

## Wasatch-Cache Forest Plan

### Amendment No. 8

Effective 30 days following the Decision for the West-wide Energy Corridor  
Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Energy Corridor PEIS) February 14,  
2009

#### **POSTING NOTICE:**

There are 23 pages with this posting notice.

#### **EXPLANATION:**

The analysis to substantiate the addition of Appendix XI to the Land and Resource Management Plan is found in the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact statement (Energy Corridor PEIS, November 2008).

This amendment is a non-significant amendment to the Wasatch-Cache Forest Plan. The plan amendment includes (1) the identification of specific Section 368 energy corridors by centerline, width, and compatible energy uses and restrictions, such as pipeline only or electricity transmission with a restricted tower height (Appendix A of the Energy Corridor PEIS); and (2) the adoption of mandatory interagency operating procedures that would be implemented on a corridor- and project-specific basis (Appendix B of the Energy Corridor PEIS).

On January 14, 2009 USDA Undersecretary Mark Rey signed a Record of Decision (ROD) amending 38 National Forest Land Management Plans to identify locations of corridors suitable for future energy transmission infrastructure across Forest Service land.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 directs the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, and the Interior to designate energy transport corridors for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities on Federal lands in portions of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. The Act further directs that environmental reviews be completed for the designation of such corridors, and that the designated corridors are incorporated into the relevant agency land use and resource management plans or equivalent plans.

Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 219–Planning, Subpart A–National Forest System Land Management Planning (36 CFR part 219, subpart A), section 219.14(b)(3) provides that LMP amendments that had been underway before April 21, 2008 using the provisions of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (See 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, Revised as of July 1, 2000) may complete the LMP amendments in conformance to the provisions of those regulations or may conform to the planning rule promulgated on April 21, 2008 (77 FR 21468). Therefore, these LMP amendments are being completed using the provisions of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (36 CFR parts 200 to 299, Revised as of July 1, 2000).

**TABLE A (Cont.)**

State	Land Use Plan to Be Amended <sup>b</sup>	Responsible Office	Corridor	Nondefault Width (ft) <sup>c</sup>	Nondefault Energy Transport Moded	Rationale <sup>d</sup>
Utah (Cont.)	Wasatch-Cache NF LMP	Unita-Wasatch-Cache NF	256-257	2,640		Reduced width is to avoid roadless areas and is consistent with the existing plan.
Washington	Mount Baker-Snoqualmie NF LMP	Mount Baker-Snoqualmie NF	102-105	500–3,450	Electric upgrade only	Reduced width and limitation to electric upgrade-only are to protect endangered marbled murrelet and bull trout.
	Mount Baker-Snoqualmie NF LMP	Mount Baker-Snoqualmie NF	244-245			
	Wenatchee NF LMP	Okanogan-Wenatchee NF	102-105	500	Electric upgrade only	Reduced width and limitation to electric upgrade-only are to protect endangered marbled murrelet and bull trout.
	Wenatchee NF LMP	Okanogan-Wenatchee NF	244-245			
Wyoming	Ashley NF LMP	Ashley NF	218-240	1,500	Underground only	Reduced width and limitation to underground-only are to reduce visual and recreational value impacts.
	Medicine Bow NF LMP	Medicine Bow-Routt NF and Thunder Basin NG	78-255			

## Footnotes

<sup>a</sup> E= East; FS = Forest Service; LMP = Land Management Plan; N=North; NF= National Forest; NG = National Grassland; NRA = National Recreation Area; S=South; W=West.

<sup>b</sup> Land use plans will be amended to designate the energy corridors under EPO Act Section 368. The names for some FS plans depicted in this Appendix may not be current. During the development of this PEIS, a number of FS land use plans were undergoing revisions for reasons unrelated to corridor designation, and those revisions may have resulted in changes in plan boundaries and names. Some of those plan revisions were only recently completed, but not in time to be incorporated into the final PEIS.

<sup>c</sup> Unless otherwise shown, corridor designations will be for the default width of 3,500 feet and for compatible multimodal uses.

<sup>s</sup> Designation and use of energy transport corridors under EPO Act Section 368 and in accordance with the IOPs and mitigating measures in the PEIS are consistent with other resource values and uses in the planning area. Where appropriate, the rationale for designation of specific corridors is presented.

## **APPENDIX B:**

### **INTERAGENCY OPERATING PROCEDURES**

These Interagency Operating Procedures (IOPs) are adopted as part of the plan amendments and are mandatory, as appropriate, for projects proposed within the Section 368 corridors. Not all IOPs will be appropriate for all projects; those that apply to pipelines, for instance, are not appropriate to transmission lines. IOPs will apply to appropriate projects. These IOPs are practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from future project development that may occur within the designated corridors.

The IOPs set forth below are not intended, and should not be construed, to alter applicable provisions of law or regulation or to reduce the protections afforded thereby to the resources addressed in the IOPs.

These IOPs are adopted as proposed in the Final PEIS with minor technical edits and clarifications (identified by this shading).

#### **B.1 PROJECT PLANNING**

##### **Regulatory Compliance**

1. The appropriate agency, assisted by the applicant, must conduct project-specific NEPA analyses in compliance with Section 102 of NEPA. The scope, content, and type of analysis shall be determined on a project-by-project basis by the Agencies and the applicants.
2. The appropriate agency, assisted by the project applicant, must comply with Section 106 of the NHPA on a project-by-project basis. Consultation with SHPOs, any federally recognized Tribes, and other appropriate parties as per regulations (36 CFR 800) must begin early in the planning process and continue throughout project development and execution. The ACHP retains the option to comment on all undertakings (36 CFR 800.9).
3. The appropriate agency, assisted by the project applicant, must consult with the USFWS and the NMFS as required by Section 7 of ESA. The specific consultation requirements, as set forth in regulations at 50 CFR Part 402, would be applied on a project-by-project basis. Applicants shall identify known occupied sites, such as nest sites, for threatened and endangered species and special status species.
4. The appropriate agency, assisted by the project applicant, must coordinate and consult with NMFS regarding potential impacts to essential fish habitat (EFH) as required by the 1996 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

##### **Agency Coordination**

1. Applicants seeking to develop energy transport projects within corridors located on or near DOD facilities or flight training areas (see Appendix L for applicable corridors) must, early in the planning process and in conjunction with the appropriate agency staff, inform and coordinate with the DOD regarding the characteristics and locations of the anticipated project infrastructure.
2. Early in the planning process, applicants seeking a ROW authorization within a Section 368 energy corridor that is located within five miles of a unit of the NPS should contact the appropriate Agency staff and work with the NPS regarding the characteristics and locations of anticipated project infrastructure. In those instances where corridors cross lands within the boundaries of a unit of the NPS, the National Park Service Organic Act and other relevant laws and policies shall apply.
3. In those instances where projects using energy corridors are proposed to also cross National

Wildlife Refuge System lands, the National Wildlife System Administration Act and other relevant laws and policies pertinent to national wildlife refuges shall apply.

4. For electricity transmission projects, the applicant shall notify the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as early as practicable in the planning process in order to identify appropriate aircraft safety requirements.

5. All project applications must reflect applicable findings, mitigation, and/or standards contained in regional land management plans, such as the Northwest Forest Plan, when such regional plans have been incorporated into agency planning guidelines and requirements. Modification of some standards may be needed to reasonably allow for energy transport within a corridor.

### Government-to-Government Consultation

1. The appropriate agency, assisted by the project applicant, must initiate government to government consultation with affected Tribes at the outset of project planning and shall continue consultation throughout all phases of the project, as necessary. Agencies should determine how to consult in a manner that reflects the cultural values, socioeconomic factors, and administrative structures of the interested Tribes.

2. The agency POC may require the project proponent to prepare an ethnographic study when Tribal consultation indicates the need. The study shall be conducted by a qualified professional selected in consultation with the affected Tribe.

### General

1. Applicants seeking to develop an electricity transmission or pipeline project will develop a project-specific plan of development (POD). The POD should display the location of the project infrastructure (i.e., towers, power lines) and identify areas of short- and long-term land and resource impacts and the mitigation measures for site-specific and resource-specific environmental impacts. The POD should also include notification of project termination and decommissioning to the agencies at a time period specified by the agencies.

2. Applicants, working with the appropriate agencies, shall design projects to comply with all appropriate and applicable Agency policies and guidance.

3. Project planning shall be based on the current state of knowledge. Where corridors are subject to sequential projects, project-related planning (such as the development of spill response plans, cultural resource management plans, and visual resource management plans) and project-specific mitigation and monitoring should incorporate information and lessons learned from previous projects.

4. Applicants shall follow the best management practices for energy transport project siting, construction, and operations of the states in which the proposed project would be located, as well as federal agency practices.

5. Corridors are to be efficiently used. The applicant, assisted by the appropriate agency, shall consolidate the proposed infrastructure, such as access roads, wherever possible and utilize existing roads to the maximum extent feasible, minimizing the number, lengths, and widths of roads, construction support areas, and borrow areas.

6. When concurrent development projects are proposed and implemented within a corridor, the agency POCs shall coordinate the projects to ensure consistency with regard to all regulatory compliance and consultation requirements, and to avoid duplication of effort.

7. Applicants, assisted by the appropriate agency, shall prepare a monitoring plan for all project-specific mitigation activities.

8. Potential cumulative impacts to resources should be considered during the early stages of the project. Agency POCs must coordinate various development projects to consider and minimize cumulative impacts. A review of resource impacts resulting from other projects in the region should be conducted and any pertinent information be considered during project planning.

### Project Design

1. Applicants shall locate desired projects within energy corridors to promote effective use of the corridors by subsequent applicants and to avoid the elimination of use or encumbrance of use of the corridors by ROW holders. Proposed projects should be compatible with identified energy transport modes and avoid conflicts with other land uses within a corridor.
2. Applicant shall identify and delineate existing underground metallic pipelines in the vicinity of a proposed electricity transmission line project and design the project to avoid accelerating the corrosion of the pipelines and/or pumping wells.

### Transportation

1. The applicant shall prepare an access road siting and management plan that incorporates relevant agency standards regarding road design, construction, maintenance, and decommissioning. Corridors will be closed to public vehicular access unless determined by the appropriate federal land manager to be managed as part of an existing travel and transportation network in a land use plan or subsequent travel management plan(s).
2. The applicant shall prepare a comprehensive transportation plan for the transport of transmission tower or pipeline components, main assembly cranes, and other large equipment. The plan should address specific sizes, weights, origin, destination, and unique equipment handling requirements. The plan should evaluate alternative transportation routes and should comply with state regulations and all necessary permitting requirements. The plan should address site access roads and eliminate hazards from truck traffic or adverse impacts to normal traffic flow. The plan should include measures such as informational signage and traffic controls that may be necessary during construction or maintenance of facilities.
3. Applicants shall consult with local planning authorities regarding increased traffic during the construction phase, including an assessment of the number of vehicles per day, their size, and type. Specific issues of concern (e.g., location of school bus routes and stops) should be identified and addressed in the traffic management plan.

### Groundwater

1. Applicants must identify and delineate all sole source aquifers in the vicinity of a proposed project and design the project to avoid disturbing these aquifers or to minimize potential risks that the aquifers could be contaminated by spills or leaks of chemicals used in the projects.
2. In instances where a project within an energy corridor crosses sole source aquifers, the applicant must notify the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the agencies that administer the land as early as practicable in the planning process. Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 USC Chapter 6A) and other relevant laws and policies pertinent to the corridors that cross sole source aquifers shall apply.

### Surface Water

1. Applicants must identify all wild and scenic rivers (designated by act of Congress or by the Secretary of the Interior under Section 3(a) or 2(a)(ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers

Act (16 USC 1271-1287), respectively), congressionally authorized wild and scenic study rivers, and agency identified (eligible or suitable) wild and scenic study rivers in the vicinity of a proposed project and design the project to avoid the rivers or mitigate the disturbance to the rivers and their vicinity.

2. In instances where a project within an energy corridor crosses a wild and scenic river or a wild and scenic study river, the appropriate federal permitting agency, assisted by the project applicant, must coordinate and consult with the river-administrating agency regarding the protection and enhancement of the free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable natural, cultural, and recreational values.

3. Applicants shall identify all streams in the vicinity of proposed project sites that are listed as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (33 USC Chapter 26) and provide a management plan to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts on those streams.

### Paleontological Resources

1. The applicant shall conduct an initial scoping assessment to determine whether construction activities would disturb formations that may contain important paleontological resources. Potential impacts to significant paleontological resources should be avoided by moving or rerouting the site of construction or removing or reducing the need for surface disturbance. When avoidance is not possible, a mitigation plan should be prepared to identify physical and administrative protective measures and protocols such as halting work, to be implemented in the event of fossil discoveries. The scoping assessment and mitigation plan should be conducted in accordance with the managing agency's fossil management practices and policies.

2. If significant paleontological resources are known to be present in the project area, or if areas with a high potential to contain paleontological material have been identified, the applicant shall prepare a paleontological resources management and mitigation plan. If adverse impacts to paleontological resources cannot be avoided or mitigated within the designated corridors, the agency may consider alternative development routes to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects.

3. A protocol for unexpected paleontological discoveries should be developed. Unexpected discovery during construction should be brought to the immediate attention of the responsible federal agency's authorized officer. Work should be halted in the vicinity of the discovery to avoid further disturbance of the resource while the resource is being evaluated and appropriate mitigation measures are being developed.

### Ecological Resources

1. Applicants shall identify important, sensitive, or unique habitats and BLM-special status species (BLM 2008), FS-sensitive, and state-listed species in the vicinity of proposed projects and design the project to avoid or mitigate impacts to these habitats and species.

2. To restore disturbed habitats, the applicant will prepare a habitat restoration plan that identifies the approach and methods to be used to restore habitats disturbed during project construction activities. The plan will be designed to expedite the recovery to natural habitats supporting native vegetation, and require restoration to be completed as soon as practicable after completion of construction, minimizing the habitat converted at any one time. To ensure rapid and successful restoration efforts, the plan will include restoration success criteria, including time frames, which will be developed in coordination with the appropriate agency and which must be met by the applicant. Bonding to cover the full cost of restoration will be required.

3. In consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the appropriate agency, assisted by the project applicant, will identify wetlands (including ephemeral, intermittent, and isolated wetlands), riparian habitats, streams, and other aquatic habitats in the project area and design the project to avoid or mitigate impacts to these habitats.

## Vegetation Management

1. Applicants shall develop an integrated vegetation management plan consistent with applicable regulations and agency policies for the control of unwanted vegetation, noxious weeds, and invasive species (E.O. 13112). The plan should address monitoring; ROW vegetation management; the use of certified weed-seed-free hay, straw, and/or mulch; the cleaning of vehicles to avoid the introduction of invasive weeds; education of personnel on weed identification; the manner in which weeds spread; and the methods for treating infestations (BLM 2006, 2007a,b, 2008).

## Cultural Resources

1. Cultural resources management services and individuals providing those services shall meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation, 48 FR 44716 (Sept. 29, 1983).

2. The project applicant may, with the approval of the agency POC, assign a Cultural Resource Coordinator to ensure an integrated compliance process across administrated and jurisdictional boundaries. The Cultural Resource Coordinator will facilitate and coordinate compliance with multiple laws, policies, regulations, and existing pertinent agreements (PAs, MOAs, or MOUs) among multiple agencies and other entities, jurisdictions, and federally recognized Tribes. The coordinator may assist with development of pertinent agreements among concerned parties during the course of the project. The coordinator shall be a qualified professional with experience in cultural resource compliance. Where appropriate, the Cultural Resource Coordinator may also serve as the Tribal Coordinator. Alternatively, the agency POC may assign such coordinators, to be paid for through project cost-recovery funds. The agencies, through the POC, remain responsible for consultation.

3. The project applicant may, with the approval of the agency POC, assign a Tribal Coordinator to facilitate and coordinate consultation and compliance with multiple laws, agencies, and Tribes in order to ensure effective government-to-government consultation throughout the life of the project. Alternatively, the agency POC may assign such coordinators, to be paid for through project cost-recovery funds. The agencies, through the POC, remain responsible for consultation.

4. All historic properties in the Area of Potential Effect (APE) will be identified and evaluated. The APE shall include that area within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties and shall include a reasonable construction buffer zone and laydown areas, access roads, and borrow areas, as well as a reasonable assessment of areas subject to effects from visual, auditory, or atmospheric impacts, or impacts from increased access.

5. Project proponents must develop a cultural resources management plan (CRMP) to outline the process for compliance with applicable cultural resource laws during pre-project planning, management of resources during operation, and consideration of the effect of decommissioning. CRMPs should meet the specifications of the appropriate agency and address compliance with all appropriate laws. CRMPs should include the following, as appropriate: identification of the

federally recognized Tribes, State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), and consulting parties for the project; identification of long- and short-term management goals for cultural resources within the APE of the project; the definition of the APE; appropriate procedures for inventory, evaluation, and identification of effects to historic properties; evaluation of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for all resources in the APE; description of the measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties; procedures for inadvertent discovery; procedures for considering Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) issues, monitoring needs, and plans to be employed during construction; curation procedures; anticipated personnel requirements and qualifications; public outreach and interpretation plans; and discussion of other concerns. The draft CRMP should be reviewed and approved by the agency POC in consultation with historic preservation partners, including appropriate SHPOs, Tribes, and consulting parties. CRMPs must specify procedures that would be followed for compliance with cultural resource laws, should the project change during the course of implementation.

6. Project applicants will provide cultural resources training for project personnel regarding the laws protecting cultural resources, appropriate conduct in the field (such as procedures for the inadvertent discovery of human remains), and other project-specific issues identified in the CRMP. Training plans should be part of the CRMP and should be subject to the approval of the POC. When government-to-government consultation identifies the need and the possibility, Tribes may be invited to participate in or contribute to relevant sessions.

7. If adverse effects to historic properties will result from a project, a Historic Property Treatment Plan will be developed in consultation with the SHPO, the appropriate federally recognized Tribes, and any consulting parties. The plan will outline how the impacts to the historic properties would be mitigated, minimized, or avoided. Agency officials will give full consideration to the applicable mitigation measures found in Section 3.10.5.2 of the final PEIS when consulting during the project pre-planning stages to resolve adverse effects on historic properties.

8. As directed by the agency POC, project proponents will prepare a public education and outreach component regarding project-related cultural resource issues (e.g. discoveries, impacts) such as a public presentation, a news article, a publication, or a display. Public education and outreach components will be subject to Agency approval and Tribal review and consultation when the content or format is of interest to affected Tribes.

9. Cultural resources inventory, evaluation, and mitigation practices should incorporate modeling and sampling strategies to the extent practicable, in concurrence with SHPOs and other relevant parties, and as approved by the agency POC.

10. Project applicants shall provide all cultural resources reports and data in an electronic format that is approved by the Agency POC and integrated across jurisdictional boundaries, that meets current standards, and that is compatible with SHPO systems. The Agency will submit this data to the SHPO in a timely fashion. Project proponents should submit cultural resources data on a regular basis to ensure that SHPO systems are kept up to date for reference as the different phases of the project proceed. Paper records may also be required by the agency.

11. Cultural resources inventory procedures, specified in the CRMP, will include development of historic contexts based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716) sufficient to support the evaluation of cultural resources encountered in the APE.



## Tribal Traditional Cultural Resources

1. The appropriate agency, assisted by the applicant, must comply with all laws, policies, and regulations pertaining to government-to-government consultation with federally recognized Tribes. Agencies shall initiate consultation with affected Tribes at the outset of project planning and shall continue consultation throughout project planning, construction, operation, and decommissioning. Consultation shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (a) identification of potentially affected Tribes; (b) identification of appropriate Tribal contacts and the preferred means of communication with these Tribes; (c) provision to the Tribes of project-specific information (e.g., project proponents, maps, design features, proposed ROW routes, construction methods, etc.) at the outset of project planning and throughout the life of the project; (d) identification of issues of concern specific to affected Tribes (e.g., potential impacts to culturally sensitive areas or resources, hazard and safety management plans, treaty reserved rights and trust responsibilities); (e) identification of areas and resources of concern to Tribes; and (f) resolution of concerns (e.g., actions to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to important resources; Memoranda of Agreement stating what actions would be taken to mitigate project effects; or agreements for Tribal participation in monitoring efforts or operator training programs).
2. The appropriate agency, assisted by the applicant, must comply with all pertinent laws, policies, and regulations addressing cultural and other resources important to Tribes, including the NHPA, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), the Native American Graves Protection Act (NAGPRA), and other laws and regulations as listed in Table 3.11-2 in Volume I of the PEIS.
3. The agencies shall recognize the significance to many Tribes of traditional cultural places, such as sacred sites, sacred landscapes, gathering grounds, and burial areas, and shall seek to identify such areas through consultation with affected Tribes early in the project planning process. Agencies shall seek to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to such places in consultation with the Tribes, project proponents, and other relevant parties. Where confidentiality concerning these areas is important to an affected Tribe, agencies shall honor such confidentiality unless the Tribe agrees to release the information.
4. A protocol must be developed for inadvertent discovery of Native American human remains and funerary items to comply with the NAGPRA in consultation with appropriate federally recognized Tribes. Unexpected discovery of such items during construction must be brought to the immediate attention of the responsible federal agency's authorized officer. Work must be halted in the vicinity of the find of Native American graves and funerary items to avoid further disturbance to the resources while they are being evaluated and appropriate mitigation measures are being developed. The procedures for reporting items covered under NAGPRA must be identified in the CRMP.

## Visual Resources

1. Applicants shall identify and consider visual resource management (VRM) and scenery management (SMS) issues early in the design process to facilitate integration of VRM and scenery treatments into the overall site development program and construction documents. Visual/scenery management considerations, environmental analyses, mitigation planning, and design shall reference and be in accordance with the land management agency visual/scenery management policies and procedures applicable to the jurisdiction the project lies within. Applicants shall coordinate between multiple agencies on visual/scenery sensitive issues when projects transition from one jurisdiction to another, especially when transitions occur within a shared viewshed.

2. Applicants shall prepare a VRM or scenery management plan. The applicant's planning team shall include an appropriately trained specialist, such as a landscape architect with demonstrated VRM and/or SMS experience. The VRM/SMS specialist shall coordinate with the BLM/FS on the availability of the appropriate visual or scenic inventory data, VRM management class delineations, Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIOs), and federal agency expectations for preparing project plans and mitigation strategies to comply with RMP or LRMP direction related to scenery and/or visual resources. Applicants shall confirm that a current Visual Resource Inventory and/or Scenic Class inventory is available and that the resource management plan (RMP) or land resource and management plan (LRMP) VRM classifications or SIOs have been designated in the current land management plan. Project plans shall abide by the VRM class designations and SIOs and consider sensitivities defined within the visual or scenic resource inventory. If visual or scenic management objectives are absent, then the proper inventory and classification process shall be followed to develop them in accordance with the BLM VRM manual and handbooks or FS SMS process, depending on the agency. When the VRM management classes or SIOs are absent, then the project alternatives must reflect a range of management options related to scenery and visual resources that reflect the values identified in the visual/scenic inventory. Responsibility for developing an inventory or VRM management classes (or in the case of the FS, Scenic Classes and SIOs) will remain with the respective agency, but how to accomplish these tasks will be determined by the Field Office Manager or Forest Supervisor, who will consider the applicant's role and financial participation in completing the work.

3. Visual and scenic mitigation planning/design and analysis shall be performed through integrated field assessment, applied global positioning system (GPS) technology, field photo documentation, use of computer-aided design and development software, 3-D modeling GIS software, and visual simulation software, as appropriate. Proposed activities, projects, and site development plans shall be analyzed and further developed using these technologies to meet visual and scenic objectives for the project area and surrounding areas sufficient to provide the full context of the viewshed. Visual simulations shall be prepared according to BLM Handbook H-8432-1, or other agency requirements, to create spatially accurate depictions of the appearance of proposed facilities, as reflected in the 3-D design models. Simulations shall depict proposed project appearance from sensitive/scenic locations as well as more typical viewing locations. Transmission towers, roads, compressor stations, valves, and other aboveground infrastructure should be integrated esthetically with the surrounding landscape in order to minimize contrast with the natural environment.

4. Applicants shall develop adequate terrain mapping on a landscape/viewshed scale for site planning/design, visual impact analysis, visual impact mitigation planning/design, and for full assessment and mitigation of cumulative visual impacts through applied, state-of-the-art design practices using the cited software systems. The landscape/viewshed scale mapping shall be geo-referenced and at the same Digital Elevation Model (DEM) resolution and contour interval within the margin of error suitable for engineered site design. This level of mapping shall enable proper placement of proposed developments into the digital viewshed context. Final plans shall be field verified for compliance.

5. The full range of visual and scenic best management practices shall be considered, and plans shall incorporate all pertinent best management practices (BMPs). Visual and scenic resource monitoring and compliance strategies shall be included as a part of the project mitigation plans.

6. Compliance with VRM/SMS objectives shall be determined through the use of the BLM Contrast Rating procedures defined in BLM Handbook H-8431-1 Visual Contrast Rating, or the

FS SMS Handbook 701. Mitigation of visual impacts shall abide by the requirements of these handbooks.

## Public Health and Safety

1. An electricity transmission project shall be planned by the applicant to comply with FAA regulations, including lighting regulations, and to avoid potential safety issues associated with proximity to airports, military bases or training areas, or landing strips.
2. A health and safety program shall be developed by the applicant to protect both workers and the general public during construction, operation, and decommissioning of an energy transport project. The program should identify all applicable federal and state occupational safety standards, establish safe work practices for each task (e.g., requirements for personal protective equipment and safety harnesses, Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA] standard practices for safe use of explosives and blasting agents, measures for reducing occupational electromagnetic field [EMF] exposures), and define safety performance standards (e.g., electrical system standards). The program should include a training program to identify hazard training requirements for workers for each task and establish procedures for providing required training to all workers. Documentation of training and a mechanism for reporting serious accidents to appropriate agencies should be established.
3. The health and safety program shall establish a safety zone or setback from roads and other public access areas that is sufficient to prevent accidents resulting from various hazards. It should identify requirements for temporary fencing around staging areas, storage yards, and excavations during construction or decommissioning activities. It should also identify measures to be taken during the operations phase to limit public access to those components of energy facilities that present health or safety risks.
4. Applicants will develop a comprehensive emergency plan that considers the vulnerabilities of their energy system to all credible events initiated by natural causes (earthquakes, avalanches, floods, high winds, violent storms, etc.), human error, mechanical failure, cyber attack, sabotage, or deliberate destructive acts of both domestic and international origin and the potential for and possible consequences of those events. Vulnerability, threat, and consequence assessment methodologies and criteria in the sector-specific plan (SSP) for energy<sup>1</sup> will be used and appropriate preemptive and mitigative response actions will be identified. The applicant must coordinate emergency planning with state, local, and Tribal emergency and public safety authorities and with owners and operators of other energy systems collocated in the corridor or in adjacent corridors that could also be impacted.
5. In addition to directives contained in other IOPs herein, the applicant must identify all federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to environmental protection, worker health and safety, public safety, and system reliability that are applicable throughout the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of their facility's life cycle and must develop appropriate compliance strategies, including securing all necessary permits and approvals.

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<sup>1</sup>The SSP for energy, developed by the Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, is one of seventeen such SSPs that comprise the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP). The energy SSP (redacted) is available at [http://www.oe.energy.gov/DocumentsandMedia/Energy\\_SSP\\_Public.pdf](http://www.oe.energy.gov/DocumentsandMedia/Energy_SSP_Public.pdf). The NIPP is available at [http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/NIPP\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/NIPP_Plan.pdf).

## Hazardous Materials Management

1. Applicants for petroleum pipelines and projects involving oil-filled electrical devices shall develop a spill prevention and response plan identifying spill prevention measures to be implemented, training requirements, appropriate spill response actions, and procedures for making timely notifications to authorities. The spill prevention and response plan should include identification of any sensitive biotic resources and locations (such as habitats) that require special measures to provide protection, as well as the measures needed to provide that protection.

## Fire Management

1. Applicants shall develop a fire management strategy to implement measures to minimize the potential for a human-caused fire during project construction, operation, and decommissioning. The strategy should consider the need to reduce hazardous fuels (e.g., native and non-native annual grasses and shrubs) and to prevent the spread of fires started outside or inside a corridor, and clarify who has responsibility for fire suppression and hazardous fuels reduction for the corridor.

2. Applicants must work with the local land management agency to identify project areas that may incur heavy fuel buildups, and develop a long-term strategy on vegetation management of these areas. The strategy may include land treatment during project construction, which may extend outside the planned ROW clearing limits.

## B.2 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

### General

1. To avoid conflict with federal and nonfederal operations, the applicant shall be aware of liabilities pertaining to environmental hazards, safety standards, and military flying areas.

2. The applicant shall locate all stationary construction equipment (i.e., compressors and generators) as far as practicable from nearby residences.

3. Applicants will pay fair market value to the land management agency for any merchantable forest products that will be cut during ROW clearing. The local land management agency will determine the fair market value, which will be paid prior to clearing. The applicant will either remove the forest products from the area or will stack the material at locations determined by the local land management agency. Treatment of unmerchantable products will be determined by the local land management agency.

### Soils, Excavation, and Blasting

1. Applicants shall salvage, safeguard, and reapply topsoil from all excavations and construction activities during restoration.

2. All areas of disturbed soil shall be restored by the applicant using weed-free native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees as directed by the agency. Restoration should not be unnecessarily delayed. If native species are not available, noninvasive vegetation recommended by agency specialists may be used.

3. The applicant must not create excessive slopes during excavation. Areas of steep slopes, biological soil crusts, erodible soil, and stream channel crossings will often require site specific and specialized construction techniques by the applicant. These specialized construction techniques should be implemented by adequately trained and experienced employees.

4. Blasting activities will be avoided or minimized in the vicinity of sole source aquifer areas to reduce the risk of releasing sediments or particles into the groundwater and inadvertently plugging water supply wells.
5. The applicant must backfill foundations and trenches with originally excavated material as much as possible. Excess excavation materials should be disposed of by the applicant only in approved areas.
6. The applicant shall obtain borrow (fill) material only from authorized sites. Existing sites should be used in preference to new sites.
7. The applicant shall prepare an explosives use plan that specifies the times and meteorological conditions when explosives will be used and specifies minimum distances from sensitive vegetation and wildlife or streams and lakes.
8. If blasting or other noisy activities are required during the construction period, the applicant must notify nearby residents in advance.

### Mitigation and Monitoring

1. All control and mitigation measures established for the project in the POD and other required plans must be maintained and implemented by the applicant throughout construction. Necessary adjustments may be made with the concurrence of the appropriate agency.

### Surface and Groundwater Resources

1. The applicant must safeguard against the possibility of dewatering shallow groundwater and/or wetlands in the vicinity of project sites during foundation excavations or excavations for buried pipelines.
2. The applicant must implement erosion controls complying with county, state, and federal standards, such as jute netting, silt fences, and check dams, and secure all necessary storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) permits.
3. The applicant shall minimize stream crossings by access roads to the extent practicable. All structures crossing intermittent and perennial streams should be located and constructed so that they do not decrease channel stability, increase water velocity, or impede fish passage.
4. Applicants shall not alter existing drainage systems and should give particular care to sensitive areas such as erodible soils or steep slopes. Soil erosion should be reduced at culvert outlets by appropriate structures. Catch basins, roadway ditches, and culverts should be cleaned and maintained.
5. Applicants must not create hydrologic conduits between aquifers.

### Paleontological Resources

1. Project construction activities will follow the protective measures and protocols identified in the paleontological resources mitigation plan.
2. All paleontological specimens found on federal lands remain the property of the U.S. government. Specimens, therefore, may only be collected by a qualified paleontologist under a permit issued by the managing agency and must be curated in an approved repository.

### Ecological Resources

1. Areas that are known to support ESA-listed species, BLM-sensitive, FS-sensitive, and state-listed species or their habitats must be identified and marked with flagging or other appropriate

means to avoid direct impacts during construction activities. Construction activities upslope of these areas should be avoided to prevent indirect impacts of surface water and sediment runoff.

2. All construction activities that could affect wetlands or waters of the United States must be conducted in accordance with the requirements identified in permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

### Visual Resources

1. A pre-construction meeting with BLM/FS landscape architects or other designated visual/scenic resource specialist shall be held before construction begins to coordinate on the VRM/SMS mitigation strategy and confirm the compliance-checking schedule and procedures. Applicants shall integrate interim/final reclamation VRM/SMS mitigation elements early in the construction, which may include treatments such as thinning and feathering vegetation along project edges, enhanced contour grading, salvaging landscape materials from within construction areas, special revegetation requirements, etc. Applicants shall coordinate with BLM/FS in advance to have BLM/FS landscape architects or other designated visual/scenic resource specialists onsite during construction to work with implementing BMPs.

### Cultural Resources

1. Project applicants shall provide all cultural resources reports and data in an approved electronic format that is integrated across jurisdictional boundaries, that meets current standards, and that is compatible with SHPO systems. Project proponents shall submit cultural resources data on a regular basis to ensure that SHPO systems are kept up to date for reference as the different phases of the project proceed.

2. When an area is identified as having a high potential for cultural resources but none are found during a pre-construction field survey, a professionally qualified cultural resources specialist will be required to monitor ground-disturbing activities during project construction, and to complete a report when the activities are finished. The protocol for monitoring should be identified in the CRMP.

3. When human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are inadvertently discovered, the provisions of NAGPRA shall apply and the process identified in the CRMP must be followed.

### Hazardous Materials and Wastewater Management

1. Any wastewater generated by the applicant in association with temporary, portable sanitary facilities must be periodically removed on a schedule approved by the agency, by a licensed hauler and introduced into an existing municipal sewage treatment facility. Temporary, portable sanitary facilities provided for construction crews should be adequate to support expected on-site personnel and should be removed at completion of construction activities.

2. All hazardous materials (including vehicle and equipment fuels) brought to the project site will be in appropriate containers and will be stored in designated and properly designed storage areas with appropriate secondary containment features. Excess hazardous materials will be removed from the project site after completion of the activities in which they are used.

## Air Emissions

1. The applicant shall cover construction materials and stockpiled soils if these are sources of fugitive dust.
2. To minimize fugitive dust generation, the applicant shall water land before and during surface clearing or excavation activities. Areas where blasting would occur should be covered with mats.

## Noise

1. The applicant shall limit noisy construction activities (including blasting) to the least noise-sensitive times of day (i.e., daytime only between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.) and weekdays.

## Fire Safety

1. The applicant must ensure that all construction equipment used is adequately muffled and maintained and that spark arrestors are used with construction equipment in areas with, and during periods of, high fire danger.
2. Flammable materials (including fuels) will be stored in appropriate containers.

## B.3 PROJECT OPERATION

### Mitigation and Monitoring

1. All control and mitigation measures established for the project shall be maintained and implemented by the applicant throughout the operation of the project. Necessary adjustments may be made with the concurrence of the appropriate agency.

### Ecological Resources

1. Applicants shall review existing information regarding plant and animal species and their habitats in the vicinity of the project area and identify potential impacts to the applicable agencies.
2. Project staff shall avoid harassment or disturbance of wildlife, especially during reproductive courtship, migratory, and nesting seasons.
3. Observations by project staff of potential wildlife problems, including wildlife mortality, will be immediately reported to the applicable agency authorized officer.

### Pesticide and Herbicide Use

1. If pesticides are used, the applicant shall ensure that pesticide applications as specified in the integrated vegetation management plan are conducted within the framework of agency policies and entail only the use of EPA-registered pesticides that are applied in a manner consistent with label directions and state pesticide regulations. Pesticide use should be limited to nonpersistent immobile pesticides and may be applied only in accordance with label and application permit directions and stipulations for terrestrial and aquatic applications (BLM 2007a).
2. Pesticide and herbicide uses must be avoided in the vicinity of sole source aquifer areas (BLM 2007a).

### Visual Resources

1. Terms and conditions for VRM/SMS mitigation compliance shall be maintained and monitored for compliance with visual objectives, with adaptive management adjustments and modifications as necessary and approved by the BLM/FS landscape architect or other designated visual/scenic resource specialist.

## Hazardous Materials, Wastes, and Wastewater Management

1. The applicant shall provide secondary containment for all on-site hazardous materials and waste storage areas.
2. The applicant shall ensure that wastes are properly containerized and removed periodically for disposal at appropriate off-site permitted disposal facilities.
3. In the event of an accidental release to the environment, the applicant must initiate spill cleanup procedures and document the event, including a cause analysis; appropriate corrective actions taken; and a characterization of the resulting environmental or health and safety impacts. Documentation of the event should be provided to the land management agency's authorized officer and other federal and state agencies, as required.

## Air Quality

1. Dust abatement techniques (e.g., water spraying) shall be used by the applicant on unpaved, unvegetated surfaces to minimize airborne dust. Water for dust abatement should be obtained and used by the applicant under the appropriate state water use permitting system. Used oil will not be used for dust abatement.

## Noise

1. The applicant shall ensure that all equipment has sound-control devices no less effective than those provided on the original equipment.

## B.4 PROJECT DECOMMISSIONING

### General

1. Where applicable, decommissioning activities will conform to agency standards and guidance for mitigation and reclamation (e.g., BLM's Gold Books).
2. Applicants must receive approval for changes to the ROW authorization prior to any modifications to the ROW required for decommissioning.
3. Gravel work pads will be removed; gravel and other borrow material brought to the ROW during construction will be disposed of as approved by the agency.
4. Any wells constructed on the ROW to support operations will be removed and properly closed in accordance with applicable local or state regulations.
5. All equipment, components, and above-ground structures must be cleaned and removed from the site for reclamation, salvage, or disposal; all below-ground components will be removed to a minimum depth of three feet to establish a root zone free of obstacles; pipeline segments and other components located at greater depths may be abandoned in place provided they are cleaned (of all residue) and filled with inert material to prevent possible future subsidence.
6. Dismantled and cleaned components will be promptly removed; interim storage of removed components or salvaged materials that is required before final disposition is completed will not occur on federal land.
7. At the close of decommissioning, applicants will provide the federal land manager with survey data precisely locating all below-grade components that were abandoned in place.



## Mitigation and Monitoring

1. All control and mitigation measures established for the project in the POD and other required plans will be incorporated into a decommissioning plan that will be approved by the federal land manager(s); the decommissioning plan will include a site reclamation plan and a monitoring program and will be coordinated with owners and operators of other systems on the corridor to ensure no disruption to the operation of those systems.

## Surface Water

1. A SWPPP permit will be obtained and its provisions implemented for all affected areas before any ground-disturbance activities commence.

## Transportation

1. Additional access roads needed for decommissioning will follow the paths of access roads established during construction to the greatest extent possible; all access roads not required for the continued operation and maintenance of other energy systems present in the corridor shall be removed and their footprints reclaimed and restored.

## Restoration

1. Topsoil removed during decommissioning activities shall be salvaged and reapplied during final reclamation; all areas of disturbed soil shall be reclaimed using weed-free native shrubs, grasses, and forbs or other plant species approved by the land management agency; grades will be returned to pre-development contours to the greatest extent feasible.

2. The vegetation cover, composition, and diversity shall be restored to values commensurate with the ecological setting, as approved by the authorizing officer.

## Hazardous Materials and Waste Management

1. All fuels, hazardous materials, and other chemicals will be removed from the site and properly disposed of or reused.

2. Incidental spills of petroleum products and other chemicals will be removed and the affected area cleaned to meet applicable standards.

3. Solid wastes generated during decommissioning will be accumulated, transported, and disposed in permitted off-site facilities in accordance with state and local requirements; no solid wastes will be disposed of within the footprint of the ROW or the corridor.

4. Hazardous wastes generated as a result of component cleaning will be containerized and disposed of in permitted facilities.

## References

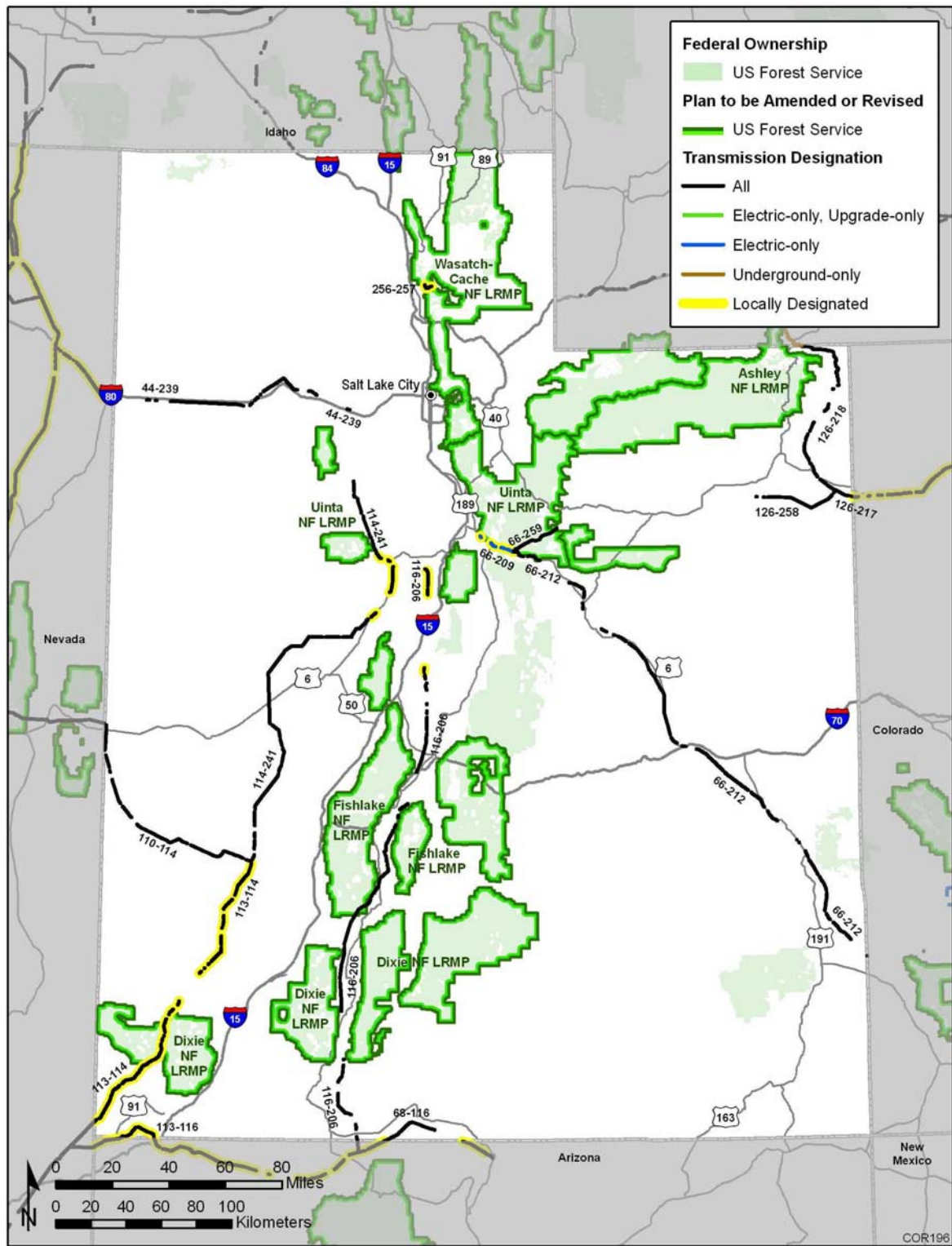
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# UTAH MAP



**FIGURE D-9: FS Land Management Plans in Utah to Be Amended by This ROD**