



Media Advisory: BPA returns island to Mother Nature

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Bonneville Power Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Transmission towers to be hoisted by Big Birds

FLORENCE, Ore. – Crackerjack transmission line crews from the Bonneville Power Administration are joining forces with a CH-54 sky crane helicopter Wednesday to modify a transmission line segment that spans a 4100-foot valley carved by the Siuslaw River.

The segment of transmission line, which is located about five miles east of Florence, Ore., currently is supported by three towers, one tower on each side of the valley and one tower on Duncan Island, which is located in the middle of the Siuslaw. Crews will remove the tower on the island along with three other old H-frame poles located there. Another transmission pole will remain as a nesting site and perch for Osprey. Crews also will replace the towers on either side of the valley with larger, stronger structures that will allow the line to span the valley without the need of a third tower on the island. Many species of birds make their home on Duncan Island, including Bald Eagles and Ospreys.

When: Wednesday, August 18, 1999

The Sky Crane helicopter will begin its mission at 8:30 a.m. unless fog causes a delay. Flight operations will last approximately five hours.

Where: Duncan Island is located approximately five miles east of Florence, Ore., off of Hwy 126. Call the Point of Contact listed above for a map.

Who: Bill Kelsey or Mark Korsness can be reached at 360-921-5903

Why: To return Duncan Island to its pristine condition, creating more habitat for wildlife; to reconfigure the transmission line so it can span the valley around Duncan Island without a transmission tower on the island.

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