

# WELCOME!



## Estes to Flatiron Transmission Lines Rebuild Scoping Meetings

*(Drop In anytime from 10 am to 7 pm)*

**August 6, 2012**

Loveland Public Library  
Gertrude Scott Meeting Room  
300 North Adams Avenue  
Loveland, CO

**August 7, 2012**

Rocky Mountain Park Inn &  
Estes Park Conference Center  
101 South Saint Vrain Avenue  
Estes Park, CO

# EIS PROCESS



Notice of Intent  
to Prepare an EIS

Public Scoping  
April 17 - August 31, 2012

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**  
*"Starting from the beginning, but capitalizing on what we have learned to date."*

 Opportunities for Public Input

# HOW TO PARTICIPATE



- **Sign in** and join the project mailing list in order to stay informed on the project's progress.
- **Visit** stations and read materials.
- **Ask** questions and give comments to Western and US Forest Service representatives.
- **Record** your comments with our staff at a computer station.
- **Write** your comments on the comment sheet, or send written comments by mail or email.
- **Stay informed** by visiting the project website at <http://ww2.wapa.gov/sites/western/transmission/infrastruct/Pages/Estes-Flatiron.aspx>

# HOW TO PARTICIPATE



## At this meeting:

1. Learn how to engage in the process;
2. Ensure your issues have been recorded; and
3. Learn about upcoming alternatives workshops.

## After this meeting, send comments to:

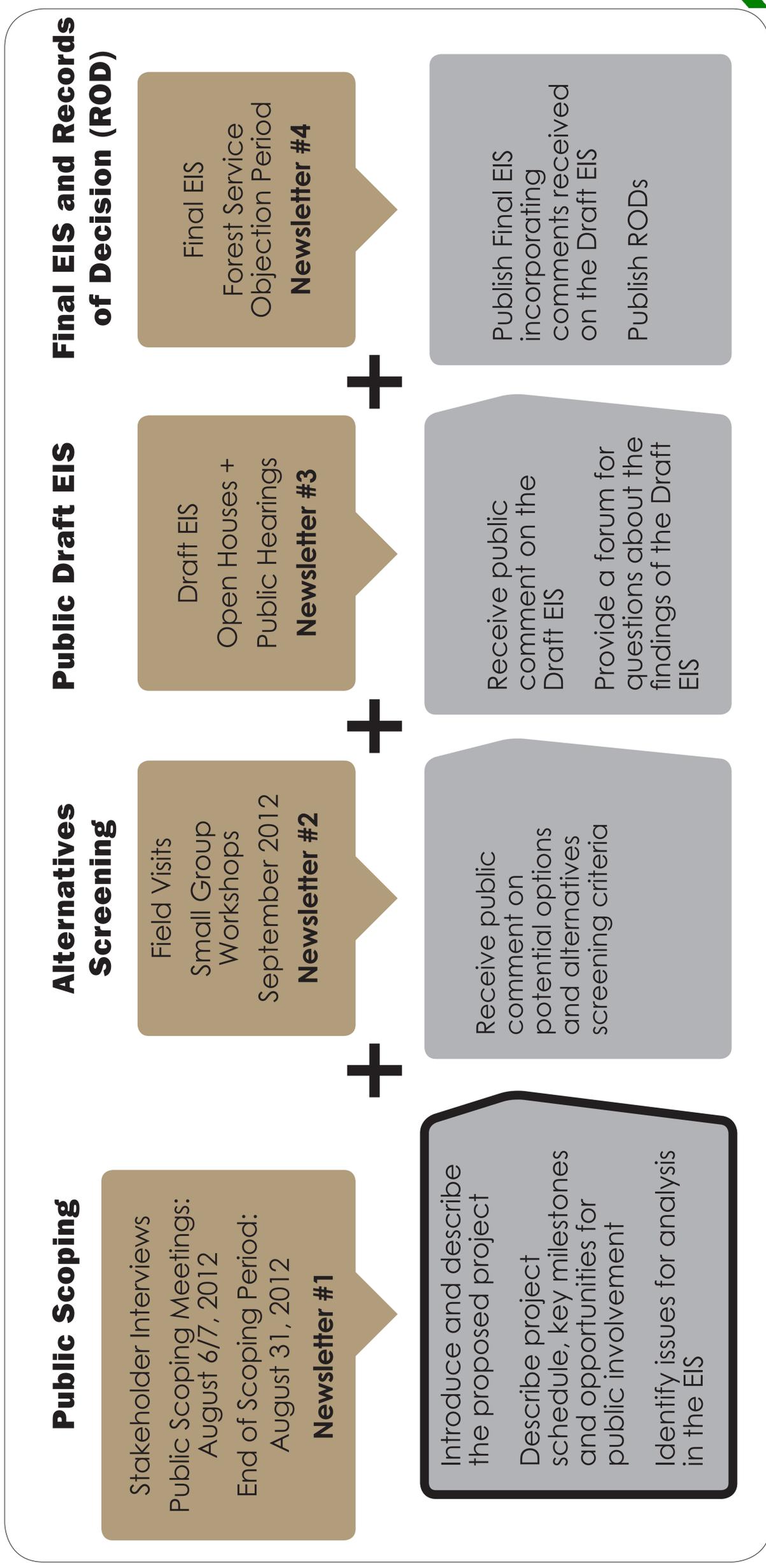
Tim Snowden  
Western Area Power Administration  
5555 East Crossroads Blvd.  
PO Box 3700  
Loveland, CO 80539-3003  
RMR\_EstesFlatironEIS@wapa.gov  
Fax: 970-461-7213

**Scoping comments must be postmarked  
or received by August 31, 2012**

# EXPANDED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



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



# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:



## 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.

## 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.

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.

## 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.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW



Western proposes to rebuild two existing H-frame wood-pole 115-kV transmission lines, totaling about 32 miles long, between Flatiron Reservoir and Estes Park. These lines are over 60 years old. The rebuild would consolidate the two existing 115-kV lines onto a single right-of-way (ROW) using double circuit structures.

The proposed project would rebuild aging and deteriorating transmission lines, and reduce the linear miles of transmission line by half. Western's proposal includes:

- Approximately 16 miles of the existing transmission line would be removed.
- The transmission line would be rebuilt with steel monopole structures replacing the existing wood H-frame structures, in a double-circuit configuration (i.e., six conductors per structure).
- Utilizing existing ROW, if possible.
- Structure height would increase from 70 feet to up to 105 feet.
- ROW would need to be expanded to 110 feet in areas with inadequate ROW.

# PURPOSE AND NEED



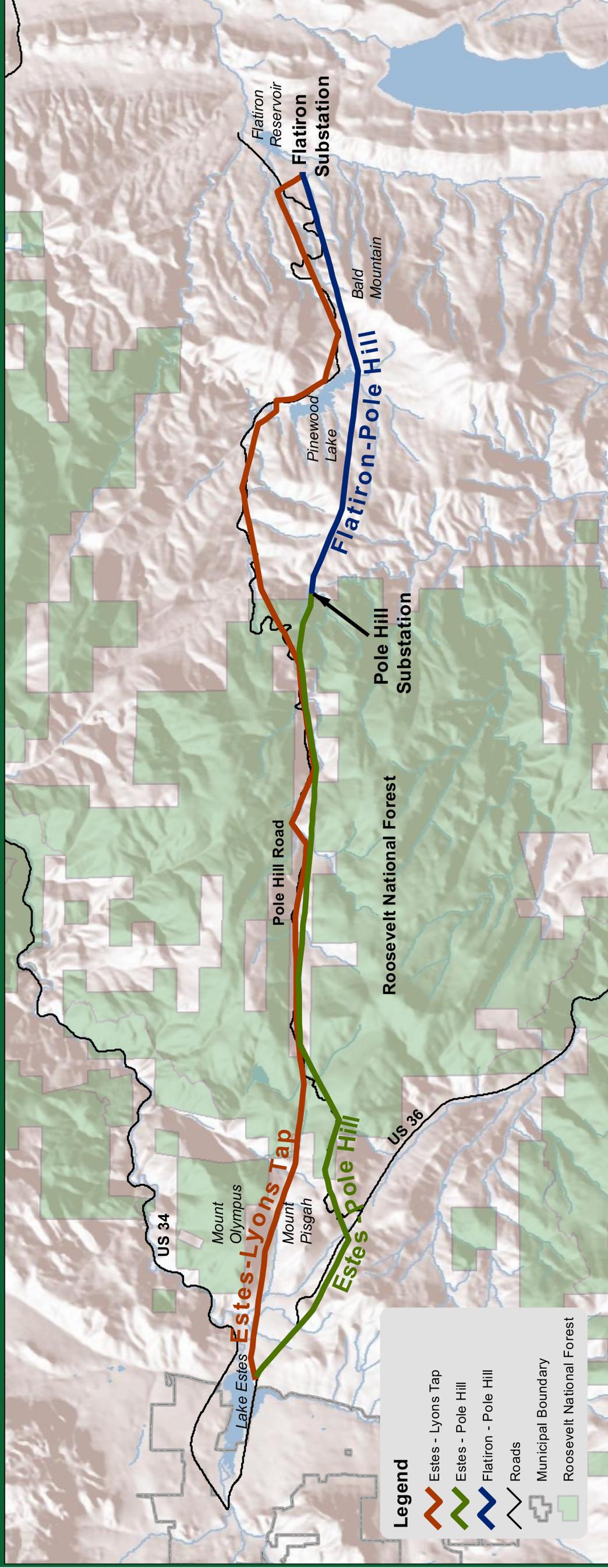
Western Area Power Administration proposes to rebuild the electric transmission line between Estes Park and Flatiron Reservoir.

The transmission line rebuild **is needed to:**

- **Ensure reliable and cost-effective electricity** is provided to Estes Park, Loveland and other Front Range communities.
- **Improve transmission safety** by updating facilities and rebuilding 60-70+ year-old transmission lines to be compliant with current standards.
- **Improve emergency and maintenance access** to the line.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE IS A COOPERATING AGENCY ON THE EIS AND WILL BE MAKING A DECISION REGARDING ACTIONS ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.

# PROJECT MAP



Existing Transmission Lines

# KEY ISSUES



Key issues raised during public scoping for the EA include:

- Potential effects to visual resources and rural aesthetics;
- Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF);
- Alternative routing options;
- Effects on property values;
- Recreation impacts on Forest Service land;
- Effects on social and economic conditions in the tourist economy of Estes Park;
- Conflicts with other utilities;
- Human health effects and electromagnetic field effects;
- Pole height, pole placement, type of poles used, and undergrounding options;
- Watershed effects;
- Effects on access roads and construction standards;
- Vegetation management;
- Effects on biological and ecological environments;
- Feasibility of undergrounding; and
- Cost comparison of alternatives and project costs.

Comments received during the EA scoping period will be carried over into this EIS process.

# ADDITIONAL ISSUES



List Other Issues Below:

# NEXT STEPS: ALTERNATIVE SCREENING PROCESS



## PROCESS FOR DETERMINING ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

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

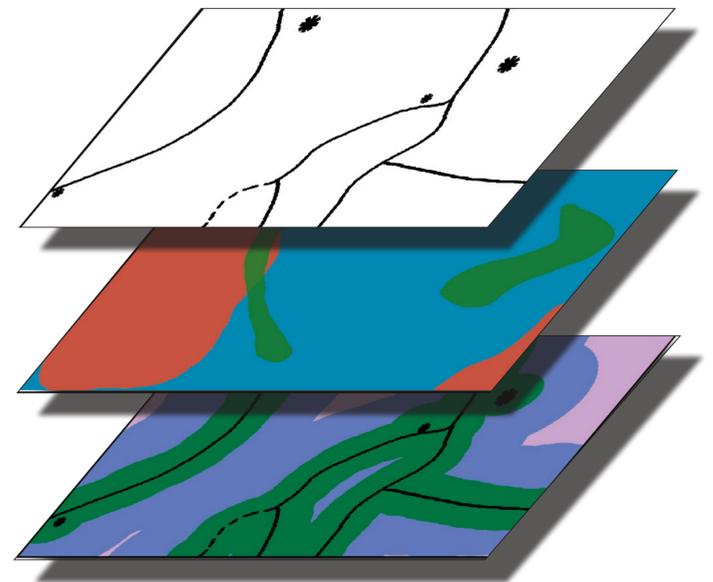
IDENTIFY SITING OPPORTUNITIES



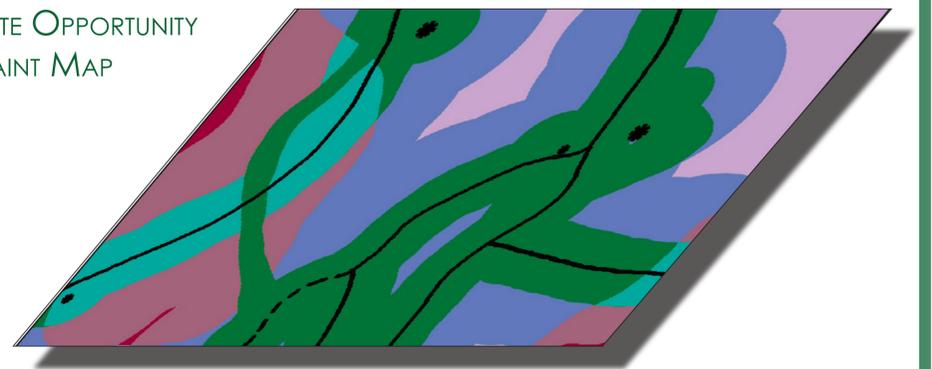
MAP RESOURCE INFORMATION



IDENTIFY SITING CONSTRAINTS



CREATE COMPOSITE OPPORTUNITY + CONSTRAINT MAP



# NEXT STEPS: SITING



## Example Siting Considerations:

- Conflicts with residential structures
- Geologic hazard areas (e.g., flood hazard zones)
- Protected areas (e.g., recreation areas)
- Scenic areas or routes
- Special management areas such as open lands and camping areas
- Lack of existing adequate access
- Steep rocky terrain
- Sensitive wildlife areas
- Use of existing ROWs
- Cultural resources

# NEXT STEPS: SITING



List Other Siting Considerations Below:

# NEXT STEPS: WHAT TO

# EXPECT AT ALTERNATIVES WORKSHOPS

*"No decisions on alternatives have been made."*

**NEIGHBORHOOD  
WORKSHOP  
SUGGESTION**

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**NEIGHBORHOOD  
WORKSHOP  
SUGGESTION**

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**NEIGHBORHOOD  
WORKSHOP  
SUGGESTION**

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**NEIGHBORHOOD  
WORKSHOP  
SUGGESTION**

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Spend an hour at the Hub Workshop Location helping to brainstorm routing options or to suggest a Neighborhood Workshop location.