



National Environmental Policy Act



Ute ladies'-tresses, sensitive species in the project area.

Western Area Power Administration (Western) and the U.S. Forest Service (FS) are jointly preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the continued management of Western's existing transmission lines on FS lands. Western proposes to continue maintaining these lines and is proposing to change the way it manages vegetation on the right-of-way (ROW). The changes would require updated or new authorizations from the FS.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider the following when making a decision that could significantly affect the environment:

- Alternatives to the proposed action
- Environmental impacts
- Comments and information from the public, federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, and affected parties



Regeneration of aspen trees in the ROW.

The EIS will integrate other environmental review and consultation such as section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.



Vegetation regeneration in the ROW.

What is Scoping?

Scoping is part of the NEPA review process. During scoping federal agencies solicit comments and information from the public, agencies, and tribes. Comments on the proposed action, alternatives to the proposed action and environmental impacts will help Western and the FS determine what to address in the EIS.



Western Area Power Administration Ault-Craig Line.

Project Timeline

- April 8, 2010
Notice of Intent Published in Federal Register
- April 22, 2010
Public Scoping Meeting Denver, Colorado
- April 23, 2010
Public Scoping Meeting Grand Junction, Colorado
- April 26, 2010
Public Scoping Meeting Vernal, Utah
- May 26, 2010
Close of the Public Scoping Period
- Spring/Summer 2010
Preparation of Draft EIS
- Summer 2010
Notice of Availability of Draft EIS
- Summer/Fall 2010
45-Day Public Comment Period & Hearings
- Fall/Winter 2010
Preparation of Final EIS
- Spring 2011
Notice of Availability of Final EIS/ Record of Decision



Making Effective Comments

Effective comments help ensure important issues are identified and addressed in the EIS.

- State specific concerns instead of making broad statements
- Focus comments on specific issues and provide supporting information
- Identify important environmental and community concerns

You are encouraged to provide written comments this evening, email, or mail your comments by the close of the public scoping period (May 26, 2010). Your comments will



Western Area Power Administration Ault-Craig Line crossing U.S. Forest Service land.



ROW after treatment for aspen growth.



Aspen regeneration in the ROW after the first growing season.

become part of the official public record.