

Request for Comments  
Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative Line Relocation

The Big Piney Ranger District on the Ozark-St Francis National Forest is considering a request from Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative Corporation located in Ozark, Arkansas to amend their existing special use permit to allow them to construct a new line segment across National Forest land in Pope County, Arkansas to a private landowner's residence.

This amendment if approved would allow for the construction of 7,749 feet of overhead power line on National Forest land along Pope County Road 1815. The proposed construction would follow the existing road with additional vegetation removal including merchantable timber to a width of 20 feet. The existing road which is approximately 15 feet would be utilized as a part of the clearing width where possible.

No Herbicide use would be approved on this amendment. A new Herbicide Utility Corridor Assessment incorporating this amendment would be required before herbicide could be used.

This proposal fits the following category;

*Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than 5 contiguous acres of land* 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(3)

If no extraordinary circumstances are discovered during analysis of the area, this project would be categorically excluded from an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA). If comments are received this decision would be appealable. In light of a recent court ruling (Sequoia ForestKeeper v. Tidwell, 11-cv-00679-LJO-DLB (E.D. Cal.)), the Forest Service will provide public notice, comment, and opportunity for administrative appeal for projects and activities documented with a "Decision Memo" (36 CFR 220.6(e)) until new instructions are issued by the Washington Office, or the Agency issues regulations addressing the Court's ruling. Only those who provide comment or express interest in this proposal during this comment period will be eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

This notice requests project-specific information and comments regarding the activities proposed in this project and within the project area. I am particularly interested in identifying any extraordinary circumstances that may exist in the project area and/or any activity that when implemented would negatively affect the environment and/or its inhabitants.

To ensure your continued participation in this process, be sure that your comments are project-specific and postmarked or received within 30 days beginning the day after publication of this notice in Russellville's *The Courier*. You may mail your comment(s) to Bruce C. Davenport, Big Piney Ranger District, 12000 SR 27, Hector, AR 72843. Verbal or hand-delivered written comments must be received during our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon-Fri. Comments may be mailed electronically to our office, in a common digital format, at: [comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bayou@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bayou@fs.fed.us).

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mike Mulford at the Big Piney Ranger District office in Jasper, AR (phone #: 870-446-5122 x5136).