



**U.S. Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration
PO Box 61409
Vancouver, WA 98666-1409**



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Challis Field Office
1151 Blue Mountain Road
Challis, Idaho 83226**

August 1, 2014

To: Parties interested in Spar Canyon-Round Valley Access Road System Improvements

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to improve the access road system for its existing Spar Canyon–Round Valley transmission line located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in Custer County, Idaho (map enclosed). BPA and BLM plan to jointly prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposal. This letter provides an overview of BPA’s proposal, outlines the environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to comment.

Proposal – BPA’s system improvements would involve constructing 4 to 6 miles of new road, reinforcing road crossings at drainages with rock, and acquiring access rights from BLM for new road use. These improvements are needed because existing roads are in poor condition or lack a defined route of travel. Access roads are critical for continued safe and reliable operation and maintenance of the power transmission system.

BPA submitted an application to the BLM Challis Field Office on September 18, 2013 to amend the existing BLM right-of-way, serial number IDI-22582, for the proposed access road system improvements. BPA and BLM will prepare an EA to understand the potential impacts of the proposal and identify ways to avoid, minimize, and mitigate those impacts.

The following preliminary issues and potential impacts were identified through internal scoping: priority Sage Grouse habitat, visual resource management, and inclusion of the proposed access roads in the Challis travel management plan.

Public involvement – Please let us know if you have concerns about particular resources or questions about the project. Our agencies will consider information we receive to help develop the EA. Please send your comments by **September 2, 2014**. Comments received during the scoping comment period will be posted on the project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/SparCanyon. Please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether or how you would like to receive the EA. Choose the way you would like to comment:

Mail: Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs – DKC-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, OR 97293-4428

FAX: 503-230-4019

On-Line: www.bpa.gov/comment

E-mail: comment@bpa.gov

Process and schedule – The proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Draft EA available for public comment	Spring 2015
Final EA	Late Spring 2015
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Summer 2015
If decision to implement, construction start	Late Summer 2015

For more information – Please visit the BPA project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/SparCanyon to learn more about the project. Information is also available on the Idaho BLM website at https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do.

If you would like further BPA project information, please call Jim Semrau at 360-619-6629, or jsemrau@bpa.gov, or toll free at 800-282-3713. If you have questions regarding environmental review, please contact Jeff Maslow, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 503-230-3928, or jjmaslow@bpa.gov.

If you have questions about the BLM right-of-way amendment or the environmental review, please contact Becky Lazdauskas, Realty Specialist, at 208-524-7521, or rlazdauskas@blm.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Todd Kuck

Todd Kuck
BLM Field Manager

/s/ James E. Semrau

James E. Semrau
BPA Project Manager

Enclosures:
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