



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 FAX: 503-230-4019

Public Affairs – DKC-7

P.O. Box 14428

Portland, OR 97293-4428

303 230 1017

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

Final EA

Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)

If decision to implement, construction start

Spring 2015

Late Spring 2015

Summer 2015

Late Summer 2015

If you would like further BPA project information, please call Jim Semrau at 360-619-6629, or *jesemrau@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

/s/ James E. Semrau

Todd Kuck BLM Field Manager James E. Semrau BPA Project Manager

Enclosures: Project Map Comment Form Reply Card Return Envelope