



Subject: McKenzie-Beverly SUP Reissuance

February 8, 2016

To: Interdisciplinary Team Members

I am tasking each of you with acting as a team member on the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) for the environmental analysis of the McKenzie-Beverly CPUD Transmission Line Special Use Permit (SUP) Reissuance Project. This project will analyze different alternatives to reissue a special use permit to the Chelan County PUD for their 115kv McKenzie-Beverly transmission line which expired several years ago. The SUP is for operation and maintenance of the McKenzie-Beverly transmission line for a period of thirty years. Activities, items and actions to be reviewed will be those related the annual and periodic operation and maintenance of the transmission line including but not limited to: vegetation management and removal, access, and road management. The Wenatchee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended, by the Northwest Forest Plan will provide direction for the analysis. I will be the Responsible Official, and Mick Mueller (ID Team Lead) will be responsible for organizing the review and consultation process for my review and decision. This letter contains my guidance for the oversight and review of private contracting efforts and regulatory agency consultation on behalf of the USFS. The Team Leader and Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) Members are responsible for the professional and timely completion of the associated reviews, consultations and documentation of that analysis.

***PURPOSE AND NEED OF THE PROPOSAL/PROPOSED ACTION***

The Purpose and Need, and the Proposed Action for the proposal will be developed in collaboration with State and local governments, tribes, and interested persons. The IDT leader will facilitate collaboration specifically with the Chelan County Public Utility District #1 (project sponsor), and Anchor QEA (project contractor) to develop the Purpose and Need and the Proposed Action. The Purpose and Need will focus on special use permit re-issuance for operation and maintenance with an emphasis on:

- The accurate inventory and disposition of access to the structures necessary for the operation and maintenance of the transmission line with the focus on long term management of that access being available and environmentally stable
- Outlining suites of actions (e.g. vegetation management and providing access) which could be carried out annually or periodically in a programmatic manner without further site specific environmental analysis being necessary
- Activities, items and actions being within the current Forest Plan standards and guidelines and amenable to regulatory agencies which will be involved in Section 7 consultation for the Endangered Species Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and any Army Corp of Engineer permitted work within wetlands

The ID Team shall work closely with the project sponsors and contractors to develop a proposed action in a collaborative fashion. This will likely involve office and field meetings. At the end of that process I will decide on the proposed action for the ID Team to proceed with for NEPA scoping.



## ***ISSUES***

The IDT needs to identify the issues related to the proposed action that surface from collaboration, public scoping, and those from resource areas represented in the project area. The IDT should ensure all issues related to the proposed action are considered. Key issues will be identified from this list of issues that may drive:

- (1) The development of other action alternatives that address the purpose and need of this proposal.
- (2) The development of mitigations to address that issue.

## ***SCOPING***

As a team, and with the assistance of our public information officer, develop a complete public involvement (scoping) plan. I am sure you will consider the traditional methods such as letters/postcards and the use of electronic and print media. I would also like you to think about other methods that would involve interested people not currently being reached and that would enable people to become involved in more productive ways. Government to Government letters should be sent to the Yakama Indian Nation and the Colville Confederated Tribes one week prior to initiation of public scoping.

## ***FOREST PLAN CONSISTENCY/MANAGEMENT DIRECTION***

The ID Team shall ensure standards and guidelines for the Wenatchee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended, by the Northwest Forest Plan are met by all action alternatives. The project area is in a variety of the Forest Service land allocations under the Wenatchee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and the Northwest Forest Plan. Additionally, unmapped riparian allocations are present within the project area.

## ***DECISION FRAMEWORK/ALTERNATIVES/ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS***

I will be using this process to determine the scope and design of the proposed action. Your analysis should consider the proposed action and the no action developed to the extent needed for comparison of current or baseline conditions. Under our collaborative efforts I am hopeful that we can proceed with only one action alternative. If action alternative(s) are necessary, they should implement the Purpose and Need for action. The proposed action and any alternatives should also reflect insights from public input and information in the Nason Creek, and Mainstem Wenatchee Watershed Analyses. The environmental assessment should disclose the impacts of the action on the physical, biological, and human environment.



***TEAM MEMBERS***

Team Leader	Mick Mueller
Fishery Biologist	Kathy McMillan
Scenic	Barbara Jackson
Vegetation/Silviculture	Michelle Satterfield
Botany	Lauri Malmquist
Wildlife	Don Youkey
Recreational/Social	Sara Jones
Fuels	Michael Barajas
Heritage/Cultural	Powys Gadd
Public Affairs	Susan Peterson
Engineering	Molly Williams (SO)/Pat Bossen (SO)
Environmental Coordinator	Sara White (SO)
Special Uses Coordinators	Kevin Smith/Kelly Underwood (SO)

***TIMELINE / COMPLETION DATE***

This environmental analysis shall be ready for Line Officer decision on or before November 3, 2016. Any field work necessary to support the analysis to meet this timeline shall be conducted this spring. Any delays that occur that will affect this timeline shall be discussed with the District Leadership Team. The IDT shall review and acknowledge the submitted contractor provided timeline and notify me of any developments that may contradict with meeting that timeline and decision date.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jeffrey Rivera*

JEFF RIVERA  
District Ranger

