



Project Description

The proposed action includes maintenance activities typical of electrical industry practices for maintaining right-of-way (ROW), access, structures, and other equipment.

To comply with changed industry regulations and standards, Western proposes to modify its overall approach to ROW vegetation management. Western's improved vegetation management along ROWs on National Forest System lands would include:



Vegetation regeneration in the ROW.

- Changing from a focus on danger tree cutting to an active management approach that ensures vegetation does not become a risk to the transmission lines.
- Reducing the amount of wildfire fuel on the ROW including the debris from years of danger tree cutting.
- Implementing and maintaining vegetation conditions along the ROW that focus on establishing stable native vegetation that reduces risk to transmission lines.



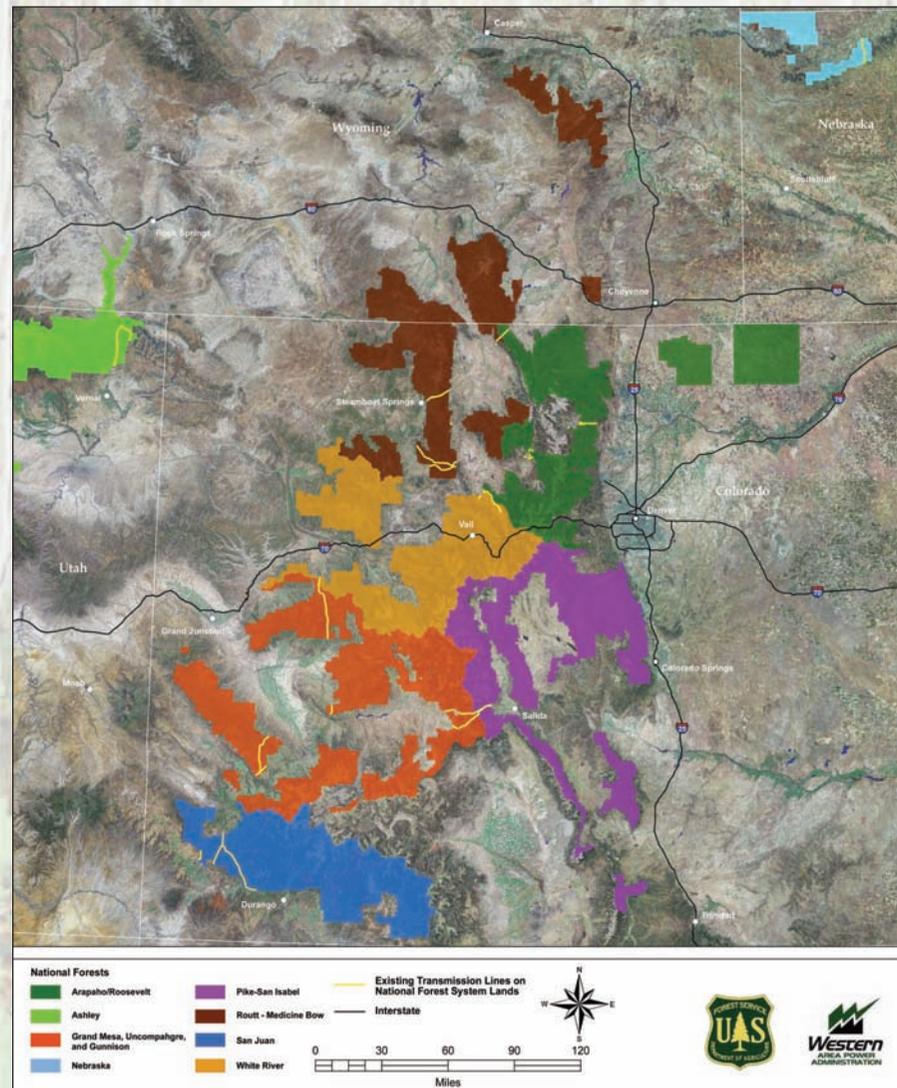
ROW after vegetation treatment.



ROW vegetation regeneration during the first growing season after treatment.

The proposed methods for maintaining the ROW include: mechanical treatments, use of herbicides and hand treatments.

Project Area Map



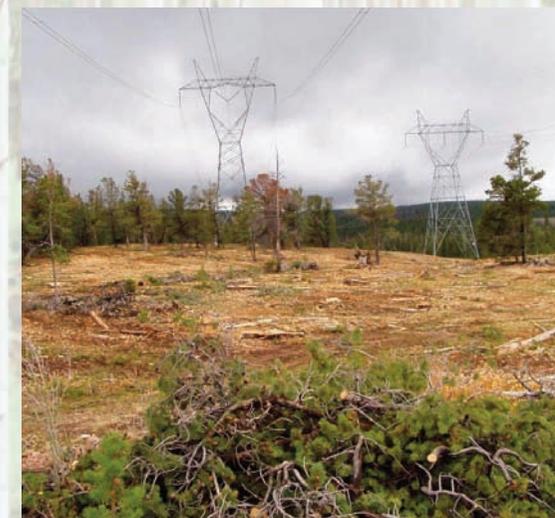
The transmission lines cross approximately 280 miles of National Forest System lands in Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska.

Project Objectives

- Ensure Western's capability to maintain the transmission lines to ensure safety and the reliability of the transmission system.
- Ensure sufficient access for maintenance.
- Ensure public and worker safety.
- Manage vegetation to comply with current industry and mandatory reliability standards.
- Enhance the ability of the facilities to survive wildfires.
- Protect sensitive environmental resources including cultural resources, special status biological resources, water quality, sensitive visual resources, and others.
- Control maintenance costs and improve efficiency.
- Reduce the risk that fires would be started by transmission lines.



Vegetation regeneration and debris buildup in the ROW.



ROW after vegetation treatment.