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Notice of Draft Record of Decision and Opportunity to File an Objection TransWest Express LLC (TWE or Applicant) proposes to construct, operate and maintain the TransWest Express Transmission Project (Project). The TWE Project is an extra-high voltage (EHV) direct current (DC) transmission system extending from south-central Wyoming to southern Nevada. The Project begins at a northern terminal near Sinclair, Wyoming and terminates at a southern terminal at the Marketplace Hub in the Eldorado Valley near Boulder City, Nevada.

The Bureau of Land Management is the lead agency for conducting and completing the environmental analysis for the Project, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The US Forest Service (USFS) participated as a cooperating agency for the NEPA process for the Project. The NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.3) specify that a cooperating agency may adopt, without recirculating, the environmental impact statement (EIS) of a lead agency when their review of the EIS concludes that its comments, suggestions, and requirements have been satisfied. The USFS has adopted the final EIS of the BLM for this project, with some additional information contained in an addendum specific to the US Forest Service.

A draft Record of Decision has been completed and is now available for review, in conjunction with the final EIS. The Responsible Official is Chad E. Hudson, Deputy Forest Supervisor, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The draft Record of Decision and the final EIS and its addendum are available for review online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=42526>. The documents can also be reviewed in-person by appointment at the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Supervisor's Office or the Manti-La Sal National Forest Supervisor's Office. For more information about the project, contact Kenton Call, US Forest Service, by email at ckcall@fs.fed.us or by phone (435) 691-0768.

The draft Record of Decision will determine whether a special use permit (SUP) for constructing, operating and maintaining the transmission line will be granted, and what conditions would accompany the SUP, if granted. The draft Record of Decision also identifies a project-specific amendment to a visual quality standard in the land management plan for the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The draft Record of Decision affects only those lands in the Project area administered by the Manti-La Sal National Forest and Uinta National Forest Planning Area. The BLM has issued a separate decision on whether to grant a ROW for lands under its jurisdiction, based on analyses contained in the final EIS.

The Agency Preferred Alternative will cross two portions of the Uinta National Forest Planning Area for a total corridor length of approximately 18 miles. The Agency Preferred Alternative also will cross two portions of the Manti-La Sal National Forest, with a total corridor length of approximately 1 mile. The alternative also describes temporary access routes to be used for construction and operation and maintenance of the transmission ROW. The lengths of the temporary access routes for the portions of the Project on the Uinta National Forest Planning Area and Manti-La Sal National Forest were estimated through indicative modeling in the EIS to be up to approximately 43 miles and 2 miles, respectively.

The draft decision for the project and activities are subject to the pre-decisional objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Objections will only be accepted from individuals or organizations who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during designated opportunities for public comment, in accordance with 36 CFR 218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project, unless based on new information arising after designated opportunities. Objections submitted must meet the minimum requirements set out in 36 CFR 218.8(b).

Written objections, including any attachments, must be sent via regular mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, or express delivery within 45 days following the publication date of the legal notice of draft Record of Decision in the newspapers of record for the affected forests to: Objection Reviewing Officer, USDA-Forest Service Intermountain Region, 324 25th Street, Ogden, UT 84401. The Reviewing Officer is the Regional Forester of the Intermountain Region.

The office business hours for submitting hand-delivered objections are: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format such as an email message, .pdf, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc or .docx) to: objections-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us. Faxed appeals should be sent to (801) 625-5277. Objectors are responsible for ensuring that their objection is received in a timely manner (36 CFR 218.9).

The publication date of the legal notice of draft Record of Decision in the newspapers of record for the affected forests, is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection to this draft decision. Persons wishing to object to this draft decision should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Extensions of the objection period are not permitted (36 CFR 218.6). When the objection filing period has ended and responses have been made to all objections by the reviewing officer, the responsible official may make a final decision on the proposed Project. The reviewing officer shall issue a written response to objectors within 45 days

following the end of this objection-filing period (this response period may also be extended by the reviewing officer up to 30 days (36 CFR 218.26)).
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