Basin Office	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Grand Junction	Colorado
Amy DeFreese	Sacramento District	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Bountiful	Utah
Robert Stewart	Regional Environmental Office	U.S. Department of the Interior	Denver	Colorado
Mark Plank	Rural Utilities Service	U.S. Department of the Interior	Washington	DC
Ralph Swanson	-	U.S. Department of the Interior	Provo	Utah
Susan Linner	State Supervisor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Denver	Colorado
Kurt Broderdorp[2]	-	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Grand Junction	Colorado
Larry Crist	Utah Field Supervisor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	West Valley City	Utah
Dave Irving	-	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Vernal	Utah
Al Pfister	Ecological Services	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Grand Junction	Colorado
Dave Grey	Conservation Division	U.S. Geological Survey	Durango	Colorado
Media				
Dale Rodebaugh	-	Durango Herald	Durango	Colorado
Ed and Betsy Marston	-	High Country News	Paonia	Colorado
-	Station Manager	KCSR	Chadron	Nebraska
John Axtell	-	KQSK	Chadron	Nebraska
John Hollenhorst	-	KSL-TV CHANNEL 5	Salt Lake City	Utah
-	-	KVEL	Vernal	Utah
Russell Smyth	-	Montrose Daily Press	Montrose	Colorado
-	News Editor	Pagosa Sun	Pagosa Springs	Colorado
Brent Israelson	-	Salt Lake Tribune	Salt Lake City	Utah
Drew Ross	-	Sports Guide	Salt Lake City	Utah
George Ledbetter	-	The Chadron Record	Chadron	Nebraska

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Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
-	Editor	The Crawford Clipper	Crawford	Nebraska
Lezlee Whiting	-	Uintah Basin Standard	Roosevelt	Utah
Dave Anderton	-	Wasatch Wave	Heber City	Utah
State				
Cary Carron	-	Colorado Division of Wildlife	Bayfield	Colorado
Jared Polis	Representative	-	Boulder	Colorado
Shannon Schwab	District Wildlife Manager	Colorado Division of Wildlife	Breckenridge	Colorado
-	-	Colorado Division of Water Resources	Cortez	Colorado
Brian Kurzel	-	Colorado Natural Areas Program	Denver	Colorado
Dan Corson	-	Colorado State Historic Preservation Office	Denver	Colorado
Jim Martin	-	Colorado Department of Natural Resources	Denver	Colorado
Shina duVall	-	Office of Architecture and Historic Preservation	Denver	Colorado
Susan Collins	State Archaeologist	Office of Architecture and Historic Preservation	Denver	Colorado
Michael Bennet	Senator	-	Denver	Colorado
Mark Udall	Senator	-	Denver	Colorado
Celia Greenman[2]	-	Colorado Division of Wildlife	Denver	Colorado
Scott Tipton	Representative	Member Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Dan Gibbs	Senator	Member Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Dickey Lee Hullinghorst	Representative	Member Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Edward Vigil	Representative	Member Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Ken Kester	Senator	Member Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Gail Schwartz	Senator	Member Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Cory Gardner	Representative	Member Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Greg Brophy	Senator	Member Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Jerry Sonnenberg	Representative	Member Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado

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Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
Judy Solano	Representative	Member Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Marsha Looper	Representative	Member Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Mary Hodge	Senator	Vice-Chair of Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Randy Baumgardner	Representative	Member Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Randy Fischer	Representative	Vice-Chair Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Kathleen Curry	Representative	Chair of Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Sal Pace	Representative	Member Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Su Ryden	Representative	Member Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Ted Harvey	Senator	Member Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Wes McKinley	Representative	Member Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee	Denver	Colorado
Chris Kloster	-	Colorado Division of Wildlife	Durango	Colorado
Dan Wand	-	Colorado State Forest Service	Durango	Colorado
Drayton Harrison	-	Colorado Division of Wildlife	Durango	Colorado
Ellen Roberts	Representative	-	Durango	Colorado
Joe Lewandowski	-	Colorado Division of Wildlife	Durango	Colorado
Patt Dorsey	Area Manager	Colorado Division of Wildlife	Durango	Colorado
Scott Wait	-	Colorado Division of Wildlife	Durango	Colorado
Tom Spezze	Regional Manager	Colorado Division of Wildlife, SW Regional Office	Durango	Colorado
Tony Cady	-	Colorado Department of Transportation	Durango	Colorado
Wayne Allard	Representative	Attn: Courtney Staatz	Englewood	Colorado
Betsy Markey	Representative	-	Fort Collins	Colorado
Dr. Bill Romme	-	Colorado State University – FRWS Department	Fort Collins	Colorado
-	Area Manager	Colorado Division of Wildlife	Glenwood Springs	Colorado
Ron Cousineau	District Forester	Colorado State Forest Service	Granby	Colorado

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Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
Ron Velarde	North West Service Center	Colorado Division of Wildlife	Grand Junction	Colorado
Michael Warren[1, 2]	Land Use Specialist	Colorado Division of Wildlife	Grand Junction	Colorado
Lyle Sidener	Area Wildlife Manager	Colorado Division of Wildlife	Hot Sulphur Springs	Colorado
Dan Gibbs	Congressman	-	Minturn	Colorado
-	-	Colorado Division of Wildlife	Montrose	Colorado
Peter Barth	-	Colorado State Forest Service	Montrose	Colorado
Mike Reid	-	Colorado Division of Wildlife	Pagosa Springs	Colorado
Peggy Lyon	-	Colorado National Heritage Program	Ridgway	Colorado
Tom Kroening	District Wildlife Manager	Colorado Division of Wildlife	Silverthorne	Colorado
Kent Grant	-	Colorado State Forest Service	Durango	Colorado
Jim Matheson	Representative	-	Washington	DC
Dave Tinnamon	Superintendent	Chadron State Park	Chadron	Nebraska
-	-	Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality	Chadron	Nebraska
-	-	Nebraska State Forest Service	Chadron	Nebraska
-	-	Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District	Chadron	Nebraska
-	-	Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District	Chadron	Nebraska
-	-	Fort Robinson State Park	Crawford	Nebraska
Hugh Stirts	Small Business Public Assistant/ National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator	Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality	Lincoln	Nebraska
Ben Nelson	Senator	-	Scottsbluff	Nebraska
Mike Johanns	Senator	-	Scottsbluff	Nebraska
Adrian Smith	Congressman	-	Scottsbluff	Nebraska
Robert Riddle	-	Wasatch County Commissioners	Heber City	Utah
Rob Bishop	Representative	-	Ogden	Utah
Tracy Conti	-	Utah Department of Transportation	Orem	Utah
Orrin Hatch	Senator	-	Provo	Utah
Christopher Cannon	Representative	-	Provo	Utah
Gordon Snow	Representative	-	Roosevelt	Utah
-	-	Dinosaurland Resource Conservation and Development	Roosevelt	Utah
Judy Edwards	-	Public Lands Policy Analyst	Salt Lake City	Utah
Carolyn Wright	-	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Salt Lake City	Utah
Jim Matheson	Congressman	-	Salt Lake City	Utah

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Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
Tom Faddies	-	State of Utah Trust Lands Administration	Salt Lake City	Utah
Scott Robertson	-	State of Utah Trust Lands Administration	Salt Lake City	Utah
David Terry	-	State of Utah Trust Lands Administration	Salt Lake City	Utah
-	Executive Director	Utah Dept of Natural Resources	Salt Lake City	Utah
Kate Johnson	-	Utah Division of Drinking Water	Salt Lake City	Utah
Shelly Quick	-	Utah Division of Water Quality	Salt Lake City	Utah
Todd Adams	-	Utah Division of Water Resources	Salt Lake City	Utah
Kelly Beck	Office of the Governor of Utah	Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinator	Salt Lake City	Utah
Jerry Olds	-	Utah State Department of Natural Resources	Salt Lake City	Utah
Jim Dykman	-	Utah State Historic Preservation Office	Salt Lake City	Utah
Charles VanGenderen	-	Utah State Parks and Recreation	Salt Lake City	Utah
Robert Bennett	Senator	-	Salt Lake City	Utah
Gerald Gordon	-	Utah Wildlife Federation	Tooele	Utah
Kevin Christopherson	-	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Vernal	Utah
Bob Leake	-	State of Utah Division of Water Rights	Vernal	Utah
		Organizations		
Larry Zauberis and Sandy Young	-	4 Corners Backcountry Horsemen	Durango	Colorado
Karen and Ottie Otterstein	-	4 Corners Backcountry Horsemen	Bayfield	Colorado
Buck Skillen and Trish Pegram	-	5 Rivers Chapter Trout Unlimited	Durango	Colorado
-	-	American Rivers	Washington	DC
Megan Corrigan	-	Ancient Forest Rescue	San Luis	Colorado
Bill Coon	-	Backcountry Horsemen of America/Utah	Herriman	Utah
-	-	Bat Conservation International	Austin	Texas
Joanie Berde	-	Carson Forest Watch	Llano	New Mexico
Josh Pollock[1]	Conservation Director	Center for Native Ecosystems	Denver	Colorado
Adam Mehlberg	-	Colorado Association of 4x4 Clubs Inc.	Longmont	Colorado
Tom Sykes	-	Colorado Backcountry Hunters/Anglers	Cortez	Colorado

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Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
Brice Lee	Executive Director	Colorado Cattlemen's Association	Hesperus	Colorado
-	-	Colorado Environmental Coalition	Denver	Colorado
Ken Beegles	-	Colorado Mountain Club	Durango	Colorado
-	-	Colorado Mountain Club	Golden	Colorado
Bob Powell	-	Colorado Native Plant Society	Durango	Colorado
-	Executive Director	Colorado Trail Foundation	Golden	Colorado
Ted and Pat LaMay	-	Colorado Trail Foundation	Durango	Colorado
Doug Flowers	-	Colorado Trail Riders	Montrose	Colorado
David Nickum	-	Colorado Trout Unlimited	Boulder	Colorado
Jeff Berman and Ryan Bidwell	-	Colorado Wild	Durango	Colorado
Rocky Smith[1, 2]	Forest Watch Program Director	Colorado Wild	Denver	Colorado
Diane Gansauer	Executive Director	Colorado Wildlife Federation	Lakewood	Colorado
James Wolf	Director	Continental Divide Trail Society	Baltimore	Maryland
Bill Harris	-	COPMOBA	Montrose	Colorado
Sarada Krishnan	-	Denver Botanic Gardens	Denver	Colorado
Joe Lube	-	Dinaland Snowmobile Club	Vernal	Utah
Richard Millett	-	Dinosaur Nature Association	Vernal	Utah
Doug Pflugh	-	Earthjustice	Denver	Colorado
Matt Garrington	-	Environment Colorado	Denver	Colorado
Bob Yates	-	Four Corners Trail Club	Cortez	Colorado
Currie Craven	-	Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness	Breckenridge	Colorado
James Johnston	Policy Analyst	Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics	Eugene	Oregon
Rose Chilcoat	-	Great Old Broads for Wilderness	Durango	Colorado
Veronica Egan[1]	Executive Director	Great Old Broads for Wilderness	Durango	Colorado
Sandy Shea	-	High Country Citizen's Alliance	Crested Butte	Colorado
Margaret Pettis	-	High Uintas Preservation	Hyrum	Utah
David Jorgensen	-	High Uintas Preservation Council	Salt Lake City	Utah
Dick Carter	-	High Uintas Preservation Council	Hyrum	Utah
Connie Bullis	-	High Uintas Preservation Council	Park City	Utah
Rich Arnice	-	High Uintas Preservation Council	Draper	Utah
Tom Troxel	Director	Intermountain Forest Association	Rapid City	South Dakota

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Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
Freda Milsap	-	Lariat Saddle Club	Montrose	Colorado
Susan Horner and Stever Trobit	-	National Wildlife Federation	Boulder	Colorado
Ben West	-	Natural Resources Defense Council	Washington	DC
Bruce McIntosh	-	NW Nebraska Natural Resources Council	Chadron	Nebraska
Gwen Lachelt	-	OGAP	Durango	Colorado
-	-	Ouray Elks Club	Ouray	Colorado
Gale Rasmussen	-	People for the West	Vernal	Utah
Ted Winkelman	-	Pine Ridge Cycle Association	Crawford	Nebraska
John and Theresa Haynes	-	Plains Quarter Horse Association	Chadron	Nebraska
Ginger Stringham	-	Public Lands	Vernal	Utah
-	Chairperson	Public Lands Committee	Vernal	Utah
Tom Sobal[1]	Coordinator	Quiet Use Coalition	Salida	Colorado
Arvind Panjabi	-	Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory	Fort Collins	Colorado
David Hanni	-	Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory	Fort Collins	Colorado
John Rice	-	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	Durango	Colorado
Virginia Petersen	-	Rocky Mountain Ecosystems Defense	Republic	Washington
-	-	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	Montrose	Colorado
Jimbo Buickerood	-	San Juan Citizens Alliance	Durango	Colorado
Amber Kelley	-	San Juan Citizens Alliance	Cortez	Colorado
J.R. Ford	-	San Juan Wise-Use Alliance	Pagosa Springs	Colorado
Christine Canaly[1]	Director	San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council	Alamosa	Colorado
Joan May and Hilary White	-	Sheep Mountain Alliance	Telluride	Colorado
Kirk Cunningham[1]	Conservation Chair, Rocky Mountain Chapter	Sierra Club	Boulder	Colorado
Lissa Ray and Harold Riegle, Jr.	-	Sierra Club	Durango	Colorado
Frank Chase	Ogden Group	Sierra Club	Roy	Utah
Mark Clemens	Salt Lake City Group	Sierra Club	Salt Lake City	Utah
Merlin Walker	-	Snowmobile/ATV Club	Vernal	Utah
Shane Jimerfield	-	Southwest Center for Bio Diversity	Tucson	Arizona
Sandy Briggs	-	Summit MPB Taskforce	Frisco	Colorado
Pam Suckla	-	SW Livestock Association	Egnar	Colorado

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Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
Jenny McCargo	-	Telluride Nordic Association	Telluride	Colorado
Tom Craddock and John Duncan	-	Telluride Outside	Telluride	Colorado
Joan Degiorgio	-	The Nature Conservancy	Salt Lake City	Utah
Butch Ellis	-	The Nature Conservancy	Chadron	Nebraska
Joshua Hicks	-	The Wilderness Society	Denver	Colorado
Joel Webster	-	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	Missoula	Montana
Roy Hood	-	Trail Ridge Runners	Longmont	Colorado
Mary Monroe	-	Trails 2000	Durango	Colorado
David Vackar	-	Trout Unlimited	Dolores	Colorado
David Petersen	-	Trout Unlimited	Durango	Colorado
Ty Churchwell	-	Trout Unlimited	Durango	Colorado
Paul Dremann	-	Trout Unlimited	Salt Lake City	Utah
Ken Nuebecker	-	Trout Unlimited	Carbondale	Colorado
Eric Love	-	Trust for Public Lands, Southwest Regional Office	Santa Fe	New Mexico
Laurie Brummond	-	UBAOG	Roosevelt	Utah
Chad Hamblin	-	Uintah Mountain Club	Roosevelt	Utah
Gary Mott	-	Uintah Mountain Club	Vernal	Utah
Scott Kenton	-	Uncompahgre Valley Association	Montrose	Colorado
-	-	Uncompahgre Valley Trail Riders	Montrose	Colorado
Brent Tanner	-	Utah Cattlemen's Association	Salt Lake City	Utah
Kevin Mueller	-	Utah Environmental Congress	Salt Lake City	Utah
Brian Hawthorn and Mike Swenson	-	Utah Shared Access Alliance	Provo	Utah
Curt Kennedy	-	Utah Snowmobile Association	Salt Lake City	Utah
Don Fulton	-	West Divide Cattle Growers Association	Silt	Colorado
Robin Nicholoff	-	West Slope Environmental Resource Council	Hotchkiss	Colorado
Heather Tischbein	Executive Director	Western Colorado Congress	Grand Junction	Colorado
-	-	Western Colorado Congress	Montrose	Colorado
Ron Baird	-	Western Native Trout Campaign	Boulder	Colorado
-	-	Western Resource Advocates	Salt Lake City	Utah
Steve Chapel[1, 2]	-	Western Slope ATV Association	Grand Junction	Colorado
-	-	Western Slope Environmental Council	Paonia	Colorado
Jean Smith[1]	Director	Wild Connections	Florissant	Colorado
-	Public Lands Director	Wild Earth Guardians	Santa Fe	New Mexico
Bryan Bird	-	Wild Earth Guardians	Santa Fe	New Mexico

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Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
Sam Hitt	-	Wild Watershed	Santa Fe	New Mexico
Suzanne Jones and Tom Fry	-	Wilderness Society	Denver	Colorado
Utility				
Leslie James	Executive Director	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association	Tempe	Arizona
Jerry Forte	CEO	Colorado Springs Utilities	Colorado Springs	Colorado
Soren Sorensen	Senior Vice President	Deseret Generation and Transmission Cooperative	South Jordan	Utah
Jack Broughton	General Manager	Grand Valley Rural Power Lines, Inc.	Grand Junction	Colorado
Kent Benham	General Manager	Holy Cross Energy	Glenwood Springs	Colorado
Jeff Franke[2]	-	Holy Cross Energy	Glenwood Springs	Colorado
Stanley Lewandowski, Jr.	General Manager	Intermountain Rural Electric Association	Sedalia	Colorado
Larry Call	-	L.O. Bunde	Lafayette	Colorado
Rick Rigel	Superintendent	Lamar Utilities Board	Lamar	Colorado
-	-	LaPlata Electric Association	Durango	Colorado
William Leung	President	Loveland Area Customer Association, c/o Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.	Lamar	Colorado
Thomas Graves[2]	Executive Director	Mid-West Electric Consumers Association	Wheat Ridge	Colorado
K. Winder	-	Moon Lake Electric Association	Roosevelt	Utah
Gary Stauffer	Executive Director	Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska	Lincoln	Nebraska
-	-	Nebraska Public Power District	Chadron	Nebraska
Ed Wagner	Vice-President, Customer Service	Nebraska Public Power District	Columbus	Nebraska
Brian Moeck	General Manager	Platte River Power Authority	Fort Collins	Colorado
Sonia Graige	-	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association	Westminster	Colorado
Diana Leiker	Environmental Planner	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association	Westminster	Colorado
Karl Myers	Transmission Environmental Planner	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association	Westminster	Colorado
Ken Anderson	Executive Vice President and General Manager	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association	Denver	Colorado
Martin Rehm	-	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association	Denver	Colorado
Ron Steinbach[2]	-	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association	-	-

Table B-1. Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Management Reauthorization Project Notification List

Name	Title	Company/Affiliation	City	State
Bill DePue[2]	-	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association	Durango	Colorado
Marshall Empey	Planning Manager	Utah Associated Municipal Power System	Salt Lake City	Utah
Sally Edwards	Forest Service Liaison	Xcel Energy	Silverthorne	Colorado
Keary Hallack[2]	-	Xcel Energy	Denver	Colorado
Gerry Stellern	Operations Coordinator	Xcel Energy	Golden	Colorado
Larry Covillo	President and General Manager	Yampa Valley Electric Association	Steamboat Springs	Colorado

[1]Submitted comments during the scoping period.
[2]Attended scoping meeting.

Tribal Consultation Contact Letter and Distribution List

Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80539-3003

MAR 2 6 2010

See distribution list

Dear :

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) invites your Tribe's participation in the Transmission Line Maintenance and Vegetation Management Project on US Forest Service managed lands in the states of Colorado, Utah and Nebraska. Western is an agency in the U.S. Department of Energy. Western and the Forest Service are joint lead agencies on the environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Western is the lead on Tribal Consultation and compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and other cultural resource protection regulations. Project maps are on the Web site given below.

Western invites the Tribe's participation in project review and consultation under the NHPA and NEPA. Western wants to ensure that properties of religious and cultural significance for your Tribe are considered and addressed in the EIS and NHPA consultations. We would appreciate receiving information that you are willing to share with us on special ethnographic or archaeological resources in or near the proposed Project. Preparation of the EIS will proceed over the next 12 months in a multi-step process that will include publication of the Draft EIS, the Final EIS, and Records of Decision (ROD). The expected date of Western's ROD is March of 2011. If the Tribe would like to be a cooperating agency in the EIS please let us know. If you are aware of other Tribes, individuals, or tribally affiliated organizations that should be consulted regarding this Project, please let us know. A list of other Tribes and individuals receiving this letter is enclosed.

Western is seeking amended or new authorizations from the Forest Service for maintenance of its existing high voltage transmission lines on Forest Service lands. Western proposes changes in the way it manages vegetation on its existing transmission line rights-of-ways on Forest Service lands. 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 Pike-San Isabel. The project also includes the Nebraska National Forest in western Nebraska and the Ashley National Forest in northeastern Utah. Western maintains a total of approximately 280 miles of rights-of-way (ROW) in these forests. The widths of the transmission line ROW vary with the voltage of the

line and typically range from 75 feet to 175 feet. The EIS will evaluate impacts on a variety of environmental resources that may occur along the existing rights-of-way. The EIS will include design criteria and other actions to avoid or minimize impacts. The EIS will also present the results of compliance with other environmental regulations including the Endangered Species Act, NHPA, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and others.

As Western and the Forest Service progress through the environmental review, information will be posted on Western's Web site at http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/Western-FS-EIS.htm. The project e-mail address is western-fs-eis@wapa.gov. The EIS scoping period ends May 26, 2010. Public scoping meetings will be held on the following dates:

Thursday, April 22, 2010, 3 to 7 p.m. Ramada Plaza Denver North, 10 East 120th Avenue, Denver, CO 80223.

Friday, April 23, 2010, 3 to 7 p.m. Museum of Western Colorado, Whitman Educational Center, 248 South 4th (4th and Ute), Grand Junction, CO 81501.

Monday, April 26, 2010, 3 to 7 p.m. Uintah Basin Applied Technology College, 450 North 2000 West, Vernal, UT 84078.

If you would like to meet with Western to discuss the Project, have questions, or require additional information, please contact Mr. Steve Tromly at the address below:

Mr. Steve Tromly
Native American Liaison
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 3700
Lakewood, CO 80539
720-962-7256
tromly@wapa.gov

Sincerely,

James Hartman
Environmental Manager

Enclosure

cc: (w/ enclosure)

Bcc: (w/ enclosure)
Mr. David Loomis
Regional Environmental Planner
U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region
740 Simms St., Golden, CO 80401

Mr. Ian Ritchie
Archaeologist
Douglas Ranger District
2250 E. Richards St.
Douglas, WY 82633

R. Rodgers, A7400, Lakewood, CO
S. Tromly, A7400, Lakewood, CO
J0400

J0400:J.Hartman:pcp:x7450:03/23/10:N:\J0400\Draft Tribal consultation letter 5March2010.docx

Tribe	Title	First Name	Last Name	Position	Tribe Mailing Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Chairman	Alonzo	Chalepah		Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	P.O. Box 1220	Anadarko	OK	73005
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Vice Chairman	Mary	Printiss		Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	P.O. Box 1220	Anadarko	OK	73005
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma	Governor	Janice	Prairie Chief-Boswell		Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma	P.O. Box 38	Concho	OK	73022
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma	Mr.	Bill	Hamilton	Director, Cultural Heritage Program	Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma	200 Wolf Robe Circle	Concho	OK	73022
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	Chairman	Joseph	Brings Plenty, Sr.	Chairman	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	P.O. Box 590	Eagle Butte	SD	57625
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	Mr.	Dana Q.	Dupris	Acting THPO until January 2010 & Assistant to Repatriation Coordinator	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	P.O. Box 590	Eagle Butte	SD	57625
Comanche Nation of Oklahoma	Chairman	Michael	Burgess	Comanche Tribal Business Committee	Comanche Nation of Oklahoma	P.O. Box 908	Lawton	OK	73502
Comanche Nation of Oklahoma	Mr.	Jimmy	Arterberry	NAGPRA Director and THPO Officer	Comanche Nation of Oklahoma	#6 D Avenue, Suite A	Lawton	OK	73507
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe	Chairman	Brandon	Sazue, Sr.		Crow Creek Sioux Tribe	P.O. Box 50	Fort Thompson	SD	57339
Eastern Shoshone	Chairman	Ivan	Posey	Shoshone Business Council	Eastern Shoshone Tribe	P.O. Box 538	Ft. Washakie	WY	82514
Eastern Shoshone	Mr.	Arlen	Shoyo	THPO	Eastern Shoshone Tribe	P.O. Box 1008	Ft. Washakie	WY	82514
Fort Peck Assiniboine Sioux Tribe	Chairman	AT Rusty	Stafine		Fort Peck Assiniboine Sioux	P.O. Box 1027	Poplar	MT	59255
Fort Peck Assiniboine Sioux Tribe	Mr.	Darrell	Youpee	Director, Cultural Resources Department	Fort Peck Assiniboine Sioux	P.O. Box 1027	Poplar	MT	59255
Hopi Tribe	Chairman	LeRoy	Shingoitewa		The Hopi Tribe	P.O. Box 123	Kykotsmovi	AZ	86039
Hopi Tribe	Mr.	Leigh	Kuwanwisiwma	Director, Hopi Cultural Preservation Office	The Hopi Tribe	P.O. Box 123	Kykotsmovi	AZ	86039

Tribe	Title	First Name	Last Name	Position	Tribe Mailing Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Jicarilla Apache Nation	President	Levi	Pesata	Jicarilla Apache Tribal Council	Jicarilla Apache Nation	P.O. Box 507	Dulce	NM	87528
Jicarilla Apache Nation	Mr.	Bryan	Vigil	Acting Director, Office of Cultural Affairs	Jicarilla Apache Nation	P.O. Box 507	Dulce	NM	87528
Jicarilla Apache Nation	Dr.	Jeffrey	Blythe	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Jicarilla Apache Tribe	P.O.Box 507	Dulce	NM	87528
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma	Chairman	Donnie	Tofpi	Kiowa Business Committee	Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma	P.O. Box 369	Carnegie	OK	73015
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma	Mr.	Dewey	Tsonetokoy	NAGPRA Officer	Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma	P.O. Box 369	Carnegie	OK	73015
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe	Chairman	Michael	Jandreau		Lower Brule Sioux Tribe	P.O. Box 187	Lower Brule	SD	57548
Navajo Nation	President	Joe	Shirley		Navajo Nation	P.O. Box 9000	Window Rock	AZ	86515
Navajo Nation	Dr.	Alan S.	Downer	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department	P.O. Box 4950	Window Rock	AZ	86515
Northern Arapaho Tribe	Chairman	Harvey	Spoonhunter	Northern Arapaho Business Council	Northern Arapaho Tribe	P.O. Box 396	Ft. Washakie	WY	82514
Northern Arapaho Tribe	Ms.	Darlene	Conrad	THPO	Northern Arapaho Tribe	P.O. Box 396	Ft. Washakie	WY	82514
Northern Arapaho Tribe	Mr.	Robert	Goggles	Language and Culture Comission	Northern Arapaho Tribe	328 Seventeen Mile Road	Arapaho	WY	82510
Northern Arapaho Tribe	Mr.	William	C'Hair	Language and Culture Commission	Northern Arapaho Tribe	P.O. Box 9184	Arapaho	WY	82510
Northern Cheyenne Tribe	President	Leroy	Spang	Tribal Council	Northern Cheyenne Tribe	P.O. Box 128	Lame Deer	MT	59043
Northern Cheyenne Tribe	Mr.	Linwood	Tall Bull	THPO	Northern Cheyenne Tribe	P.O. BoxX 128	Lame Deer	MT	59043
Northern Cheyenne Tribe	Mr.	Joe	Fox Jr.	Tribal Council	Northern Cheyenne Tribe	P.O. Box 128	Lame Deer	MT	59043
Oglala Sioux Tribe	President	Theresa	Twobulls	Oglala Sioux Tribal Council	Oglala Sioux Tribe	P.O. Box 320	Pine Ridge	SD	57770
Oglala Sioux Tribe	Mr.	Michael	Catches Enemy	Director, Natural Resources Office	Oglala Sioux Tribe	P.O. Box 320	Pine Ridge	SD	57770

Tribe	Title	First Name	Last Name	Position	Tribe Mailing Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Ohkay Owingeh (Pueblo of San Juan)	Governor	Marcelino	Aquino		Ohkay Owingeh	P.O. Box 1099	San Juan	NM	87566
Ohkay Owingeh (Pueblo of San Juan)	Mr.	Larry	Phillips	NAGPRA Representative	Ohkay Owingeh	P.O. Box 1532	San Juan	NM	87566
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma	President	George	Howell		Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma	881 Little Dee Drive	Pawnee	OK	74058
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma	Ms.	Alice	Alexander	THPO & Assistant to Repatriation Coordinator	Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma	P.O. Box 470	Pawnee	OK	74058
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma	Mr.	George E.	Howell	President	Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma	P.O. Box 470	Pawnee	OK	74058
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma	Ms.	Alice	Alexander	THPO	Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma	P.O. Box 470	Pawnee	OK	74058
Pueblo de Cochiti	Governor	Vernon	Garcia		Pueblo de Cochiti	P.O. Box 70	Cochiti	NM	87072
Pueblo de Cochiti	Mr.	Gilbert	Herrera	NAGPRA Representative	Pueblo de Cochiti	P.O. Box 70	Cochiti	NM	87072
Pueblo de Cochiti	Mr.	Lee	Suina	NAGPRA Representative	Pueblo de Cochiti	P.O. Box 70	Cochiti	NM	87072
Pueblo of Acoma	Governor	Chandler	Sanchez	Pueblo of Acoma		P.O. Box 309	Pueblo of Acoma	NM	87034
Pueblo of Acoma	Ms.	Teresa	Pasqual	Director, Historic Preservation Office	Pueblo of Acoma	P.O. Box 309	Pueblo of Acoma	NM	87034
Pueblo of Isleta	Governor	Robert	Benavides		Pueblo of Isleta	P.O. Box 1270	Isleta	NM	87022
Pueblo of Isleta	Mr.	Valentino	Jaramillo	Cultural Affairs Committee	Pueblo of Isleta	P.O. Box 1270	Isleta	NM	87022
Pueblo of Jemez	Governor	Joshua	Madelena		Pueblo of Jemez	P.O. Box 100	Jemez Pueblo	NM	87024
Pueblo of Jemez	Mr.	Christopher	Toya	Traditional Cultural Properties Project Manager	Pueblo of Jemez	P.O. Box 100	Jemez Pueblo	NM	87024

Tribe	Title	First Name	Last Name	Position	Tribe Mailing Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Pueblo of Laguna	Governor	John	Antonio, Sr.		Pueblo of Laguna	P.O. Box 194	Laguna	NM	87026
Pueblo of Laguna	Mr.	Robert	Mooney	Administrator	Pueblo of Laguna	P.O. Box 194	Laguna	NM	87026
Pueblo of Nambe	Governor	Ernest	Mirabal		Pueblo of Nambe	Route 1, Box 117-BB	Santa Fe	NM	87506
Pueblo of Picuris	Governor	Manuel	Archuleta		Pueblo of Picuris	P.O. Box 127	Penasco	NM	87553
Pueblo of Picuris	Mr.	Richard	Mermejo	NAGPA Representative	Pueble of Picuris	P.O. Box 127	Penasco	NM	87553
Pueblo of Pojoaque	Governor	George	Rivera		Pueblo of Pojoaque	78 Cities of Gold Road	Santa Fe	NM	87506
Pueblo of Pojoaque	Ms.	Nadine	Ulibarri	NAGPRA Representative Poeh Museum and Cultural Center		78 Cities of Gold Road	Santa Fe	NM	87506
Pueblo of San Felipe	Governor	Feliciano	Candelaria		Pueblo of San Felipe	P.O. Box 4339	San Felipe Pueblo	NM	87001
Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Governor	Perry	Martinez		Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Route 5, Box 315-A	Santa Fe	NM	87506
Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Mr.	Brian	Montoya	Second Lieutenant Governor/Director of Natural Resources	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Route 5, Box 315-A	Santa Fe	NM	87506
Pueblo of Sandia	Governor	Joe M.	Lujan		Pueblo of Sandia	481 Sandia Loop	Bernalillo	NM	87004
Pueblo of Sandia	Mr.	Sam	Montoya	NAGPRA Contact	Pueblo of Sandia	Box 6080	Bernalillo	NM	87004

Tribe	Title	First Name	Last Name	Position	Tribe Mailing Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Pueblo of Santa Ana	Governor	Bruce	Sanchez		Pueblo of Santa Ana	Two Dove Road	Bernalillo	NM	87004
Pueblo of Santa Ana	Mr.	Ben	Robbins	Tribal Resource Administrator	Pueblo of Santa Ana	Two Dove Road	Santa Ana Pueblo	NM	87004
Pueblo of Santa Clara	Governor	Walter	Dasheno		Pueblo of Santa Clara	P.O. Box 580	Espanola	NM	87532
Pueblo of Santa Clara	Mr.	Ben	Chavarria	NAGPRA Contact	Pueblo of Santa Clara	P.O. Box 580	Espanola	NM	87532
Pueblo of Santo Domingo	Governor	Tony	Tortalita		Pueblo of Santo Domingo	P.O. Box 99	Santo Domingo Pueblo	NM	87052
Pueblo of Taos	Governor	James	Lujan, Sr.		Pueblo of Taos	P.O. Box 1846	Taos	NM	87571
Pueblo of Taos	Mr.	Donovan	Gomez	Tribal Administrator	Pueblo of Taos	P.O. Box 1846	Taos	NM	87571
Pueblo of Tesuque	Governor	Frederick	Vigil		Tesuque Pueblo	Route 42, Box 360-T	Santa Fe	NM	87506
Pueblo of Tesuque	Mr.	Mark	Mitchell	Director of Cultural Preservation	Tesuque Pueblo	Route 42, Box 360-T	Santa Fe	NM	87506
Pueblo of Zia	Governor	Marcellus	Medina		Pueblo of Zia	135 Capitol Square Drive	Zia Pueblo	NM	87053
Pueblo of Zia	Mr.	Peter	Pino	NAGPRA Contact/Tribal Administrator	Pueblo of Zia	135 Capitol Square Drive	Zia Pueblo	NM	87053
Rosebud Sioux Tribe	President	Rodney	Bordeaux		Rosebud Sioux Tribe	P.O. Box 430	Rosebud	SD	57570
Rosebud Sioux Tribe	Mr.	Terry	Gray	NAGPRA Coordinator, Rosebud Sioux Tribe	SGU Heritage center	Box 675	Mission	SD	57555

Tribe	Title	First Name	Last Name	Position	Tribe Mailing Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska	Chairman	Roger	Trudell		Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska	425 Frazier Avenue N, Suite 2	Niobrara	NE	68760
Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska	Ms.	Thelma	Thomas	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska	108 Spirit Lake Avenue West	Niobrara	NE	68760
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes	Chairman	Alonzo	Coby	Fort Hall Business Council	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes	P.O. Box 306	Fort Hall	ID	83203
Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Mr.	Matthew	Box	Chairman	Southern Ute Indian Tribe	P.O. Box 737	Ignacio	CO	81137
Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Mr.	Neil	Cloud	NAGPRA Representative	Southern Ute Indian Tribe	P.O. Box 737	Ignacio	CO	81137
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	Chairman	Charles	Murphy	Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council	Building 1, P.O. Box D	North Standing Rock Ave.	Fort Yates	ND	58538
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	Ms.	Waste	Win Young	THPO Active Director, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	Building 1, P.O. Box D	North Standing Rock Ave.	Fort Yates	ND	58538
Ute Indian Tribe (Uintah & Ouray Reservation)	Chairman	Curtis	Cesspooch	Ute Indian Tribe Business Committee	Ute Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation	P.O. Box 190	Ft. Duchesne	UT	84026
Ute Indian Tribe (Uintah & Ouray Reservation)	Ms.	Betsy	Chapoose	NAGPRA Representative	Ute Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation	P.O. Box 190	Ft. Duchesne	UT	84026
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	Mr.	Ernest	House, Sr.	Chairman	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	P.O. Box JJ	Towaoc	CO	81334
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	Mr.	Terry	Knight, Sr.	NAGPRA Representative	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	P.O. Box 468	Towaoc	CO	81334
Wichita & Affiliated Tribes	President	Leslie	Standing	Wichita Executive Committee	Wichita & Affiliated Tribes	P.O. Box 729	Anadarko	OK	73005
Wichita & Affiliated Tribes	Mr.	Stratford	Williams	NAGPRA contact	Wichita & Affiliated Tribes	P.O. Box 729	Anadarko	OK	73005
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo	Governor	Frank	Paiz		Ysleta del Sur Pueblo	P.O. Box 17579	El Paso	TX	79917
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo	Mr.	Javier	Loera	NAGPRA Representative	Ysleta del Sur Pueblo	P.O. Box 17579, Ysleta Station	El Paso	TX	79917

Tribe	Title	First Name	Last Name	Position	Tribe Mailing Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Reservation	Governor	Norman	Cooeyate		Zuni Pueblo	P.O. Box 339	Zuni	NM	87327
Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Reservation	Mr.	Arden	Kucate	Councilman/NAGPRA contact	Zuni Pueblo	P.O. Box 339	Zuni	NM	87327

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Final Scoping Summary Report

Appendix C

Comments

APPENDIX C
COMMENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Commenters Listed by Document Number C-1
Scoping Comments by Category C-1

LIST OF TABLES

Table C-1. Commenters Listed by Document Number C-1
Table C-2. Scoping Comments by Category C-1

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Commenters Listed by Document Number

Table C-1 includes all comment documents received by Western Area Power Administration (Western) during the scoping period, with each assigned document number.

Table C-1. Commenters Listed by Document Number

Document Number	Last Name	First Name	Agency or Organization Name or Individual Member of Public
1001	-	-	Northwest Council of Colorado Governments
1002	Warren	Michael	Colorado Division of Wildlife
1003	Public	Jean	Individual
1004	Morse	Travis	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1005	Smith	Cindy	EPG, Inc.
1006	Chapel	Steve	Western Slope ATV Association
1007	Smith	Rocky	Colorado Wild (and other signatories)
1008	Burns	Darlene	Uintah County (and other signatories)
1009	Riddle	Robert	Individual
1010	Glover	Breanne	Individual
1011	Sobal	Tom	Quiet Use Coalition
1012	-	-	Bureau of Reclamation
1013	Banks	Donald R.	Bureau of Land Management

Scoping Comments by Category

Table C-2 includes the comment document number and each comment made during scoping, reproduced as they were received, including all spelling and grammatical errors. Because of the unstructured nature of the comment process (i.e., commenters were not answering specific questions, but rather speaking to their concerns), Western and the Forest Service received comments that touched on multiple issue categories. In these cases, the comment was placed into the category where it seemed most appropriate. For example, a comment that talks about establishing vegetation cover after treatment and the types of species to use in revegetation efforts to control erosion is classified in the Vegetation category.

Table C-2. Scoping Comments by Category

Document Number	Comment
Access and Transportation	
1007	V. LIMIT ROADS USED FOR TREATMENT AND PROHIBIT PUBLIC USE OF THEM. Vegetation treatment will require roads along most segments of each power line. In most cases, such roads already exist. These roads and any new ones built should be maintained to the lowest standard needed to provide access to treat vegetation and accomplish any other maintenance and repair work, consistent with safety. However, the design and construction of roads must minimize erosion. (For work in perennially wet areas, see additional discussion in section VII below.)

Table C-2. Scoping Comments by Category

Document Number	Comment
1007	It is important that such roads be closed to public motorized use, unless they have been approved as system routes after a public process. The Forest Service already has a road system larger than it can manage. In some areas, use of motor vehicles on non-system (usually illegally created) routes is a major problem. Allowing, by design or default, public motorized use on roads intended only for power line maintenance would exacerbate this problem, as any such use would not necessarily be limited to the power line roads. Some motorized recreation enthusiasts frequently explore whatever areas they can, regardless of whether such use is legal or appropriate, often causing considerable impacts to as soils, water quality and wildlife habitat effectiveness. Where system roads cross power line roads, it may be necessary to block motor vehicle access to the power line roads from the other roads.
1007	All roads not intended to open to public motorized use should be gated and signed closed. Regular patrols by law enforcement officers should occur, especially during big game rifle hunting season, when many road use violations occur. It is important that gates be placed in areas where they are most likely to be effective, i. e., not in cleared or naturally open areas where they can easily be avoided. Rather, gates should be paced in other areas where mature trees or boulders, e. g., would prevent or discourage driving around gates.
1007	Roads in areas where vegetation treatment has been completed and will not likely need to be done again for many years should be obliterated. This would discourage illegal public access.
1009	Wasatch County encourages restrictions of corridor access roads to the general public to avoid future impacts to the watershed and to prevent user developed roads within the corridor.
1009	Future access needs must be planned and analyzed to determine the disposition of the road at the completion of its intended life. This is to ensure that needed access is maintained or that such access is removed and resulting disturbances reclaimed.
1009	Access to all water related facilities such as dams, reservoirs, delivery systems, monitoring facilities, communication sites, power line corridors etc., must be maintained. This access must be economically feasible with respect to the method and liming of such access.
1009	All necessary action will be taken to protect access. The county will identify and inventory roads and participate with federal and state land management agencies in decision-making regarding site-specific management.
1011	We understand a need to have administrative vehicle access routes to WAPA transmission lines for maintenance, inspection and other activities necessary for proper operation of the transmission line. The existence of these routes will have presence effects on the surrounding environment whether they are used or not. These routes generally receive rather infrequent and low volume use by administrative vehicles, so the actual use effects of these routes on the surrounding environment is minimal. Some routes may only receive administrative use once a month, once a year, or even less. This Is compared to the much greater use effects of a route open to unlimited public access like a Forest Service road. In general, WAPA transmission line access routes were approved under permit for WAPA administrative use only and not open to public use. These routes were generally not designed, constructed or maintained or approved for open public use. A growing population, advances in OHV technology, increased use of public lands and a lack of signage and education have resulted in what is, in effect, a problem of increased unauthorized use and trespass on WAPA transmission line access routes. Unauthorized public use of these routes results in increased maintenance costs, safety and liability concerns and potential vandalism concerns for WAPA. Unauthorized use of these routes also has numerous individual and cumulative negative effects on the surrounding environment. We strongly suggest that all transmission line maintenance and right of way (ROW) access routes be properly closed to public vehicle use to limit negative environmental effects. Properly closing transmission line ROW access and maintenance routes to open public vehicle use use will have numerous benefits, including but not limited to, reducing the spread of noxious weeds, improving public safety, minimizing resource impacts, minimizing erosion, siltation, sedimentation and impacts to watersheds, minimizing impacts to wildlife and habitat, reducing air and water quality impacts due to vehicle emissions and dust, reducing the chance of vandalism, reducing route maintenance costs and reducing the risk of human caused wildfire. (Photo: [p. 5] Steep route eroding due to lack of water and erosion control structures and open unauthorized public OHV use. Public OHV use of a route loosens the tread surface which may contribute to erosionand increased maintenance costs. [p. 6] Tracks of ATVs, motorcycles and jeeps on a transmission line

Table C-2. Scoping Comments by Category

Document Number	Comment
	administrative access route near Salida that is not properly closed to public use. [p. 8] Surface water ford under transmission line access route. Unauthorized public OHV use of this route where none should occur contributes to unnecessary oil and gas contamination of watersheds. [p. 9] This transmission line ROW and access road has presence effects on habitats, vegetation, water flow, etc. just by being there. Unauthorized public use of this route contributes to additional use effects above and beyond that required for administrative access including disruption of natural soundscapes, increased hunting pressure, increased maintenance, etc. [p. 14] Access road contributing to erosion)
1011	Unnecessary and unneeded routes in the transmission line right of way should also be revegetated and recontoured to prevent unauthorized use and limit resource impacts and unauthorized vehicle use.
1011	Routes in the transmission line right of way determined to be necessary for administrative maintenance purposes should be properly gated and signed as off limits to public vehicle use. These gates should be locked with only the permit holder and the managing agency having keys. (Photo: Spur route for transmission line access branching off designated Forest road 225.A. Side spur routes like this should be gated or at least signed as "Administrated route No public access" to prevent unauthorized use.)
1011	Permit holders and their authorized agents should use these designated routes and the gates so as not to create new routes.
1011	Necessary transmission line administrative routes need to be properly maintained to land management agency specifications reduce impacts to the surrounding environment.
1011	These necessary routes should be designed, constructed and maintained to only the minimum standards required to accommodate the most common modes and amounts of required access. In other words, a 2 lane paved route is not required for infrequent access when a narrow rough will suffice. (Photo: Steep route eroding due to lack of water and erosion control structures and open unauthorized public OHV use. Public OHV use of a route loosens the tread surface which may contribute to erosionand increased maintenance costs.)
1011	Existing routes within the transmission line right of way that are now open to public use should be evaluated to determine if this public use was determined to be needed and acceptable as the result of a previously documented NEPA decision. There are many instances where improper closure and lack of management on these routes have resulted in land management agencies and the public having the misperception that these routes were open to public use, when in fact they were originally designed and designated as limited access permit roads open only for administrative use. The North Fooses creek route on the USFS Salida District in Colorado is one such route. (Photo: Improperly signed as an open public road, this administrative access transmission line road on the Salida District invites unauthorized public use)
1011	(Photo: This inadequately closed side spur route off an administrative access road under transmission line is leading to additional unauthorized use by the public on OHVs.)
1011	Photo: [p. 12] Locked gate at bottom of transmission line admin/maintenance road is supposed to deny public access, but even the permittees never use it, as evidenced by trees growing in road bed. Permit holders also access the transmission line admin./maintenance road by bypassing gate and using route on the left in next photo. This is route 225.B on the Salida District. [p. 13] Road 225.B is an administrative permitted transmission line admin./maintenance road beyond this point on the Salida District. There is a locked gate to the right on this switchback which is supposed to deny public access to the power line road. The public bypasses this gate and cuts the switchback where the gate is to gain unauthorized access to 5 miles of road under the transmission line.)
Alternatives	
1007	The FR Notice (at 17914) states that WAPA's use of national forest land, authorized under 36 CFR 251.54, would need to be changed. The EIS should describe what the current authorization allows and requires, and how this would be different under the proposal and any alternatives to It.

Table C-2. Scoping Comments by Category

Document Number	Comment
1007	The EIS should be as specific as possible about how treatment would be implemented under each alternative. Granted, the possible or likely treatments for every line segment could not easily be specified. However, the EIS' design criteria need to specify tree-removal widths for power line corridors, and particularly, state under what circumstances and in what areas would clearing distances of more than the tallest tree height plus about 10 percent be expected to be needed or desirable. It is not appropriate or acceptable to state that a large clearing width, applicable everywhere, would be allowed.
1007	III. SLASH TREATMENT MUST BE CAREFULLY DESIGNED. A major issue in the project will be how to dispose of slash, or logging waste. Cutting trees will produce a sizable volume of unmerchantable material, including tops, branches, and cull logs. In some cases, trees may be too small or too deteriorated to be sold for any product, in which case, entire trees would be "slash". Most of this material cannot be left on site, as it would result in too high of a fuel loading. Fires in such material could produce a flame high enough to threaten the power lines, especially if the slash was first piled. Even if such fires did not threaten lines, fires in a large slash bed could produce enough smoke to cause arcing, which would result in an interruption of electric transmission. But removing slash or disposing of it in place would be a challenge. Removing most of it would be quite expensive, requiring many truck trips. Or slash cold be skidded away from the power line corridors. But that could cause soil impacts, such as compaction, displacement, and erosion, from dragging logs and the use ofheavy equipment to do so. For transport of slash off-site for disposal, there would have to be designated and approved areas for dumping the slash, as it could not be placed anywhere, since doing so could just as easily create a fuel loading problem at the new location. Burning would cause the problems noted above, especially if the slash was first piled. Also, burning large slash piles or those containing material larger than about three inches in diameter is not a good practice because it creates a long, hot fire that sterilizes the soils beneath it and makes them water-repellent. Chipping or masticating could be done for a small percentage of the slash, but it would also be expensive. Also, a layer of chips or chunks on the ground would retard or prevent, for a long time, re-establishment of ground vegetation and trees. It might also use up most of the nitrogen in the soil, further retarding the establishment and growth of any vegetation. If chipping or masticating will be deployed, we recommend that no more than about 20 percent of the ground in scattered, small patches be covered with chips or chunks, and the depth should be no more than about two inches for chips and three inches for chunks. It is desirable to have ground vegetation in power line corridors. Thus some wood in all size classes should be retained on site to reduce soil erosion and gradually decompose into new soil. This would also provide a little shade and help retain moisture, which in turn would facilitate the establishment of ground vegetation. See further discussion in section VIII below. Retained wood should touch the ground so it will decay relatively rapidly and not pose a fuel problem that would threaten the lines. In some areas, it might be possible to reduce slash by offering free firewood to the public. But this would not likely remove enough of the material, and it would be limited to areas that were easily accessible via system roads. In sum, all slash disposal methods have problems of possible resources damage, cost, or possible undesirable effects on the power lines. WAPA and the Forest Service should develop combinations of disposal methods for use on various segments of power lines that would minimize impacts and threats to the lines while sufficiently reducing slash at reasonable cost. The EIS should discuss the benefits and detriments of various slash disposal/reduction methods and combinations of methods. The design criteria should state which methods will be used in which areas or situations, and in what proportions. Monitoring of areas where slash was treated should be done to assess impacts, including any weed introduction and spread (see section VIII below), and to modify future treatments as needed.

Table C-2. Scoping Comments by Category

Document Number	Comment
1007	II. KEEP THE CLEARED CORRIDORS TO MINIMUM WIDTHS, CONSISTENT WITH SAFETY AND RELIABILITY. Clearing trees, and in some cases, other vegetation also, from areas in power line corridors creates a beak in the forest canopy and a radical change in the habitat for some wildlife species. See further discussion in section IV below. Clearing the corridor and maintaining it causes other problems also, such as weed introduction and spread, which is discussed further in section VIII below.. The wider the clearing, the greater the impacts. Therefore, the width of vegetation treatment should be a narrow as possible, consistent with safety and reliability of each line segment. In most cases, the clearing need not be more than the height of the tallest tree plus about 10 percent. On some locations where lines cross steep slopes, the treatment distance might need to be greater than this to prevent trees upslope from the power lines from falling on the lines. (Concomitantly, the clearing distance should then be less on the downhill side of the lines.) Also, additional reduction of vegetation maybe needed where the distance between towers is long and the lines could sway a distance outward from the corridor during periods of high wind.
Climate Change	
1010	I believe as long as this project…reduces the effects of global warming this idea is brilliant and I am in support of it.
Floodplains, Wetlands, and Water Resources	
1004	The Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction within the study area is under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Waters of the United States include, but are not limited to, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, marshes, wet meadows, and seeps. Project features that) result in the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will require Department of the Army authorization prior to starting work. To ascertain the extent of waters on the project site, the applicant should prepare a wetland delineation, in accordance with the "Minimum Standards for Acceptance of Preliminary Wetland Delineations", under "Jurisdiction" on our website at the address below, and submit it to this office for verification. A list of consultants that prepare wetland delineations and permit application documents is also available on our website at the same location. The range of alternatives considered for this project should include alternatives that avoid impacts to wetlands or other waters of the United States. Every effort should be made to avoid project features which require the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. In the event it can be clearly demonstrated there are no practicable alternatives to filling waters of the United States, mitigation plans should be developed to compensate for the unavoidable losses resulting from project implementation. Please refer to identification number SPK-2818-08419 in any correspondence concerning this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate contacting me.
1007	VII. CAREFULLY DESIGN TREATMENT IN AREAS NEAR WATER BODIES. The Federal Register notice states that the project "may involve action in wetlands or floodplains". FR Notice at 17914. Any activity in wetlands must avoid long- and short-term impacts associated with the destruction or modifications of wetlands. 10 CFR 1022.3(c). See also 10 CFR I022.14(a). Alternatives that would avoid or mitigate damage to wetlands must be considered. 10 CFR 1022.3(d). The practicality of alternatives to wetland actions and of the mitigation measures must be evaluated with consideration of any public comment. 10 CFR 1022.15(b).
1007	The project may also involve action in riparian areas, those areas immediately adjacent to streams and lakes that show influence of a higher water table. Collectively, riparian, wetland, and floodplain areas are known as the water influence zone (WIZ). Actions in such areas must be designed to minimize damage to soils, water quality, and nontarget vegetation. Generally, heavy equipment, such as tractors, feller-bunchers, log forwarders, etc. commonly used in logging, should be kept out of such areas, as heavy machinery could cause a considerable amount of damage by compacting soils and causing sediment deposition into water bodies. Trees that need to be cut should hand felled (i. e. by people with chainsaws), then either treated in place or skidded out of the WIZ, if the latter can be done with minimal damage. The exception would be if the fisheries biologist believes that woody debris would create, maintain, or enhance fish habitat, in which case some tree bole sections could be retained in the WIZ or the stream itself. However, logs should not be placed near culverts or bridges, nor in such numbers or configuration that a debris jam could occur.
1007	The management measures, design criteria, and monitoring requirements in the Forest Service's Watershed Conservation Practices Handbook, FSH 2509.25, must be followed.

Table C-2. Scoping Comments by Category

Document Number	Comment
1009	Wasatch County encourages restriction of corridor access roads to the general public to avoid future impacts to the watershed and to prevent user developed road within the corridor.
1009	The management of the watershed should allow for continued multiple use. It should preserve the quality and quantity of water as well as environmental values and allow the watershed to support existing and future uses.
Health and Safety	
1003	Western energy needs to be balanced by the toxic assault from their use of toxic herbicide which is also inflicting cancer on people in the area.
Land Use	
1007	To avoid a stark contrast between the surrounding forest and the treated transmission corridors, i.e., a straight line cut, the edges of areas where trees are cleared should be "feathered", i. e., the cutting intensity should gradually transition from full clearing (where needed) to untreated area. Some forest plans have requirements to minimize visual impacts. Note the following from the management plan for the White River National Forest: Standard: Vegetation management plans, for new or reissued permits, are designed to minimize and rehabilitate visual impacts. Guideline: The boundaries of the cut areas bordering utility corridors are blended into the surrounding vegetations in locations visible from key viewpoints. White River Plan at 3-89, in management area 8.32, Designated Utility Corridors - Existing and Potential. Similarly, the plan for the Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison (GMUG) National Forest has direction that utility lines must "harmonize with the landscape". GMUG Plan at III-97. The Arapaho-Roosevelt (A-R) Plan has a guideline with similar language. A-R Plan at 386. Both the White River and GMUG plans direct that, to the extent possible, management in transmission corridors be consistent with that in adjacent management areas. White River id., and GMUG Plan, id. These and other requirements of all national forest management plans must be followed.
Process and Public Involvement	
1003	the "suits" will be at these hearings, which are usually held when the working people are at work and therefore have no voice at all with ..... washington dc agencies.
1007	The EIS should describe the relationship of this project, if any, to the Emergency Powerline Clearing Project on the Arapaho-Roosevelt, White River, and Routt National Forests, for which the Forest Service issued a scoping notice on August 19, 2009. We assume there is some overlap between the two projects, as The analysis area for th[e Emergency Clearing] project includes all distribution and transmission lines on National Forest System lands, approximately 500 miles, across the Routt, Arapaho and Roosevelt, and White River National Forests.
Recreation	
1006	In the past WAPA has left a mess behind when cutting trees under the power line in the Hightower Area of Grand Mesa. Hundreds of trees have been left blocking ATV Trails under the power line which resulted in users going off trail, making their own route because the existing trail was not navigable.
1006	When trees are cut in the winter, WAPA needs to send someone up as soon as the snow melts to clear the trail.
1009	Off-highway vehicles should be used responsibly, and the management of off-highway vehicles should be uniform across jurisdictional boundaries. Laws related to the use of off-highway vehicles should be uniformly applied across all jurisdictions.

Table C-2. Scoping Comments by Category

Document Number	Comment
Roadless Areas	
1007	VI. PROTECT ROADLESS AREAS. It is likely that some of the approximately 270 miles of WAPA power lines on Colorado's national forests pass through some roadless areas. While power line corridors in these areas may still need to be treated, any treatment should be done in such a way as to conserve, to the maximum extent possible, roadless area characteristics. These are: Roadless area characteristics. Resources or features that are often present in and characterize inventoried roadless areas, including: (I) High quality or undisturbed soil, water, and air; (2) Sources of public drinking water; (3) Diversity of plant and animal communities; (4) Habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species and for those species dependent on large, undisturbed areas of land. (5) Primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized and semi-primitive motorized classes of dispersed recreation; (6) Reference landscapes; (7) Natural appearing landscapes with high scenic quality; (8) Traditional cultural properties and sacred sites; and (9) Other locally identified unique characteristics. From the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, 36 CFR 294.11 (2001). This Rule is in effect on Colorado's national forests. Any treatment within roadless areas should be designed to minimize impacts. New road construction must be minimized. Before any roads are constructed, non-road construction alternatives should be considered. Any roads must be low standard and, if possible, be obliterated after treatment. Road closures must be made effective. There should be no piling of slash in roadless areas. Weeds must be eradicated.
Social and Economic Values	
1009	Wasatch County encourages utilization of merchantable timber wherever possible and opposes the policy of cutting, loping and scattering timber resources that could be developed into a product. Forest management plans shall be written and effective management techniques adopted to promote a stable forest economy and enhanced forest health, in accordance with the National Healthy Forest Initiative. (Act of 2003, P.L. 108-148) Efficient and effective use of National Environmental Policy Act Documentation for limited timber harvest will be encouraged. Use of Interim Directive (ID) 1909.15-2003-2 will be encouraged for timber harvest projects that do not require further analysis and may be categorically excluded as outlined in categories 12, 13 & 14 of said ID. Opportunities for harvesting forest products shall he promoted.
Soils	
1009	Apply scientifically effective practices to maintain and improve the quality and quantity of desirable plant cover to protect watersheds, timber, and rangelands from soil erosion.
1009	Recognize the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey as the authority in matters of soil conservation.
1011	Erosion control structures and culverts must be installed and maintained. (Photo: [p. 5] Steep route eroding due to lack of water and erosion control structures and open unauthorized public OHV use. Public OHV use of a route loosens the tread surface which may contribute to erosionand increased maintenance costs. [p. 16] Unauthorized public use and insufficient maintenance and water diversion structures contributing to erosion on access road.)
1011	In some high altitude environments areas cleared of vegetation may not naturally revegetate on their own with grasses and such, or it may take years for this to occur. Without adequate vegetation, these areas are susceptible to soil instability and erosion, especially on sloping land. Extra care should be taken to stabilize these slopes, using a combination of water diversion structures and planting of grasses and other plants. (Photo: ROW, cleared area without vegetation and the road are all contributing to soil instability on this slope. This is leading to erosion. Extra care should be taken here at this high altitude location to ensure that vegetation and water diversion structures are installed to adequately stabilize the soil.)

Table C-2. Scoping Comments by Category

Document Number	Comment
Special Status and Sensitive Species	
1007	PROTECT RARE WILDLIFE AND PLANTS. Removal of mature trees and some other vegetation adversely alters habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, and can destroy plant populations. Most affected are likely to be species that depend on, or at least prefer, a continuous forest canopy. these species include, but are not limited to: lynx, marten, goshawk, boreal owl, golden-crowned kinglet, olive-sided flycatcher, and red crossbill.
1007	Lynx are known to avoid large openings; in general they "avoid open areas where security cover is lacking". Aubry et al, 1999 at 381; citation omitted. Specifically, these authors cite previous work showing that lynx only cross openings that were less than 100 meters wide. Id. It is very important to maintain landscape linkages to ensure connectivity oflynx habitat. Identified and potential linkage areas must be identified and protected. See Ruediger et al, 2000, at 88-90. Corridors where vegetation is cleared to protect power lines in the proposed project area should not ever need to be 100 meters wide.
1007	WAPA needs to work with the Forest Service wildlife biologists to minimize the adverse impact to lynx habitat for all proposed treatment, especially for any wide clearing areas. Consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will also be necessary if there is a "likely to adversely affect" determination, which there will probably be for some line segments.
1007	All proposed treatment areas should be surveyed by a qualified botanist prior to treatment. Areas with plants that are endangered, threatened, proposed for ESA listing, or Forest Service sensitive or otherwise known to be rare (such as those identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program) must be treated carefully to avoid destroying any plant populations. Rare plant populations must be clearly marked to make it easy for contractors to avoid them. Treatment must also be limited in adjacent areas to allow rare plants to occupy new ground.
1011	Lynx is one such species that avoids open non-forested areas. Where possible, appropriate lower growing species (such as willows, other bushes and shrubs, and perhaps aspen) should be left to provide migration corridors across the transmission line right of way to facilitate species movement. Especially in the higher elevations (9000' and up) that lynx prefer, the growth of trees is very slow. It may take 50 or more years for a seedling to grow to a height where it would interfere with a transmission line. Ground dwelling species like lynx may benefit from 50 meter wide sections of younger trees left to grow periodically under a the transmission line right of way. We know that maintenance crews may have a tendency to just clear all trees and brush in the right of way. A few corridors where this does not occur developed and clearly delineated with the help of Forest Service biologists would go a long way towards preserving and facilitating species migration.
1007	For Forest Service sensitive species, both plant and animal, procedures at FSM 2672.42 and 2672.43 must be followed.
Vegetation	
1003	stop all the overuse of prescribed burning and toxic herbicide.
1007	We agree with the proposed change in focus from "danger trees", i. e., cutting trees that are already at risk of falling on power lines, to active management, under which vegetation is treated, to the extent practicable, before it becomes a threat to power line safety and reliability. However, there are likely numerous areas with possible danger trees that would need to be treated before a more integrated treatment strategy could be implemented. The EIS should identify areas that are most in need of treatment, and what kind of treatments might be done in these areas, as well as what might be done in the future in lower priority areas to prevent threats to power lines from developing.
1007	A design criterion should require establishment of native vegetation a soon as possible after treatment. It is most important to do so in areas where power lines cross steep slopes, as such locations would have the highest potential for water erosion of soils. While native plant species should be used, sterile, annual, non-native plants can be used while native species are getting established on sites that are difficult to revegetate. All sites where revegetation is necessary need to be regularly monitored to assess the progress of reestablishment of vegetation.
1007	Prior to any treatment in a given power line corridor, there must first be a thorough survey for noxious weds. Any such plants found should be eradicated, to the extent practical. After treatment, survey and eradication should be done for at least two full growing seasons. There must also be requirements for vehicles used in treatment operations to be washed before they come on to the national forest each day.

Table C-2. Scoping Comments by Category

Document Number	Comment
1010	I believe as long as this project doesn't affect...ground plant growth...this idea is brilliant and I am in support of it.
Visual Resources	
1007	To avoid a stark contrast between the surrounding forest and the treated transmission corridors, i.e., a straight line cut, the edges of areas where trees are cleared should be "feathered", i. e., the cutting intensity should gradually transition from full clearing (where needed) to untreated area. Some forest plans have requirements to minimize visual impacts. Note the following from the management plan for the White River National Forest: Standard: Vegetation management plans, for new or reissued permits, are designed to minimize and rehabilitate visual impacts. Guideline: The boundaries of the cut areas bordering utility corridors are blended into the surrounding vegetations in locations visible from key viewpoints. White River Plan at 3-89, in management area 8.32, Designated Utility Corridors - Existing and Potential. Similarly, the plan for the Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison (GMUG) National Forest has direction that utility lines must "harmonize with the landscape". GMUG Plan at III-97. The Arapaho-Roosevelt (A-R) Plan has a guideline with similar language. A-R Plan at 386. Both the White River and GMUG plans direct that, to the extent possible, management in transmission corridors be consistent with that in adjacent management areas. White River id., and GMUG Plan, id.
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	
1003	Western energy needs to be balanced by the toxic assault on birds, butterflies, insects and animals from their use of toxic herbicide
1010	I believe as long as this project doesn't affect wildlife habitat...this idea is brillaint and I am in support of it.
1011	We realize the concern with trees possibly interfering with transmission lines because of their height. The removal of all vegetation in a transmission line right of way should be avoided. Some forest dwelling species are very reluctant to cross open areas and thus a long linear transmission line right of way devoid of cover vegetation acts as a migration barrier to these species.

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Final Scoping Summary Report

Appendix D

Comment Documents

APPENDIX D
COMMENT DOCUMENTS

This appendix includes all unique scoping comment documents received. Scoping comment documents were logged and assigned a document number. Document numbers are stamped at the top right of each page. To locate a comment, refer to Appendix C.

1001

Stevens, Kimberly

From: gjs@nwc.cog.co.us
Sent: Friday, April 02, 2010 3:44 PM
To: Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Management Reauthorization Project
Subject: email account not active

Attention:

This email account is no longer active as of January 1st, 2010. Please remove from your contact list.

Thank you.

1

1002

Walsh, Joseph

From: Warren, Michael [Michael.Warren@state.co.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 08, 2010 11:27 AM
To: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov
Cc: Riggs, Dean; Warren, Michael
Subject: Shape files for R-O-W segments within the State of Colorado

Mr. Hartman

I would appreciate any help you can provide.
I would like to get a copy the shape file(s) for the r-o-w segments in Colorado. Would you please email them to me so that the Colorado Division of Wildlife can conduct a more appropriate scale analysis of potential impacts to wildlife. If you are not the person who would have this information will you please forward this request to the appropriate person.

Thank you for your help.

Michael Warren
Land Use Specialist
Colorado Division of Wildlife
711 Independent Ave.
Grand Junction, CO 81505
(W) 970-255-6180
(F) 970-255-6111

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Walsh, Joseph

From: jean public [usacitizen1@live.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 2:34 PM
To: western-fs-eis@wapa.gov; americanvoices@mail.house.gov; comments@whitehouse.gov
Cc: james.hartman@wapa.gov
Subject: public comment on federal register FW: investigate the use of toxic herbicides by these right of way profiteers - they kill

Western energy needs to be balanced by the toxic assault on birds, butterflies, insects and animals from their use of toxic herbicide which is also inflicting cancer on people in the area. one expects when one goes into the woods one will NOT be assaulted by chemicals, but the forest service seems perfectly willing to let everybody get cancer from the overuse of these toxic pesticides, herbicides, etc. there seems to be no balance here since that awful george bush became president with his cheney business assaulters on the environment. no balance is shown by the fs at all at any time.its all about greed and money in this agency. and bribes of course from local profiteers. the corrupt washignton business focused agencies are allowing our nation to be ruined. the "suits" will be at these hearings, which are usually held when the working people are at work and therefore have no voice at all with these bloated corrupt washington dc agencies. stop all the overuse of prescribed burning and toxic herbicide. we are all being poisoned with cancer from this overuse for profiteers and bribes to bloated washignton bureaucrats.
jean public 8 winterberry court whitehouse station nj 08889

[Federal Register: April 8, 2010 (Volume 75, Number 67)]
[Notices]
[Page 17913-17915]
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]
[DOCID:fr08ap10-56]

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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-0442)

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

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United States Forest Service (Forest Service) authorizations 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 (FAC-003-1) 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 proposed Project 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 26, 2010. Western and the Forest Service will consider all electronic and written scoping comments that are received or postmarked by midnight May 26, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Western and the Forest Service will host 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, Whitman Educational Center, 248 S. 4th (4th and Ute), Grand Junction, CO 81501; and Monday, April 26, 2010, at the Uintah Basin Applied Technology College, 450 N. 2000 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 80539-3003, e-mail: Western-FS-EIS@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. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC-54, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0119, telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756, facsimile (202) 586-7031. 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 (303) 275-5008.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Western is a Federal power marketing agency within the DOE that markets and delivers Federal wholesale electric power (principally hydroelectric power)

[[Page 17914]]

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

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Mountain Region. Western proposes to improve the way it manages vegetation on FS 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 lines. 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 it can safely and reliably operate and maintain its existing electrical transmission facilities to deliver electrical power. Western must ensure access to its transmission facilities for maintenance and emergency response. Western must also ensure that the costs associated with maintaining the 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, maintain, and access 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 rates
- Reduce the risk of wildfires caused by vegetation growing into or falling onto transmission lines
- Reduce the risks to facilities from fires
- Control the spread of noxious weeds
- 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 locations along its ROW where vegetation could interfere with Western's ability to reliably operate and maintain the facilities. 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. 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 from a largely reactive approach of cutting danger trees with annual ROW re-entry cycles to a proactive approach that incorporates integrated vegetation management. The objectives would be to control vegetation that, at mature height, presents a risk to transmission line maintenance and operation, and allow for longer ROW re-entry intervals.

Reduce as necessary 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 lines and structures.

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. Danger trees would be managed as they are now using a reactive approach with annual re-entry cycle to locate and cut danger trees. Other alternatives may be identified based on public and agency comments.

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 Pike-San Isabel. The project also includes the Nebraska National Forest 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 11,000 feet. The widths of the transmission line ROW 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 include design criteria and other actions to avoid or minimize impacts. The EIS will also present the results of compliance with other environmental regulations including the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and others.

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 involve 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

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[[Page 17915]]

resources, traditional cultural properties, or other resources important to the tribes. These consultations will be conducted in accordance with Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments (65 FR 67429), the President's memorandum of April 29, 1994, Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments (59 FR 22961), DOE-specific guidance on tribal interactions, and applicable natural and cultural resources laws and regulations.

The public is encouraged to provide information and comments on issues it believes should be addressed in the EIS. Comments on the scope of the EIS will be addressed by Western and the Forest Service. Comments will be accepted at any time during the EIS process. Comments received outside of the scoping period may be addressed in the draft EIS if practicable, otherwise they will be addressed later in the process, such as in the final EIS.

Western has set up a Web site at http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/Western-FS-EIS.htm to facilitate the distribution of project information including meeting notices, project documents, schedules and other information. The public will be able to obtain documents for review from this Web site or request digital or hardcopies of documents for review.

Western anticipates that the EIS process will take about 15 months, and will include public scoping meetings; consultation and coordination with appropriate Federal, State, county, and local agencies and tribes; distribution of and public review and comment on the Draft EIS; a formal public hearing on the Draft EIS; distribution of a Final EIS; and publication of the Record of Decision in the Federal Register.

Responsible Officials

Western: Administrator; Forest Service: Rocky Mountain Regional Forester.

Dated: March 24, 2010.
Timothy J. Meeks,
Administrator.
Dated: March 24, 2010.
Randall Karstaedt,
Acting Deputy Regional Forester.
[FR Doc. 2010-7724 Filed 4-7-10; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

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Walsh, Joseph

From: Morse, W. Travis SPK [W.Travis.Morse@usace.army.mil]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 1:48 PM
To: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov
Cc: Green, Nathan J SPK
Subject: Public Scoping Meetings

Dear Mr. Hartman,

We are responding to your April 2, 2010 Public Scoping Meetings notice for the Western Area Power Administration Transmission Line Management Reauthorization.

The Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction within the study area is under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Waters of the United States include, but are not limited to, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, marshes, wet meadows, and seeps. Project features that result in the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will require Department of the Army authorization prior to starting work.

To ascertain the extent of waters on the project site, the applicant should prepare a wetland delineation, in accordance with the "Minimum Standards for Acceptance of Preliminary Wetland Delineations", under "Jurisdiction" on our website at the address below, and submit it to this office for verification.
A list of consultants that prepare wetland delineations and permit application documents is also available on our website at the same location.

The range of alternatives considered for this project should include alternatives that avoid impacts to wetlands or other waters of the United States. Every effort should be made to avoid project features which require the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.
In the event it can be clearly demonstrated there are no practicable alternatives to filling waters of the United States, mitigation plans should be developed to compensate for the unavoidable losses resulting from project implementation.

Please refer to identification number SPK-2010-00419 in any correspondence concerning this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate contacting me.

Travis Morse, Biologist
Regulatory Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Colorado West Regulatory Branch
400 Rood Avenue, Room 142
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501
(970) 243-1199, ext. 17 FAX: (970) 241-2358 w.travis.morse@usace.army.mil

web: http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html

Let us know how we're doing.
http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html

Information on the Regulatory Program.
http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/organizations/cespk-co/regulatory/index.html

1

1005

Walsh, Joseph

From: Western-FS-EIS_scoping_comment@wapa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2010 11:13 AM
To: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov
Subject: Western-FS-EIS Scoping Comment Form

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

Mail list yes - E-mail : Yes, add me to the mailing list - e-mail

Name : Cindy L. Smith

Representing : EPG, Inc.

Address : 247 South 500 East

City : Salt Lake City

State : Utah

Zip Code : 84102

Fax : 801.746.3596

E-mail address : clsmith@epgaz.com

1

1006

Walsh, Joseph

From: Western-FS-EIS_scoping_comment@wapa.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2010 1:19 PM
To: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov
Subject: Western-FS-EIS Scoping Comment Form

Issues, concerns or questions : In the past WAPA has left a mess behind when cutting trees under the power line in the Hightower Area of Grand Mesa. Hundreds of trees have been left blocking ATV Trails under the power line which resulted in users going off trail, making their own route because the existing trail was not navigable. When trees are cut in the winter, WAPA needs to send someone up as soon as the snow melts to clear the trail.

Name : Steve Chapel

Representing : Western Slope ATV Association

Address : P O Box 4283

City : Grand Junction

State : CO

Zip Code : 81502

Fax :

E-mail address : dirtuser@bresnan.net

1

1007

Jim Hartman, Environmental Manager
Western Area Power Administration
P. O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80539-3003

via e-mail: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov

May 19, 2010

Dear Mr. Hartman,

The following are the comments of Colorado Wild, Rocky Mountain Chapter of Sierra Club, Wild Connections, Great Old Broads For Wilderness, Center For Native Ecosystems, Quiet Use Coalition, and San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council on the Transmission Line Management Reauthorization Project, as described in the April 8, 2010 Federal Register notice (75 Fed Reg 17913 et seq.; hereafter "FR Notice"), and in additional material distributed to the public.

I. **INTRODUCTION**. The undersigned understand the need to manage vegetation underneath and adjacent to power lines to ensure the safety and reliability of electric transmission. There are, however, a number of issues that must be addressed to ensure that vegetation management does not cause unnecessarily adverse impacts to a variety of resources. They are discussed in the sections below.

We agree with the proposed change in focus from "danger trees", i. e., cutting trees that are already at risk of falling on power lines, to active management, under which vegetation is treated, to the extent practicable, before it becomes a threat to power line safety and reliability. However, there are likely numerous areas with possible danger trees that would need to be treated before a more integrated treatment strategy could be implemented. The EIS should identify areas that are most in need of treatment, and what kind of treatments might be done in these areas, as well as what might be done in the future in lower priority areas to prevent threats to power lines from developing.

The FR Notice (at 17914) states that WAPA's use of national forest land, authorized under 36 CFR 251.54, would need to be changed. The EIS should describe what the current authorization allows and requires, and how this would be different under the proposal and any alternatives to it.

The EIS should describe the relationship of this project, if any, to the Emergency Powerline Clearing Project on the Arapaho-Roosevelt, White River, and Routt National Forests, for which the Forest Service issued a scoping notice on August 19, 2009. We assume there is some overlap between the two projects, as

Colorado Wild/Rocky Smith ◊ 1030 Pearl St. #9 ◊ Denver, CO 80203
www.coloradowild.org

> The analysis area for th[e Emergency Clearing] project includes all distribution and transmission lines on National Forest System lands, approximately 500 miles, across the Routt, Arapaho and Roosevelt, and White River National Forests.

August 19, 2009 Notice at 1.

II. **KEEP THE CLEARED CORRIDORS TO MINIMUM WIDTHS, CONSISTENT WITH SAFETY AND RELIABILITY**. Clearing trees, and in some cases, other vegetation also, from areas in power line corridors creates a beak in the forest canopy and a radical change in the habitat for some wildlife species. See further discussion in section IV below. Clearing the corridor and maintaining it causes other problems also, such as weed introduction and spread, which is discussed further in section VIII below.. The wider the clearing, the greater the impacts.

Therefore, the width of vegetation treatment should be a narrow as possible, consistent with safety and reliability of each line segment. In most cases, the clearing need not be more than the height of the tallest tree plus about 10 percent. On some locations where lines cross steep slopes, the treatment distance might need to be greater than this to prevent trees upslope from the power lines from falling on the lines. (Concomitantly, the clearing distance should then be less on the downhill side of the lines.) Also, additional reduction of vegetation may be needed where the distance between towers is long and the lines could sway a distance outward from the corridor during periods of high wind.

The EIS should be as specific as possible about how treatment would be implemented under each alternative. Granted, the possible or likely treatments for every line segment could not easily be specified. However, the EIS' design criteria need to specify tree-removal widths for power line corridors, and particularly, state under what circumstances and in what areas would clearing distances of more than the tallest tree height plus about 10 percent be expected to be needed or desirable. <u>It is not appropriate or acceptable to state that a large clearing width, applicable everywhere, would be allowed</u>.

To avoid a stark contrast between the surrounding forest and the treated transmission corridors, i. e., a straight line cut, the edges of areas where trees are cleared should be "feathered", i. e., the cutting intensity should gradually transition from full clearing (where needed) to untreated area.

Some forest plans have requirements to minimize visual impacts. Note the following from the management plan for the White River National Forest:

> Standard: Vegetation management plans, for new or reissued permits, are designed to minimize and rehabilitate visual impacts.
>
> Guideline: The boundaries of the cut areas bordering utility corridors are blended into the surrounding vegetations in locations visible from key viewpoints.

White River Plan at 3-89, in management area 8.32, Designated Utility Corridors – Existing and Potential. Similarly, the plan for the Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison (GMUG) National

Forest has direction that utility lines must "harmonize with the landscape". GMUG Plan at III-97. The Arapaho-Roosevelt (A-R) Plan has a guideline with similar language. A-R Plan at 386. Both the White River and GMUG plans direct that, to the extent possible, management in transmission corridors be consistent with that in adjacent management areas. White River Plan, id., and GMUG Plan, id.

These and other requirements of all national forest management plans must be followed.

III. **SLASH TREATMENT MUST BE CAREFULLY DESIGNED**. A major issue in the project will be how to dispose of slash, or logging waste. Cutting trees will produce a sizable volume of unmerchantable material, including tops, branches, and cull logs. In some cases, trees may be too small or too deteriorated to be sold for any product, in which case, entire trees would be "slash". Most of this material cannot be left on site, as it would result in too high of a fuel loading. Fires in such material could produce a flame high enough to threaten the power lines, especially if the slash was first piled. Even if such fires did not threaten lines, fires in a large slash bed could produce enough smoke to cause arcing, which would result in an interruption of electric transmission.

But removing slash or disposing of it in place would be a challenge. Removing most of it would be quite expensive, requiring many truck trips. Or slash cold be skidded away from the power line corridors. But that could cause soil impacts, such as compaction, displacement, and erosion, from dragging logs and the use of heavy equipment to do so. For transport of slash off-site for disposal, there would have to be designated and approved areas for dumping the slash, as it could not be placed anywhere, since doing so could just as easily create a fuel loading problem at the new location.

Burning would cause the problems noted above, especially if the slash was first piled. Also, burning large slash piles or those containing material larger than about three inches in diameter is not a good practice because it creates a long, hot fire that sterilizes the soils beneath it and makes them water-repellent.

Chipping or masticating could be done for a small percentage of the slash, but it would also be expensive. Also, a layer of chips or chunks on the ground would retard or prevent, for a long time, re-establishment of ground vegetation and trees. It might also use up most of the nitrogen in the soil, further retarding the establishment and growth of any vegetation. If chipping or masticating will be deployed, we recommend that no more than about 20 percent of the ground in scattered, small patches be covered with chips or chunks, and the depth should be no more than about two inches for chips and three inches for chunks.

It is desirable to have ground vegetation in power line corridors. Thus some wood in all size classes should be retained on site to reduce soil erosion and gradually decompose into new soil. This would also provide a little shade and help retain moisture, which in turn would facilitate the establishment of ground vegetation. See further discussion in section VIII below. Retained wood should touch the ground so it will decay relatively rapidly and not pose a fuel problem that would threaten the lines.

In some areas, it might be possible to reduce slash by offering free firewood to the public. But this would not likely remove enough of the material, and it would be limited to areas that were easily accessible via system roads.

In sum, all slash disposal methods have problems of possible resources damage, cost, or possible undesirable effects on the power lines. WAPA and the Forest Service should develop combinations of disposal methods for use on various segments of power lines that would minimize impacts and threats to the lines while sufficiently reducing slash at reasonable cost. The EIS should discuss the benefits and detriments of various slash disposal/reduction methods and combinations of methods. The design criteria should state which methods will be used in which areas or situations, and in what proportions. Monitoring of areas where slash was treated should be done to assess impacts, including any weed introduction and spread (see section VIII below), and to modify future treatments as needed.

IV. **PROTECT RARE WILDLIFE AND PLANTS**. Removal of mature trees and some other vegetation adversely alters habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, and can destroy plant populations. Most affected are likely to be species that depend on, or at least prefer, a continuous forest canopy. These species include, but are not limited to: lynx, marten, goshawk, boreal owl, golden-crowned kinglet, olive-sided flycatcher, and red crossbill.

Lynx are known to avoid large openings; in general they "avoid open areas where security cover is lacking". Aubry et al, 1999 at 381; citation omitted. Specifically, these authors cite previous work showing that lynx only cross openings that were less than 100 meters wide. Id. It is very important to maintain landscape linkages to ensure connectivity of lynx habitat. Identified and potential linkage areas must be identified and protected. See Ruediger et al, 2000, at 88-90. Corridors where vegetation is cleared to protect power lines in the proposed project area should not ever need to be 100 meters wide.

WAPA needs to work with the Forest Service wildlife biologists to minimize the adverse impact to lynx habitat for all proposed treatment, especially for any wide clearing areas. Consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will also be necessary if there is a "likely to adversely affect" determination, which there will probably be for some line segments.

All proposed treatment areas should be surveyed by a qualified botanist prior to treatment. Areas with plants that are endangered, threatened, proposed for ESA listing, or Forest Service sensitive, or otherwise known to be rare (such as those identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program) must be treated carefully to avoid destroying any plant populations. Rare plant populations must be clearly marked to make it easy for contractors to avoid them. Treatment must also be limited in adjacent areas to allow rare plants to occupy new ground.

For Forest Service sensitive species, both plant and animal, procedures at FSM 2672.42 and 2672.43 must be followed.

V. **LIMIT ROADS USED FOR TREATMENT AND PROHIBIT PUBLIC USE OF THEM**. Vegetation treatment will require roads along most segments of each power line. In most cases, such roads already exist. These roads and any new ones built should be maintained to the lowest standard needed to provide access to treat vegetation and accomplish any other maintenance and repair work, consistent with safety. However, the design and construction of roads must minimize erosion. (For work in perennially wet areas, see additional discussion in section VII below.)

It is important that such roads be closed to public motorized use, unless they have been approved as system routes after a public process. The Forest Service already has a road system larger than it can manage. In some areas, use of motor vehicles on non-system (usually illegally created) routes is a major problem. Allowing, by design or default, public motorized use on roads intended only for power line maintenance would exacerbate this problem, as any such use would not necessarily be limited to the power line roads. Some motorized recreation enthusiasts frequently explore whatever areas they can, regardless of whether such use is legal or appropriate, often causing considerable impacts to as soils, water quality and wildlife habitat effectiveness. Where system roads cross power line roads, it may be necessary to block motor vehicle access to the power line roads from the other roads.

All roads not intended to open to public motorized use should be gated and signed closed. Regular patrols by law enforcement officers should occur, especially during big game rifle hunting season, when many road use violations occur. It is important that gates be placed in areas where they are most likely to be effective, i. e., not in cleared or naturally open areas where they can easily be avoided. Rather, gates should be paced in other areas where mature trees or boulders, e. g., would prevent or discourage driving around gates.

Roads in areas where vegetation treatment has been completed and will not likely need to be done again for many years should be obliterated. This would discourage illegal public access.

VI. **PROTECT ROADLESS AREAS**. It is likely that some of the approximately 270 miles of WAPA power lines on Colorado's national forests pass through some roadless areas. While power line corridors in these areas may still need to be treated, any treatment should be done in such a way as to conserve, to the maximum extent possible, roadless area characteristics. These are:

> Roadless area characteristics. Resources or features that are often present in and characterize inventoried roadless areas, including:
> (1) High quality or undisturbed soil, water, and air;
> (2) Sources of public drinking water;
> (3) Diversity of plant and animal communities;
> (4) Habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and

sensitive species and for those species dependent on large, undisturbed areas of land;
(5) Primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized and semi-primitive motorized classes of dispersed recreation;
(6) Reference landscapes;
(7) Natural appearing landscapes with high scenic quality;
(8) Traditional cultural properties and sacred sites; and
(9) Other locally identified unique characteristics.

From the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, 36 CFR 294.11 (2001). This Rule is in effect on Colorado's national forests.

Any treatment within roadless areas should be designed to minimize impacts. New road construction must be minimized. Before any roads are constructed, non-road construction alternatives should be considered. Any roads must be low standard and, if possible, be obliterated after treatment. Road closures must be made effective.

There should be no piling of slash in roadless areas. Weeds must be eradicated.

VII. **CAREFULLY DESIGN TREATMENT IN AREAS NEAR WATER BODIES**. The Federal Register notice states that the project "may involve action in wetlands or floodplains". FR Notice at 17914. Any activity in wetlands must avoid long- and short-term impacts associated with the destruction or modifications of wetlands. 10 CFR 1022.3(c). See also 10 CFR 1022.14(a). Alternatives that would avoid or mitigate damage to wetlands must be considered. 10 CFR 1022.3(d). The practicality of alternatives to wetland actions and of the mitigation measures must be evaluated with consideration of any public comment. 10 CFR 1022.15(b).

The project may also involve action in riparian areas, those areas immediately adjacent to streams and lakes that show influence of a higher water table. Collectively, riparian, wetland, and floodplain areas are known as the water influence zone (WIZ).

Actions in such areas must be designed to minimize damage to soils, water quality, and non-target vegetation. Generally, heavy equipment, such as tractors, feller-bunchers, log forwarders, etc. commonly used in logging, should be kept out of such areas, as heavy machinery could cause a considerable amount of damage by compacting soils and causing sediment deposition into water bodies.

Trees that need to be cut should hand felled (i. e. by people with chainsaws), then either treated in place or skidded out of the WIZ, if the latter can be done with minimal damage. The exception would be if the fisheries biologist believes that woody debris would create, maintain, or enhance fish habitat, in which case some tree bole sections could be retained in the WIZ or the stream itself. However, logs should not be placed near culverts or bridges, nor in such numbers or configuration that a debris jam could occur.

The management measures, design criteria, and monitoring requirements in the Forest Service's Watershed Conservation Practices Handbook, FSH 2509.25, must be followed.

VIII. **PLAN TO MAINTAIN OR ESTABLISH SOME VEGETATION IN TREATED TRANSMISSION CORRIDORS, BUT ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS**. While trees and other vegetation that could fall onto power lines need to be treated, ground vegetation must be maintained, and/or reestablished as necessary. Failure to do so would lead to soil erosion and increase the chances of establishment and spread of noxious weeds. Various types of native vegetation, i. e., grasses, forbs, and some shrubs, can be safely grown underneath and adjacent to power lines without fear that they would grow tall enough to interfere with the lines.

A design criterion should require establishment of native vegetation a soon as possible after treatment. It is most important to do so in areas where power lines cross steep slopes, as such locations would have the highest potential for water erosion of soils. While native plant species should be used, sterile, annual, non-native plants can be used while native species are getting established on sites that are difficult to revegetate. All sites where revegetation is necessary need to be regularly monitored to assess the progress of reestablishment of vegetation.

Prior to any treatment in a given power line corridor, there must first be a thorough survey for noxious weds. Any such plants found should be eradicated, to the extent practical.[1] After treatment, survey and eradication should be done for at least two full growing seasons. There must also be requirements for vehicles used in treatment operations to be washed before they come on to the national forest each day.

CONCLUSION. Treating vegetation near power lines to maintain the safety and reliability of electrical transmission is important. However, treatment should be limited to areas and methods that truly reduce existing threats to power lines and/or reduce the likelihood of future threats arising. Areas where vegetation is removed must not be any more than is needed to protect the electrical lines, with a small added safety margin.

Roadless area characteristics must be protected to the maximum degree possible. Effects on habitat for any endangered, threatened, and sensitive species must be minimized. Populations of rare plants must be avoided entirely, and a suitable buffer to allow population expansion must be required. Treatments in wet areas must be limited to protect soils, water quality and vegetation.

Slash disposal/removal must be carefully designed and implemented, and the results monitored. All existing and new roads used for access to treatment areas must be closed to public motorized use unless legally open to such use. Existing weed populations must be eradicated, and new populations must not be introduced.

Sincerely,

[1] In some areas, it may not be possible to completely eradicate well-established invasive species such as Canada thistle. But it is important that operations be designed and conducted to ensure there is minimal likelihood of introducing or spreading weeds.

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Wild Connections
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San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council

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ec: Dave Loomis, USDA Forrest Service
Ron Turley, WAPA

REFERENCES

Aubry, Keith B., Gary M. Koehler, and John R. Squires, 1999. Ecology of Canada Lynx in Southern Boreal Forests. In: Ecology and Conservation of Lynx in the United States. Leonard F. Ruggieero, Keith B. Aubry, Steven B. Buskirk, Gary M. Koehler, Charles J. Krebs, Kevin S. McKelvey, and John R. Squires. USDA Forest Service RMRS-GTR-30WWW, October, 1999.

Ruediger, Bill, Jim Claar, Steve Gniadek, Bryon Holt, Lyle Lewis, Steve Mighton, Bob Naney, Gary Patton, Tony Rinaldi, Joel Trick, Anne Vandehey, Fred Wahl, Nancy Warren, Dick Wenger, and Al Williamson. 2000. Canada Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy. USDA Forest Service, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, and USDI National Park Service. Missoula, MT.

1008

UINTAH COUNTY

STATE OF UTAH

Our past is the nation's future

RECEIVED
BY SGB DATE 11 MAY 2010

May 6, 2010

Mr. Jim Hartman
Environmental Manager, J0400
Western Area Power Administration
PO Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80538

RE: Western Area Power Administration Right-of-way Management and Authorization on Forest System Lands.

Dear Mr. Hartman,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by Western Area Power Administration to improve the way it manages and maintains existing transmission lines on National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah and Nebraska. Transmission line routes are permanently altered areas; tall trees are not compatible with power lines. Without proper routine management, power outages have occurred. Encroachment of vegetation in the rights-of-ways hinders and causes delays for emergency vehicles. Maintenance of electric utility rights-of-way is necessary to reduce wildfire risk, incorporate multiple use objectives, reduce fuels and ensure safety and reliability.

Uintah County extends its support for this proposed EIS and is always interested in the management, multiple use and safety of the Forest.

Sincerely,

UINTAH COUNTY COMMISSION

Darlene R. Burns
Darlene R. Burns

Michael J. McKee
Michael J. McKee

Mark D. Raymond
Mark D. Raymond

cc: Mr. David Loomis

COUNTY BUILDING • 152 EAST 100 NORTH • VERNAL, UTAH 84078

Robert Riddle
Wasatch County, Utah

1009

Public Scoping Meeting

Western Area Power Administration

Vegetative Maintenance Design Features:

Plants

Wasatch County encourages utilization of merchantable timber wherever possible and opposes the policy of cutting, loping and scattering timber resources that could be developed into a product.

Forest management plans shall be written and effective management techniques adopted to promote a stable forest economy and enhanced forest health, in accordance with the National Healthy Forest Initiative. (Act of 2003, P.L. 108-148) Efficient and effective use of National Environmental Policy Act Documentation for limited timber harvest will be encouraged. Use of Interim Directive (ID) 1909.15 – 2003-2 will be encouraged for timber harvest projects that do not require further analysis and may be categorically excluded as outlined in categories 12, 13 & 14 of said ID. Opportunities for harvesting forest products shall be promoted.

Developed Recreation Sites, Trails, Trailheads, and Administrative Sites

Wasatch County encourages restrictions of corridor access roads to the general public to avoid future impacts to the watershed and to prevent user developed roads within the corridor.

Future access needs must be planned and analyzed to determine the disposition of the road at the completion of its intended life. This is to ensure that needed access is maintained or that such access is removed and resulting disturbances reclaimed.

Access to all water related facilities such as dams, reservoirs, delivery systems, monitoring facilities, communication sites, power line corridors etc., must be maintained. This access must be economically feasible with respect to the method and timing of such access.

Public Safety

Wasatch County encourages restriction of corridor access roads to the general public to avoid future impacts to the watershed and to prevent user developed road within the corridor.

Off-highway vehicles should be used responsibly, and the management of off-highway vehicles should be uniform across jurisdictional boundaries. Laws related to the use of off-highway vehicles should be uniformly applied across all jurisdictions.

All necessary action will be taken to protect access. The county will identify and inventory roads and participate with federal and state land management agencies in decision-making regarding site-specific management.

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Riparian Areas, Aquatic Resources, and Water Quality

Wasatch County encourages utilization of merchantable timber wherever possible and opposes the policy of cutting, loping and scattering timber resources that could be developed into a product.

The management of the watershed should allow for continued multiple use. It should preserve the quality and quantity of water as well as environmental values and allow the watershed to support existing and future uses.

Apply scientifically effective practices to maintain and improve the quality and quantity of desirable plant cover to protect watersheds, timber, and rangelands from soil erosion.

Recognize the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey as the authority in matters of soil conservation.

1010

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: Breanne Glover Organization:

Address: 2933A. Bunting Ave.

City: Grand Junction State: CO Zip: 81504

Email Address: Brecheesecake 23 @ yahoo.com

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:** 4/23/10

I believe as long as this project doesn't affect Wildlife habitat, ground plant growth and reduces the effects of Global Warming this idea is brilliant. and I am in support of it. Colorado is one of the most beautiful states, and should be preserved. Teddy Roosevelt would be proud and be in total support of this too, as one of the reasons we have National forests.

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

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Jim Hartman, Environmental Manager
Western Area Power Administration
P. O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80539-3003

Submitted via e-mail: Western-FS-EIS@wapa.gov

Dear Sir;

Please accept the following comments (and examples photos) on WAPA Maintenance and Vegetation Management along existing Western Transmission Line rights of way on CO National Forest System Lands, and Transmission Line Management Reauthorization Project, as described in the April 8, 2010 Federal Register notice (75 Fed Reg 17913 et seq.), and in additional material distributed to the public.
(found at http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/Western-FS-EIS.htm)

We understand a need to have administrative vehicle access routes to WAPA transmission lines for maintenance, inspection and other activities necessary for proper operation of the transmission line. The existence of these routes will have presence effects on the surrounding environment whether they are used or not.

These routes generally receive rather infrequent and low volume use by administrative vehicles, so the actual use effects of these routes on the surrounding environment is minimal. Some routes may only receive administrative use once a month, once a year, or even less. This is compared to the much greater use effects of a route open to unlimited public access like a Forest Service road.

In general, WAPA transmission line access routes were approved under permit for WAPA administrative use only and not open to public use. These routes were generally not designed, constructed or maintained or approved for open public use.

A growing population, advances in OHV technology, increased use of public lands and a lack of signage and education have resulted in what is, in effect, a problem of increased unauthorized use and trespass on WAPA transmission line access routes. Unauthorized public use of these routes results in increased maintenance costs, safety and liability concerns and potential vandalism concerns for WAPA. Unauthorized use of these routes also has numerous individual and cumulative negative effects on the surrounding environment.

We strongly suggest that all transmission line maintenance and right of way (ROW) access routes be properly closed to public vehicle use to limit negative environmental effects. Properly closing transmission line ROW access and maintenance routes to open public vehicle use use will have numerous benefits, including but not limited to, reducing the spread of noxious weeds, improving public safety, minimizing resource impacts, minimizing erosion, siltation, sedimentation and impacts to watersheds, minimizing impacts to wildlife and habitat, reducing air and water quality impacts due to vehicle emissions and dust, reducing the chance of vandalism, reducing route maintenance costs and reducing the risk of human caused wildfire.

Unnecessary and unneeded routes in the transmission line right of way should also be revegetated and recontoured to prevent unauthorized use and limit resource impacts and unauthorized vehicle use.

Routes in the transmission line right of way determined to be necessary for administrative maintenance purposes should be properly gated and signed as off limits to public vehicle use. These gates should be locked with only the permit holder and the managing agency having keys. Permit holders and their authorized agents should use these designated routes and the gates so as not to create new routes.

Necessary transmission line administrative routes need to be properly maintained to land management agency specifications reduce impacts to the surrounding environment. Erosion control structures and culverts must be installed and maintained. These necessary routes should be designed, constructed and maintained to only the minimum standards required to accommodate the most common modes and amounts of required access. In other words, a 2 lane paved route is not required for infrequent access when a narrow rough will suffice.

Existing routes within the transmission line right of way that are now open to public use should be evaluated to determine if this public use was determined to be needed and acceptable as the result of a previously documented NEPA decision. There are many instances where improper closure and lack of management on these routes have resulted in land management agencies and the public having the misperception that these routes were open to public use, when in fact they were originally designed and designated as limited access permit roads open only for administrative use. The North Fooses creek route on the USFS Salida District in Colorado is one such route.

We realize the concern with trees possibly interfering with transmission lines because of their height. The removal of all vegetation in a transmission line right of way should be avoided. Some forest dwelling species are very reluctant to

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cross open areas and thus a long linear transmission line right of way devoid of cover vegetation acts as a migration barrier to these species. Lynx is one such species that avoids open non-forested areas.

Where possible, appropriate lower growing species (such as willows, other bushes and shrubs, and perhaps aspen) should be left to provide migration corridors across the transmission line right of way to facilitate species movement. Especially in the higher elevations (9000' and up) that lynx prefer, the growth of trees is very slow. It may take 50 or more years for a seedling to grow to a height where it would interfere with a transmission line. Ground dwelling species like lynx may benefit from 50 meter wide sections of younger trees left to grow periodically under a the transmission line right of way. We know that maintenance crews may have a tendency to just clear all trees and brush in the right of way. A few corridors where this does not occur developed and clearly delineated with the help of Forest Service biologists, would go a long way towards preserving and facilitating species migration.

In some high altitude environments areas cleared of vegetation may not naturally revegetate on their own with grasses and such, or it may take years for this to occur. Without adequate vegetation, these areas are susceptible to soil instability and erosion, especially on sloping land. Extra care should be taken to stabilize these slopes, using a combination of water diversion structures and planting of grasses and other plants.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this.

Sincerely

Tom Sobal

Quiet Use Coalition
Tom Sobal; Coordinator
POB 1452
Salida, CO 81201
719-207-4130

All WAPA transmission line photos taken from the East side of the Continental Divide near Monarch Pass Chaffee County, CO.

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Improperly signed as an open public road, this administrative access transmission line road on the Salida District invites unauthorized public use.
(this route is **NOT** on the Salida District Motor Vehicle Use Map, but remains open to public use)

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Improperly signed as open, this administrative access road invites unauthorized public use.
(this route is ***not*** on the Salida District Motor Vehicle Use Map)

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Steep route eroding due to lack of water and erosion control structures and open unauthorized public OHV use. Public OHV use of a route loosens the tread surface which may contribute to erosion and increased maintenance costs.

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Tracks of ATVs, motorcycles and jeeps on a transmission line administrative access route near Salida that is not properly closed to public use.

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Recently graded, maintained and smoothed administrative access road under transmission line near Salida. Was this maintenance intended to facilitate easier public access or simply to make administrative access easier?

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Surface water ford under transmission line access route. Unauthorized public OHV use of this route where none should occur contributes to unnecessary oil and gas contamination of watersheds.

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This transmission line ROW and access road has ***presence*** effects on habitats, vegetation, water flow, etc. just by being there. Unauthorized public use of this route contributes to additional ***use*** effects above and beyond that required for administrative access including disruption of natural soundscapes, increased hunting pressure, increased maintenance, etc.

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This inadequately closed side spur route off an administrative access road under transmission line is leading to additional unauthorized use by the public on OHVs.

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Locked gate at bottom of transmission line admin/maintenance road is supposed to deny public access, but even the permittees never use it, as evidenced by trees growing in road bed. Permit holders also access the transmission line admin./maintenance road by bypassing gate and using route on the left in next photo. This is route 225.B on the Salida District.

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Road 225.B is an administrative permitted transmission line admin./maintenance road beyond this point on the Salida District. There is a locked gate to the right on this switchback which is supposed to deny public access to the power line road. The public bypasses this gate and cuts the switchback where the gate is to gain unauthorized access to 5 miles of road under the transmission line.

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Access road contributing to erosion

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ROW, cleared area without vegetation and the road are all contributing to soil instability on this slope. This is leading to erosion. Extra care should be taken here at this high altitude location to ensure that vegetation and water diversion structures are installed to adequately stabilize the soil.

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Unauthorized public use and insufficient maintenance and water diversion structures contributing to erosion on access road.

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Spur route for transmission line access branching off designated Forest road 225.A.
Side spur routes like this should be gated or at least signed as "Administrated route No public access" to prevent unauthorized use.

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Another spur route branching off designated road and leading to transmission line tower. Does WAPA really want people camping under their towers?

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Walsh, Joseph

From: Jim Hartman [HARTMAN@wapa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 2:07 PM
To: Walsh, Joseph; Terry, Madeline
Cc: David E Loomis
Subject: WESTEIS: Request from Bureau of Reclamation--addition to project mailing list

Please add the following person to the mailing list for this project:

Mr. Howard Bailey
Safety and Security Specialist
Eastern Colorado Area Office
Bureau of Reclamation
11056 W. County Road 18E
Loveland, CO 80537-9711
970-962-4355

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Utah State Office
P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155
http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en.html

1013

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

RECEIVED
BY HARTMAN DATE 28 JUN 2010

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1610 / 2800
(UT-935)

JUN 24 2010

James Hartman
Environmental Manager
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80539-3003

Dear Mr. Hartman:

In response to the April 8, 2010 Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and conduct scoping meetings for Maintenance and Vegetation Management Along Existing Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Transmission Line Rights-of-way on National Forest System Lands in Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska, the Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has reviewed WAPA transmission line rights-of-way on BLM administered lands and has determined that WAPA currently has a minimum of five authorized rights-of-ways encompassing about 895 acres of public lands within the BLM Vernal Field Office area.

Since the vegetation management decisions to be made through the subject EIS may also be applicable to BLM administered lands that are closely associated with Forest Service administered lands, the Utah BLM requests the opportunity for review and comment on the administrative draft descriptions of the alternatives and analysis of environmental consequences for the DEIS. Utah BLM also requests to be on the mailing list for the Draft EIS.

Please send the requested information to the BLM Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1345; Attention Lisa Bryant. Lisa may be reached at (801) 539-4069, or by e-mail at Lisa_Bryant@blm.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the development of the EIS.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Banks
Deputy State Director,
Natural Resources

cc: Robert Stewart, OEPC, Denver, CO (ER 10/333)
Loretta Sutton, OEPC, Washington DC (ER 10/333)

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