

# WELCOME!



## Estes-to-Flatiron Transmission Lines Rebuild Alternatives Development Workshops

**October 2,  
2012**

4:00-6:00 pm  
Bison Visitor  
Center  
1800 South  
County Road 31  
Loveland, CO

**October 3,  
2012**

10:00 am-2:00 pm  
Estes Park  
Museum  
200 Fourth Street  
Estes Park, CO

**October 4,  
2012**

2:00-7:00 pm  
Estes Park  
Museum  
200 Fourth Street  
Estes Park, CO

# EIS PROCESS



Notice of Intent  
to Prepare an EIS



Public Scoping



Alternatives Development



Draft EIS and  
Notice of Availability (NOA)



45-Day Comment Period & Public  
Hearings



Final EIS and NOA



Forest Service  
Objection/Resolution Period



Records of Decision



**WE ARE HERE**

*"Identifying a  
reasonable range of  
alternatives."*

 Opportunities for Public Input

# HOW TO PARTICIPATE



- 1. Sign in** and join the project mailing list in order to stay informed on the project's progress.
- 2. Visit** stations to review design options and routing consideration maps. Review siting considerations that influence the development of potential transmission line routes.
- 3. Join** a small group workshop. You will be asked to first identify route options and then discuss tower design, color, and height options.
- 4. Ask** questions/continue a dialogue on the project.
- 5. Stay informed** by visiting the project website at <http://go.usa.gov/rvtP>.

**Thank you for attending!**

**Activities will take about an hour to complete.**

# WORKSHOP



# GROUND RULES

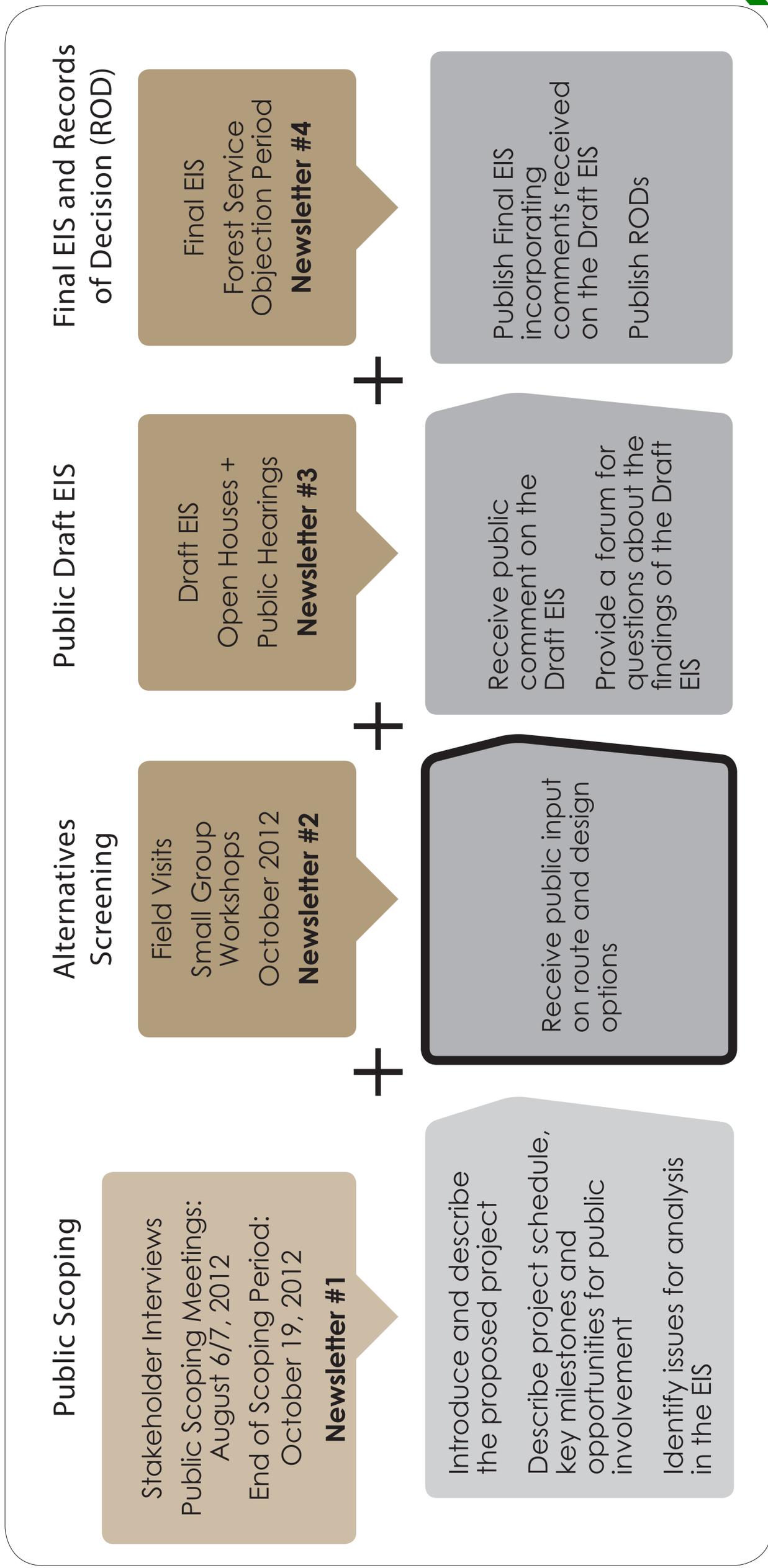
## Ground Rules

1. Be respectful and courteous to other participants and staff.
2. Help maintain an atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable and welcome, regardless of his or her position on the project.
3. Allow others to speak without interrupting.
4. Please turn off cell phones and pagers, or set them to vibrate, and leave the room for side discussions.
5. Give everyone an opportunity to participate. If you have additional comments, you may submit them in writing during or after this meeting.

# EXPANDED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



Western is providing an expanded public involvement process for the Estes-to-Flatiron Transmission Lines Rebuild, as detailed below.



# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

## THE FOUR PHASES

### Scoping

- Provide an overview of the project purpose and need.
- Identify siting opportunities and constraints for consideration in the alternatives screening analysis.
- Identify issues for analysis in the EIS.
- Ensure that we have reached key stakeholders and obtained their perspectives.

The comments received from agencies and the public during scoping will be used to guide the alternatives screening analysis and development of the Draft EIS.

The comments received from agencies and the public during this phase will be considered during the alternatives screening analysis, resulting in the alternatives considered in the Draft EIS.

### Draft EIS Review

Agencies and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS during a 45-day public review period. Western will hold public hearings and open houses to provide information on the Draft EIS analyses and gather public input.

#### OBJECTIVES FOR DRAFT EIS REVIEW

- Provide a forum for the public to provide comments on, or to ask questions about, the findings of the Draft EIS.

### Alternatives Development

Route options that meet the project purpose and need will be developed during this phase. Western will host a series of field visits and small group workshops to solicit input about options to consider and potential issues or impacts.

#### OBJECTIVES FOR ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT

- Engage the public in workshops and field trips to identify and refine routing options.
- Provide a forum for the public to comment on routing options.

### Final EIS and Records of Decision

The Final EIS will include responses to all substantive public comments received on the Draft EIS. Western's Record of Decision will not be issued until at least 30 days after the issuance of the Final EIS. The Forest Service will be using the information in the Final EIS to write its Record of Decision, which would not be issued until 45 days after the issuance of the Final EIS.

# ALTERNATIVE

# DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Review Project Requirements and Define Siting Area

Identify Siting Considerations

Document Land Use and Resource Conditions Within Siting Area

Identify Route Options and Context Sensitive Solutions

Collect Route Specific Resource Data

Analyze New and Existing Route Options

Identify EIS Alternatives

Public Workshops

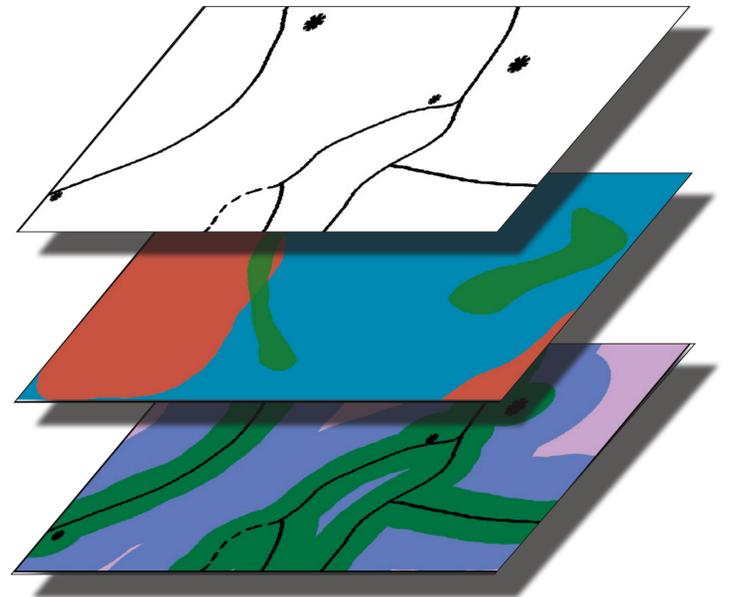
IDENTIFY SITING OPPORTUNITIES



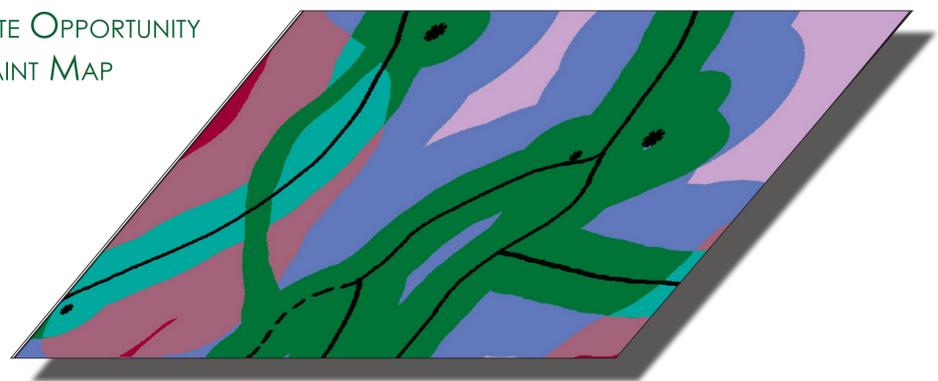
MAP RESOURCE INFORMATION



IDENTIFY SITING CONSTRAINTS



CREATE COMPOSITE OPPORTUNITY + CONSTRAINT MAP



## DESIGN TREATMENTS AND CONSTRUCTION METHODS

The alternatives analysis will address which design treatments and construction methods will be carried forward for segments of the alternative routes where siting sensitivities have been identified.

# SITING CONSIDERATIONS



## Siting Considerations Identified to Date:

- ROW conflicts with residential structures
- Geologic hazard areas (i.e., steep slopes)
- Protected areas (i.e., land trusts, protected open space, conservation easements)
- Scenic areas and sensitive viewsheds
- Recreational use areas (i.e., day use areas, trails)
- Lack of existing adequate access
- Historic structures

## Siting Opportunities Identified to Date:

- Use of existing ROWs
- Use of existing access roads

# DESIGN

# CONSIDERATIONS

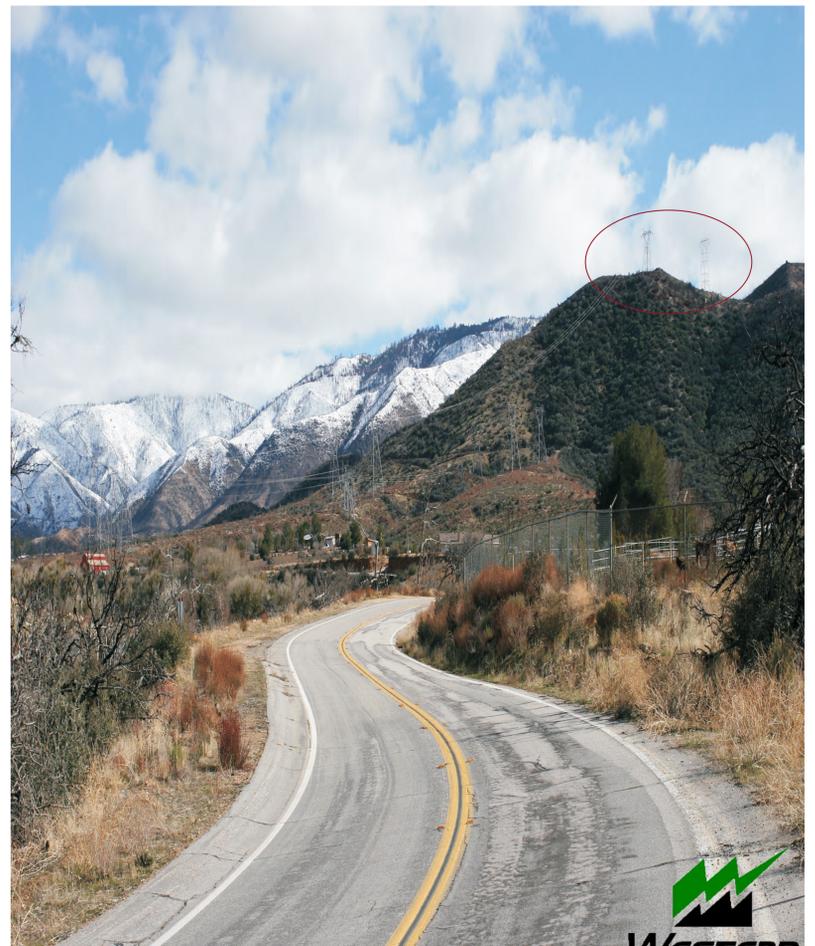
- Avoid placing transmission lines on ridgelines or other locations where they will be silhouetted against the sky, where feasible.
- Use non-reflective or low-reflective materials or coatings whenever possible.
- Leveling and benching of structure sites will be the minimum necessary.
- Consider using low-profile structures to reduce visibility where height is an important consideration, e.g. where greater height would result in structures being visible above surrounding vegetation.
- To the extent practical, cuts through trees or other vegetation would be irregularly shaped to soften the edges of the right of way.
- Site transmission lines to take advantage of topography and vegetation to restrict views from sensitive viewpoints.
- Site transmission lines to follow the edges of clearings (where they will be less conspicuous) rather than passing through the center of clearings.



**Minimization of benching, ground disturbance**

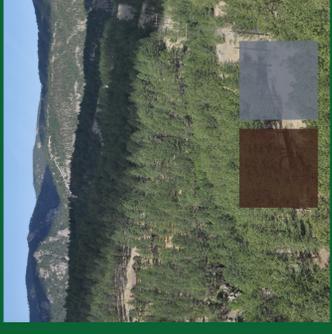


**Use of darkened, low reflectivity materials**



**Avoid skylined structures where possible**

# DESIGN FEATURES: STRUCTURE TYPES

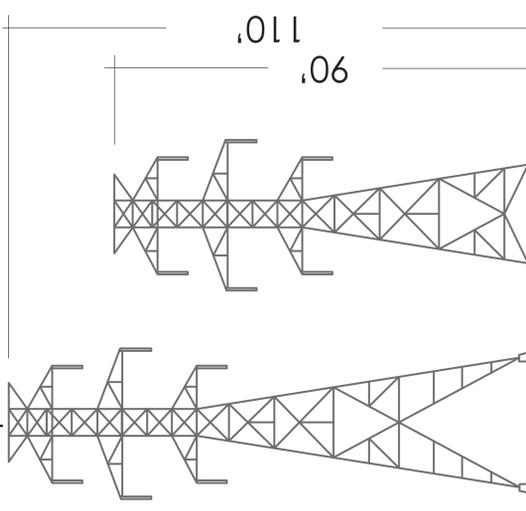
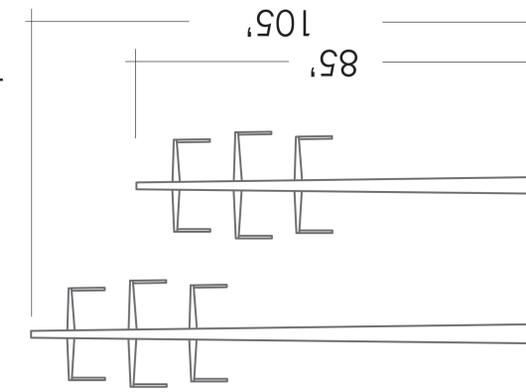
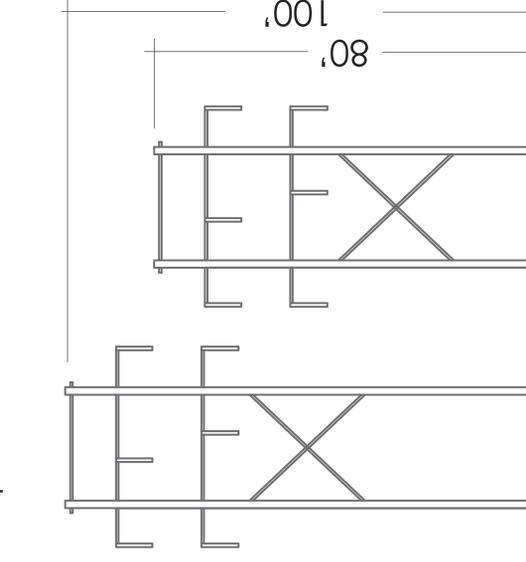
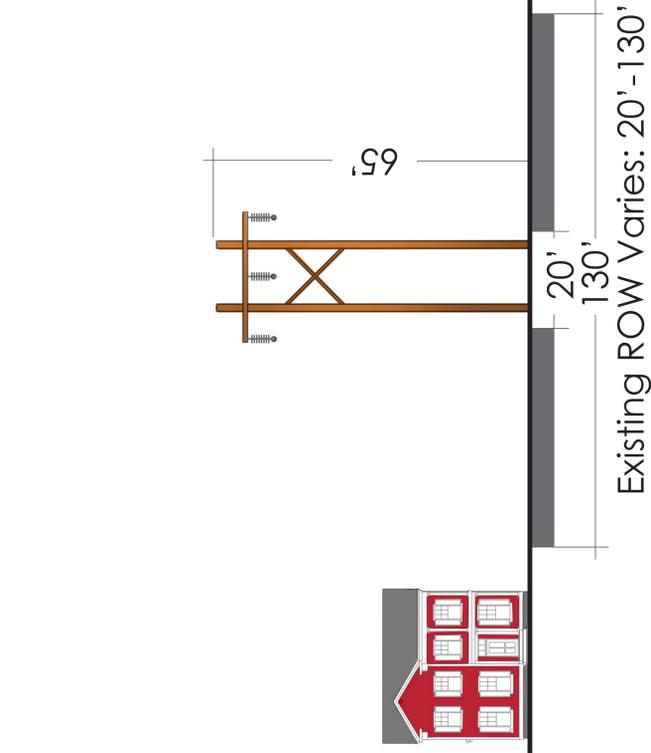


Wood Pole H-Frame

Option A: Steel Monopole

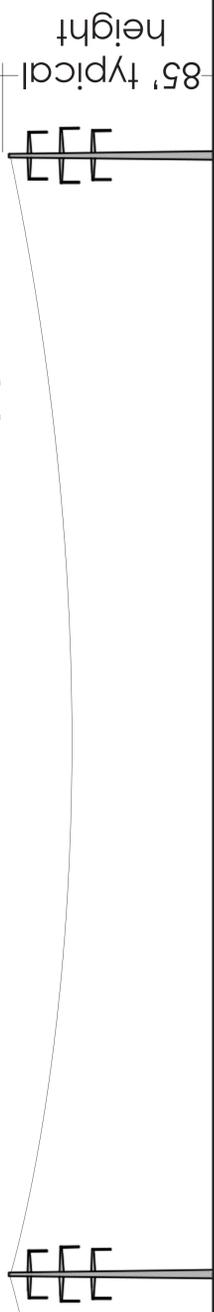
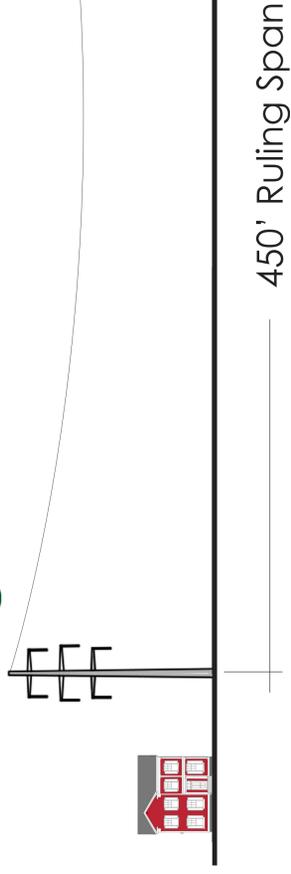
Option B: Steel H-Frame

Option C: Lattice



## Existing Structure

## Potential Structure Types



# DESIGN FEATURES:

# STRUCTURE FINISH

## Material/Color Selection Process

1. The primary selection of the structure's color or finish will be based on best engineering material practices, such as durability, maintenance requirements, and manufacturing methods.
2. The second criteria is the cost of manufacturing and long-term maintenance of a structure finish.
3. Where requested for aesthetics, structure finishes will be selected based on:
  - Viewshed Models - GIS analyses can quantify the potential visibility of the transmission structures from public viewpoints, such as roads, trails, parks and other sensitive areas.
  - Compatibility With the Background Environments - Through site visits, the structure's potential contrast or compatibility with the natural backdrop (forests, grasslands, or urban environments) will be documented to help refine the final color selection.

