



File Code: 1900

Date: February 14, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

The Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest would like your comments concerning the following six distinctly separate proposals. Proposals have been received from U.S. Cellular, Cascade Natural Gas, Qwest, Qwest/Pacific Power and Light, Bonneville Power Administration, and Midstate Electric Cooperative, Inc. requesting approval to install their various facilities on national forest system lands. Environmental analyses are being prepared and your input will help us identify issues that are important to the public. The projects are described below and identified on the associated maps:

U.S. Cellular – The project area is located in T22S, R9E, Section 2 at the Wampus Butte communications site. The proposal is to construct a 10'x12' building, an approximately 85' tower, propane tank, generator, and fence. A building and tower of this size will allow for future co-location opportunities. A preliminary review has shown that no trees will need to be removed, and no proposed, sensitive, threatened or endangered species of plants or animals will be affected. (See maps Exhibits B and B2).

Cascade Natural Gas – The project area is located in T18S, R11E, Sections 14, 15 and 22. The proposal is to bury a 6-inch steel gas line approximately 3-miles on the north side of Century Drive from near the Entrada Lodge to the Inn of the Seventh Mountain. This line is proposed for future high pressure use. The line will then cross under the highway to private land. Construction impact could be up to 20' wide. A preliminary review has shown that no trees will need to be removed, and no proposed, sensitive, threatened or endangered species of plants or animals will be affected. There are known weed sites adjacent to the highway in this area. (See map Exhibit C).

Qwest - The project area is located in T20S, R10E., Section 26 and 27. Qwest is proposing to re-route a portion of their utility from the old General Patch Bridge (which is proposed for removal) to the bridge currently in use and along the north side of South Century Drive both east and west of the bridge for a total length of approximately ½ mile. The existing line will be abandoned in place. A preliminary review has shown that no trees will need to be removed, and no proposed, sensitive, threatened or endangered species of plants or animals will be affected. (See map Exhibit D).

Qwest/Pacific Power and Light – The project area is located in T18S, R10E, Sections 9 and 10. The proposal is to bury telephone and power line approximately 1-mile from Skyliner's Road to private land located in T18S, R10E, Section 16. The utilities would be buried in Forest Road 4601-430 within the boundaries of the existing access easement. A preliminary review has shown that no trees will need to be removed, and no proposed, sensitive, threatened or endangered species of plants or animals will be affected. (See map Exhibit E).

Bonneville Power Administration – The project area is located in T22S, R11E, Section 18.



BPA is proposing to add a 115 kilovolt transmission line terminal within an existing substation. As a result, the substation will need to be expanded approximately two-tenths of an acre. The southern perimeter fence will need to be moved out 25 feet to accommodate the additional equipment. A preliminary review has shown that no proposed, sensitive, threatened or endangered species of plants or animals will be affected. (See map Exhibit F).

Midstate Electric Cooperative, Inc. – The project area is located in T20S, R10E, Section 26. Midstate is proposing to bury a power line for a length of approximately 4300 feet along Forest Lane. The line would be buried on the east side of the road next to the existing Qwest telephone line. A preliminary review has shown that no trees will need to be removed, and no proposed, sensitive, threatened or endangered species of plants or animals will be affected. (See map Exhibit G).

Please see the vicinity map, Exhibit A, for additional location information. The projects are of routine administrative, maintenance and other actions that normally do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment; therefore, may be categorically excluded from documentation in an EIS or EA unless scoping indicates extraordinary circumstances exist. When you comment, please specify which proposal you are addressing (e.g., “Cascade Natural Gas”) and submit a separate comment per proposal. Please do not group your comments.

Please submit your comments by March 12, 2008 to the Responsible Official, District Ranger Phil Cruz, at 1230 NE 3rd Street, Suite A-262, Bend, OR 97701; telephone (541) 383-4000; FAX (541) 383-4700; email address: comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-bend-frock@fs.fed.us. Those submitting hand-delivered comments may do so during regular office hours of 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday except legal holidays. Those submitting electronic copies must do so only to the email address listed above, must put the project name in the subject line, and must either submit comments as part of the email message or as an attachment only in one of the following three formats: Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf) or Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf). For more information, please contact Scotty McBride, lands and special uses administrator, at (541) 383-4722.

Sincerely,

/s/ Phil Cruz
PHIL CRUZ
District Ranger

Enclosures (8)