

9/26/05

1. Environmental: Shepherd/Kilpatrick (1986/88) agreement and terms with MDFWP regarding property at end of Kootenai River Road where current lines and poles run. This agreement prevented the China Basin/Sheep Range Salvage operation improvement options with the Forest Service for this preserve. Your current transmission lines run through this game preserve area. The lines currently cross the river east of Kootenai Falls. I believe the Salish/Kootenai tribes have an interest in this area. Have they been contacted, and if so, what is their response? 2. More Info: I was not on your mailing list for this project although I am a property owner in Big Horn Terrace. Please mail me correspondence regarding the proposed transmission lines. Have you contacted all property owners including out-of-state owners? Health concerns, no matter what the studies prove or disprove. I did not buy property on that side of the street because of fear of health problems associated with transmission lines. Many families with children live on that side of the street and have great concern over proposed new lines. 3. Comments: This is a very scenic area viewed by US Highway 2 and used by many recreationists and sightseers. The preserve is used by hikers, bicyclers, fisherpersons, walkers, etc. The lines will spoil the view and may hinder sheep recovery programs. Libby is trying to recover from hard economic times with logging and mining restrictions. They have had national attention with the asbestos problem with the EPA and WR Grace Company. Increasing the size of the poles and transmissions lines will de-evaluate property values. This will impact the tax base for Lincoln County. Increasing the size of the poles and lines will cause hardship for many who will have to move wells and septic tanks, let alone having ugly poles and lines cross their homes or abut their buildings. If you buy them out, you should probably consider a minimum of \$325,000 a lot if a home exists, \$125,000 for bare land. Does your budget allow for this? Please consider running lines and poles through Forest Service property away from human living areas. I love this beautiful area and consider it one of the most scenic on the Kootenai River and western Montana.