



Planning Commission Staff Report

Meeting Date: September 5, 2023

Agenda Item: 9E

SPECIAL USE PERMIT CASE NUMBER: WSUP23-0020 (PSREC Transmission Line)

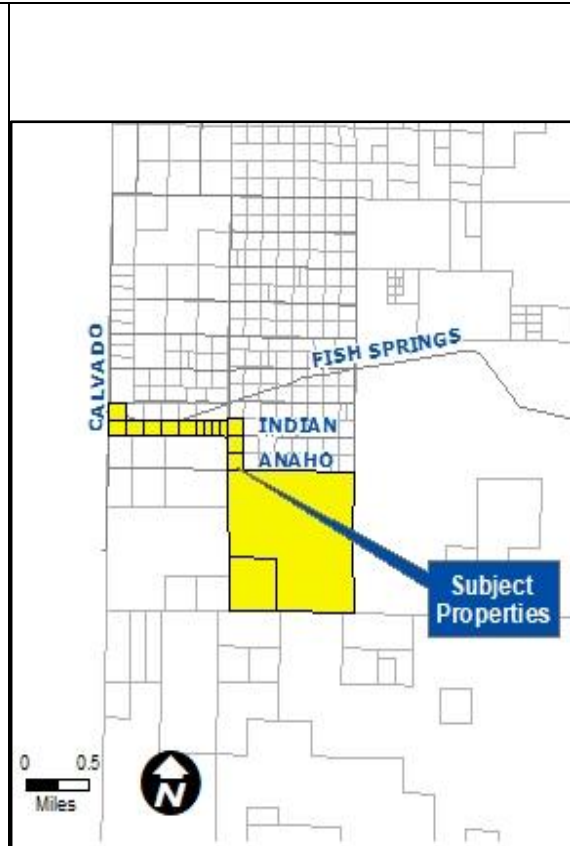
BRIEF SUMMARY OF REQUEST: Request to construct a 2-mile long 69 kV transmission line

STAFF PLANNER: Julee Olander, Planner
 Phone Number: 775.328.3627
 E-mail: jolander@washoecounty.gov

CASE DESCRIPTION

For hearing, discussion, and possible action to approve a Special Use Permit for a major public facility use type for an extension of a 2-mile long, 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line within existing utility easements from NV Energy's Fort Sage Substation through Washoe County to the California State Line. The applicant is also requesting to waive all landscaping requirements, and to vary the maximum height of 35' to allow for structures to be 65' in height. This project meets the standard for a project of regional significance because it entails construction of a transmission line that carries 60 kV or more. It will require approval by the regional planning authorities before any approval at the County level would take effect. This project also requires amendments to the Regional Utility Corridor Map to identify the location of the new transmission line. The amendments must be sponsored by the Board of County Commissioners and approved by the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Authorities. This project will need to comply with all Federal and State approvals before any approval at the County level would take effect.

Applicant/Owner: Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC)
 Location: North of Indian Ln. & South Anaho Rd.
 APN: 074-061-24, 074-061-33, 074-061-32, 074-061-31, 074-061-30, 074-061-29, 074-061-39, 074-061-38, 074-061-37, 074-061-36, 074-062-39, 074-062-54, 074-062-55, 074-040-61, & 074-040-60
 Parcel Size: 10, 10.7, 10.8, 10.8, 10.9, 10.8, 5, 5, 5, 5, 10, 10, 10, 558.1 & 92.4 acres
 Master Plan: Rural (R)
 Regulatory Zone: General Rural (GR)
 Area Plan: High Desert
 Development Code: Authorized in Article 302 Allowed Uses, Article 810, Special Use Permits & Article



Vicinity Map

Commission District:	812 Projects of Regional Significance 5 – Commissioner Herman	
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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE

APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS

DENY

POSSIBLE MOTION

I move that, after giving reasoned consideration to the information contained in the staff report and information received during the public hearing, the Washoe County Planning Commission approve with conditions Special Use Permit Case Number WSUP23-0020 for Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC), with the conditions included as Exhibit A to this matter, having made all five findings in accordance with Washoe County Code Section 110.810.30. I further move to vary the development code standard in Table 110.406.05.1 to allow structures up to 65 feet in height and to waive the landscaping standards of Article 412 of the Washoe County Development Code.

(Motion with Findings on Page 11)

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Special Use Permit

The purpose of a Special Use Permit is to allow a method of review to identify any potential harmful impacts on adjacent properties or surrounding areas for uses that may be appropriate within a regulatory zone; and to provide for a procedure whereby such uses might be permitted by further restricting or conditioning them so as to mitigate or eliminate possible adverse impacts. If the Planning Commission grants an approval of the Special Use Permit, that approval is subject to conditions of approval. Conditions of approval are requirements that need to be completed during different stages of the proposed project. Those stages are typically:

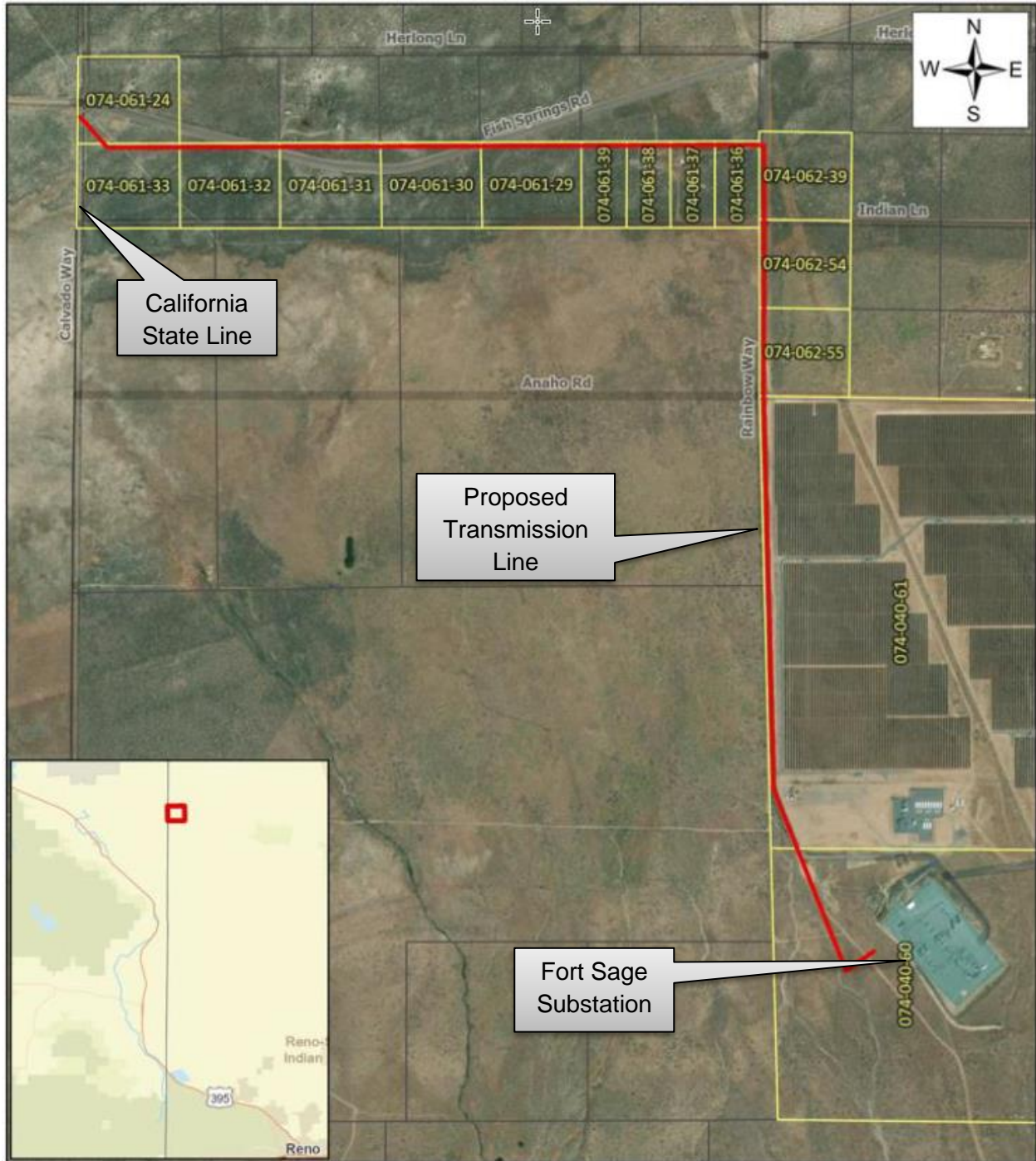
- Prior to permit issuance (i.e., a grading permit, a building permit, etc.)
- Prior to obtaining a final inspection and/or a certificate of occupancy on a structure
- Prior to the issuance of a business license or other permits/licenses
- Some conditions of approval are referred to as “operational conditions.” These conditions must be continually complied with for the life of the business or project.

The Conditions of Approval for Special Use Permit Case Number WSUP23-0020 are attached to this staff report and will be included with the action order.

The subject property has a General Rural (GR) Regulatory Zone. The proposed extension of a 2-mile long, 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, is classified as major public facility use, which is permitted in GR with a Special Use Permit per WCC 110.302.05.2. This project meets the standard for a project of regional significance because it is an extension of a transmission line that carries 60 kV or more. Therefore, the applicant is seeking approval of this Special Use Permit from the Planning Commission.

Additionally, Article 810 of the Washoe County Development Code allows the Planning Commission to vary development code standards in conjunction with the Special Use Permit approval process per WCC 110.810.20(e). The Planning Commission will be ruling on the request(s) to vary the development code standards below:

Variance(s) Requested	Relevant Code
Maximum height of 65’ instead of 35’	Table 110.406.05.1
Waive all landscaping requirements for a civic use	110.412.40(a, c & d)



Site Plan

Background

The Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC) was founded in 1937 to bring power to Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra Counties. PSREC is a member-owned electric utility and is not-for-profit. According to the applicant: "It currently serves approximately 8,000 customers in eastern Sierra Nevada, including portions of Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, and Washoe (NV) Counties. PSREC also serves ±450 households in the Red Rock community."

Project Evaluation

The applicant is requesting to establish a Special Use Permit for a major public facility use type for an extension of a 2-mile long, 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line within an existing utility easement from NV Energy's Fort Sage Substation through Washoe County to the California state line. The applicant is also requesting to waive all landscaping requirements and to vary the maximum tower height of 35' to allow for towers to be 65' in height. This project meets the standard to be reviewed as a project of regional significance (PRS), because it entails construction of a transmission line that carries 60 kV or more. Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) reviews all PRSs. Also, the location of the line is not within TMRPA's Regional Utility Corridor, which will require an amendment to the TMRPA Regional Utility Corridor Map.

The Master Plan designation for the parcels which will contain the transmission line is Rural (R), as are the surrounding parcels. The regulatory zoning of the parcels are General Rural (GR), as are the surrounding parcels. The land to the west is in the State of California. The surrounding land is undeveloped with Fish Springs Solar and NV Energy Fort Sage Substation located on the two parcels in the southern portion of the proposed development (APNs: 074-040-61 &60). The 2-mile transmission line will be located within an existing utility easement along Rainbow Way and then continuing west between Herlong Lane and Indiana Lane to California (See the Site Plan on page 5). Currently, no other utility uses are located within the easement.

There have been residences on parcels within the easement however only one parcel (APNs 074-061-24) currently has a residence. There are several parcels north along Doyle Lane, approximately 0.33 miles from the easement with residences.

According to the applicant, the extended transmission line will provide the following:

- Increase reliability of service to +/- 450 homes in Red Rock.
- Increase reliability of service from wildfire issues.
- Assist the Sierra Army Depot in achieving compliance with the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (See Exhibit E, pages 53 & 54).
- Increase reliability of service to the Federal Correctional Institute (Herlong) and High Desert State Prison (Susanville).

The extension is from Fort Sage Substation to the State of California, consisting of approximately 35 poles along the 2-mile route. The 65-foot high, two-foot diameter poles will be approximately 300 feet apart and should have minimal disturbance to the area. The existing utility easements vary in width from 50 feet wide north of Rainbow Way to between 60-100 feet wide to the California state line.

Article 410 – Parking and Loading

Parking for the utility services use type is determined during the review process. Since the transmission line is unmanned, staff does not believe any parking is necessary. The applicant anticipated 1 trip per month for maintenance. Access to the transmission line will primarily be from Fort Sage Substation where parking is available.

Article 414 – Lighting and Sound

No specific lighting is shown in the application. Any lighting fixtures proposed in the future will need to comply with the standards of Article 414 and, per High Desert Area Plan Policy HD.2.5, will need to meet current best practice “dark-sky” standards (Exhibit A- Condition 1(i)).

Article 438 – Grading

The applicant is proposing grading in the area directly beneath the tower poles. Total quantities of final grading will be determined by the number of towers and final design specifications. The applicant has indicated that the grading will not result in more than 4 acres of disturbed area and no more than 5,000 cy of cut or fill. The project therefore does not require major grading review. Final grading review will occur at the building permit stage.

Article 812 – Projects of Regional Significance

This project meets the standard for a project of regional significance because it will create a power transmission line with a capacity of 60 kV or more and will require an amendment to the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) Regional Utility Corridor Map. As a Project of Regional Significance, this application requires conformance review from TMRPA. The proposed transmission line must be sponsored by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners. Thus, if the Planning Commission approves the Special Use Permit, it shall not be issued until the regional planning authorities have taken final action in accordance with WCC 110.810.40.

Washoe County Master Plan—Conservation and Open Space

The transmission line does not fall with any of the habitat areas identified in the wildlife maps in the Master Plan. NDOW however, provided comments for the application (See Exhibit B) and conditions have been incorporated into the conditions of approval to address their concerns (See Exhibit A). NDOW comments included impacts on wildlife during construction, noxious and invasive species and “best management practices and other tools to reduce the risk of fire ignitions during construction and operation”.

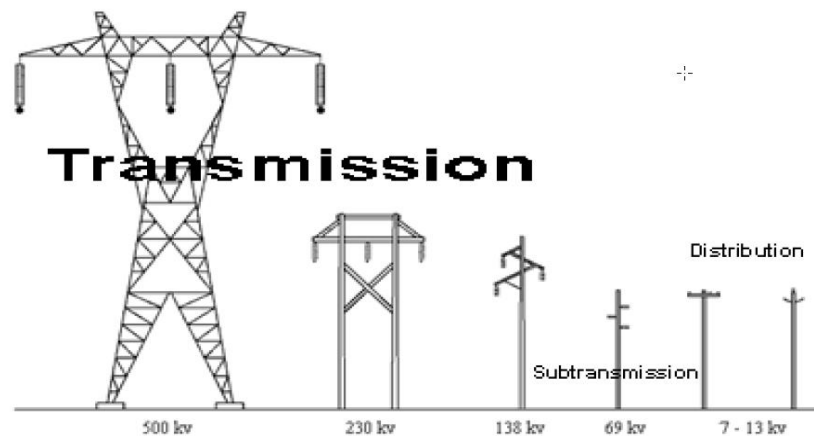
Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA)

The applicant is requesting to amend the TMRPA Regional Utility Corridor Map (2019 Truckee Meadows Regional Plan Map 3-Regional Utility Corridors & Sites). The transmission line is proposed to be located in existing public utility easements; however, these easements are not within the TMRPA Regional Utility Corridor. An amendment to the 2019 Truckee Meadows Regional Plan – Utility Corridor Map will be requested of the Washoe County Commission if the proposed transmission line is approved by the Planning Commission. The applicant is requesting the proposed location for the following reasons:

- The Regional Utility Corridor is NV Energy’s easement, which is not wide enough for the new proposed line. Also, widening the corridor would move the line outside of the corridor.
- There is an archaeological site located within the Regional Utility Corridor. The larger towers span the site. However, the smaller 69 kV towers cannot span the site.

The proposed transmission line location was reviewed by cooperating agencies for environmental review and the proposed location is recommended by the Bureau of Land Management.

Examples of Transmission Lines



Modifications

The applicant is requesting to modify the following requirements:

1. Table 110.406.05.1: The allowed height for GR is 35 feet.

Staff Comment: The applicant is requesting to vary the 35-foot maximum height to allow 65-foot-tall towers. Staff supports the varying this development standard as 65-feet is the typical standard height for the proposed transmission tower.

2. 110.412.40(a, c & d) Coverage, Landscaped Buffers Adjoining Residential Uses & Screening Adjoining Residential Uses

Staff Comment: The applicant is requesting to waive the landscaping coverage requirement of 20% of the total developed land area and the required buffers and screening for civic use types adjacent to residential uses. This area has very little vegetation and is located in a remote area, with few residences. The applicant indicates the vegetation in the area is low-lying. Staff supports the waiver as the transmission lines are located in a remote area with native vegetation and no available water for irrigation. Additionally, there are few established residences in the area and the proposed transmission line will be difficult to screen.

High Desert Area Plan Evaluation

The subject parcels are located within the High Desert Area Plan. The following are the pertinent policies from the Area Plan:

Relevant Area Plan Policies Reviewed

Policy	Brief Policy Description	Complies	Response
HD 2.2	Noxious weed plan required	Yes	Staff has provided Conditions of Approval requiring these standards in Exhibit A
HD 2.5	All lighting shall be dark-sky compliant.	Yes	Staff has provided Conditions of Approval requiring these standards in Exhibit A
HD 2.8	All landscape designs will emphasize use of native and low water requirement vegetation	N/A	The applicant is requesting to waive all landscaping requirements.
HD 2.10	Impacts of development will be mitigated	Yes	Staff has provided Conditions of Approval governing grading requirements, drainage maintenance and reclamation in Exhibit A

HD 2.13	Special Use Permit/ Admin. Permit finding that community character can be adequately conserved	Yes	Staff is able to make the finding that the proposed project will adequately preserve the community character as conditioned in Exhibit A.
HD 10.3	Special Use Permit finding of no significant degradation of air quality	Yes	Washoe County Air Quality Management reviewed the proposed application and provided conditions in Exhibit A.
HD 11.1	Development proposals to include a detailed soils and geotechnical study	Yes	Staff has provided Conditions of Approval requiring these standards in Exhibit A
HD 11.2	Development proposals will follow recommendations of geotechnical studies	Yes	Staff has provided Conditions of Approval requiring these standards in Exhibit A
HD 12.1	Master Plan Amendments, tentative maps, public initiated capital improvements, and projects impacting 10+ acres to consult with Nevada Department of Wildlife	Yes	Nevada Department of Wildlife was consulted and provided comments. Some comments are included in Conditions of Approval -see Exhibit A
HD 15.3	Washoe County will work to ensure that the action of one property owner does not adversely impact the properties and rights of other property owners, as measured by increased flood peaks, volume of runoff, erosion, sedimentation, etc.	Yes	Staff has provided Conditions of Approval mitigating these impacts in Exhibit A.
HD 16.4	Water rights shall be dedicated to Washoe County.	Yes	Washoe County Water Rights reviewed the proposed application and had no comment
HD 16.5	Landscaping using drought tolerant plant encouraged	N/A	The applicant is requesting to waive all landscaping requirements.

Reviewing Agencies

The following agencies/individuals received a copy of the project application for review and evaluation.

Agencies	Sent to Review	Responded	Provided Conditions	Contact
Natural Resources Conservation Service	X			
BLM - Winnemucca Dist. Office	X			
NDOW (Wildlife)	X	X	X	Katie Andrie, kmandrie@ndow.org
NV Water Resources	X			
Washoe County Building & Safety	X			
Washoe County Parks & Open Space	X	X	X	Faye-Marie Pekar, fpekar@washoecounty.gov
Washoe County Water Rights Manager (All Apps)	X	X		Timber Weiss, tweiss@washoecounty.gov
WCSO Law Enforcement	X			
Washoe County Engineering (Land Development) (All Apps)	X	X	X	Rob Wimer, rwimer@washoecounty.gov; Janelle Thomas, jkthomas@washoecounty.gov
WCHD Air Quality	X	X	X	Genine Rosa, grosa@washoecounty.gov; Joshua Restori, jrestori@washoecounty.gov
WCHD EMS	X	X		Sabrina Brasuell, sbrasuell@washoecounty.gov
WCHD Environmental Health	X	X		James English, jenglish@washoecounty.gov
TMFPD	X	X	X	Dale Way, dway@tmfpd.us; Brittany Lemon, BLemon@tmfpd.us
Truckee Meadows Regional Planning	X	X		Chris Tolley, CTolley@tmrpa.org
Washoe-Storey Conservation District	X	X	X	Jim Schaffer, shafferjam51@gmail.com
Nevada State Historic Preservation	X			
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	X			
Reno/Sparks Indian Colony	X			
Washoe Tribe of NV	X			
NV Energy	X			

All conditions required by the contacted agencies can be found in Exhibit A, Conditions of Approval.

Neighborhood Meeting

A neighborhood meeting was held via zoom on June 28, 2023, with two members of the public attending. The applicant presented a PowerPoint about the project and there was one question concerning water during construction (See Exhibit C).

Staff Comment on Required Findings

WCC Section 110.810.30, Article 810, *Special Use Permits*, requires that all of the following findings be made to the satisfaction of the Washoe County Planning Commission before granting approval of the request. Staff has completed an analysis of the Special Use Permit application and has determined that the proposal is in compliance with the required findings as follows.

- (a) Consistency. That the proposed use is consistent with the action programs, policies, standards and maps of the Master Plan and the High Desert Area Plan.

Staff Comment: The proposed use is consistent with the action programs, policies standards and maps of the Master Plan and the High Desert Area Plan as outlined above and conditioned in Exhibit A.

- (b) Improvements. That adequate utilities, roadway improvements, sanitation, water supply, drainage, and other necessary facilities have been provided, the proposed improvements are properly related to existing and proposed roadways, and an adequate public facilities determination has been made in accordance with Division Seven.

Staff Comment: The proposed transmission line has been reviewed by Washoe County Engineering, which provided Conditions of Approval, and the Washoe County Water Rights Manager had no comments. No reviewing agency indicated concerns with infrastructure or improvements for this transmission line.

- (c) Site Suitability. That the site is physically suitable for utility services use and for the intensity of such a development.

Staff Comment: There are existing and established utility easements for the proposed transmission lines connecting to the Fort Sage Substation. The area is relatively flat, remote and suitable for utility services use type. The area is labeled as unconstrained per the High Desert Area Plan Development Suitability Map. Washoe County Engineering reviewed this application and indicated no concerns about site suitability.

- (d) Issuance Not Detrimental. That issuance of the permit will not be significantly detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare; injurious to the property or improvements of adjacent properties; or detrimental to the character of the surrounding area.

Staff Comment: The applicant indicates that the transmission line will increase reliable of service for the residents in the area and businesses. Staff has provided conditions of approval to mitigate impacts of the proposed use on public health, safety, and welfare. The conditions in Exhibit A also allow variations from Washoe County development standards that help preserve the character of the surrounding area.

- (e) Effect on a Military Installation. Issuance of the permit will not have a detrimental effect on the location, purpose or mission of the military installation.

Staff Comment: There are no military installations within the noticing area of the proposed facility.

Recommendation

After a thorough analysis and review, Special Use Permit Case Number WSUP23-0020 is being recommended for approval with conditions. Staff offers the following motion for the Commission's consideration.

Motion

I move that, after giving reasoned consideration to the information contained in the staff report and information received during the public hearing, the Washoe County Planning Commission approve with conditions Special Use Permit Case Number WSUP23-0020 for Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC), with the conditions included as Exhibit A to this matter, having made all five findings in accordance with Washoe County Code Section 110.810.30. I further move to vary the development code standard in Table 110.406.05.1 to allow structures up to 65

feet in height and to waive the landscaping standards of Article 412 of the Washoe County Development Code:

- (a) Consistency. That the proposed use is consistent with the action programs, policies, standards and maps of the Master Plan and the High Desert Area Plan;
- (b) Improvements. That adequate utilities, roadway improvements, sanitation, water supply, drainage, and other necessary facilities have been provided, the proposed improvements are properly related to existing and proposed roadways, and an adequate public facilities determination has been made in accordance with Division Seven;
- (c) Site Suitability. That the site is physically suitable for an energy production, renewable use, and utility services use, and major grading, and for the intensity of such a development;
- (d) Issuance Not Detrimental. That issuance of the permit will not be significantly detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare; injurious to the property or improvements of adjacent properties; or detrimental to the character of the surrounding area;
- (e) Effect on a Military Installation. Issuance of the permit will not have a detrimental effect on the location, purpose or mission of the military installation.
- (f) Appeal Process

Planning Commission action will be effective 10 calendar days after the written decision is filed with the Secretary to the Planning Commission and mailed to the applicant, unless the action is appealed to the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners, in which case the outcome of the appeal shall be determined by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners. Any appeal must be filed in writing with the Planning and Building Division within 10 calendar days from the date the written decision is filed with the Secretary to the Planning Commission and mailed to the applicant.

Applicant/Owner: Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC); Email: glohn@psrec.coop

Representative: Manhard Consulting, Karen Downs; Email: kdowns@manhard.com



Conditions of Approval

Special Use Permit Case Number WSUP23-0020

The project approved under Special Use Permit Case Number WSUP23-0020 shall be carried out in accordance with the conditions of approval granted by the Planning Commission on September 5, 2023. Conditions of approval are requirements placed on a permit or development by each reviewing agency. These conditions of approval may require submittal of documents, applications, fees, inspections, amendments to plans, and more. These conditions do not relieve the applicant of the obligation to obtain any other approvals and licenses from relevant authorities required under any other act.

Unless otherwise specified, all conditions related to the approval of this special use permit shall be met or financial assurance must be provided to satisfy the conditions of approval prior to issuance of a grading or building permit. The agency responsible for determining compliance with a specific condition shall determine whether the condition must be fully completed or whether the applicant shall be offered the option of providing financial assurance. All agreements, easements, or other documentation required by these conditions shall have a copy filed with the County Engineer and the Planning and Building Division.

Compliance with the conditions of approval related to this special use permit is the responsibility of the applicant, his/her successor in interest, and all owners, assignees, and occupants of the property and their successors in interest. Failure to comply with any of the conditions imposed in the approval of the special use permit may result in the institution of revocation procedures.

Washoe County reserves the right to review and revise the conditions of approval related to this Special Use Permit should it be determined that a subsequent license or permit issued by Washoe County violates the intent of this approval.

For the purpose of conditions imposed by Washoe County, “may” is permissive and “shall” or “must” is mandatory.

Conditions of approval are usually complied with at different stages of the proposed project. Those stages are typically:

- Prior to permit issuance (i.e., grading permits, building permits, etc.).
- Prior to obtaining a final inspection and/or a certificate of occupancy.
- Prior to the issuance of a business license or other permits/licenses.
- Some “conditions of approval” are referred to as “operational conditions.” These conditions must be continually complied with for the life of the project or business.

FOLLOWING ARE CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL REQUIRED BY THE REVIEWING AGENCIES. EACH CONDITION MUST BE MET TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE ISSUING AGENCY.

Washoe County Planning and Building Division

1. The following conditions are requirements of Planning and Building, which shall be responsible for determining compliance with these conditions.

Contact Name –Julee Olander, Planner, 775.328.3627, jolander@washoecounty.gov

- a. **The applicant shall attach a copy of the action order approving this project to all permits and applications (including building permits) applied for as part of this special use permit.**
- b. The applicant shall demonstrate substantial conformance to the plans approved as part of this special use permit.
- c. The applicant shall submit construction plans, with all information necessary for comprehensive review by Washoe County, and initial building permits shall be issued within two years from the date of approval by Washoe County. The applicant shall complete construction within the time specified by the building permits.
- d. A note shall be placed on all construction drawings and grading plans stating:

NOTE

Should any cairn or grave of a Native American be discovered during site development, work shall temporarily be halted at the specific site and the Sheriff's Office as well as the State Historic Preservation Office of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shall be immediately notified per NRS 383.170.

- d. The facility shall be exempted from the landscaping requirements found in the Washoe County Development Code (Chapter 110), Article 412.
- e. The transmission line, transmission poles and any attachments shall be permitted to reach a maximum height of 65 feet.
- f. The applicant shall provide detailed soils and geo-technical studies as part of the required grading permit plans per High Desert Policy 11.1. These plans shall comply with WCC 110.438.45-100.
- g. In conformance with the High Desert Area Plan Policy 2.2, prior to the issuance of building or grading permits, the applicant shall prepare a noxious weed management plan in consultation with the Washoe County Health Department, the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, and/or the Washoe Storey Conservation District.
- h. Construction hours are 7am to 7pm Monday through Saturday.
- i. All proposed lighting shall comply with current best practice "dark-sky" standards, in conformance with High Desert Policy 2.5.
- j. Transmission line poles shall include anti-perch devices or deterrents wherever possible.
- k. The following **Operational Conditions** shall be required for the life of the business:
 - i. This special use permit shall remain in effect until or unless it is revoked or is inactive for one year.
 - ii. Failure to comply with any of the conditions of approval shall render this approval out of conformance and subject to revocation.
 - iii. The applicant and any successors shall direct any potential purchaser/operator of the site and/or the special use permit to meet with Planning and Building to review conditions of approval prior to the final sale of the site and/or the special use permit. Any subsequent purchaser/operator of the site and/or the special use permit shall notify Planning and Building of the name, address, telephone number, and contact person of the new purchaser/operator within 30 days of the final sale.

- iv. This special use permit shall remain in effect as long as the business is in operation and maintains a valid business license.

Washoe County Engineering and Capital Projects

2. The following conditions are requirements of the Engineering Division, which shall be responsible for determining compliance with these conditions.

Contact Name – Robert Wimer, P.E. 775.328.2059, rwimer@washoecounty.gov

- a. A complete set of construction improvement drawings, including an on-site grading plan, shall be submitted when applying for a building/grading permit. Grading shall comply with best management practices (BMP's) and shall include detailed plans for grading, site drainage, erosion control (including BMP locations and installation details), slope stabilization, and mosquito abatement. Placement or removal of any excavated materials shall be indicated on the grading plan. Silts shall be controlled on-site and not allowed onto adjacent property.
- b. A grading bond of \$2,000/acre of disturbed area shall be provided to the Engineering Division prior to any grading.
- c. All disturbed areas left undeveloped for more than 30 days shall be treated with a dust palliative. Disturbed areas left undeveloped for more than 45 days shall be revegetated. Methods and seed mix must be approved by the County Engineer with technical assistance from the Washoe-Storey Conservation District. The applicant shall submit a revegetation plan to the Washoe-Storey Conservation District for review.

TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY (COUNTY CODE 110.436)

Contact Information: Mitchell Fink, P.E. 775.328.2050, mfink@washoecounty.gov

- d. Provide a construction haul route plan and address the construction traffic impacts to the local streets and Washoe County maintained roadways for accessing the project site. The haul route plan shall also include the proposed mitigation to these impacts to the satisfaction of the County Engineer.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

3. The following condition is a requirement of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, which shall be responsible for determining compliance with this condition.

Contact Name – Brittany Lemon, Fire Captain, 775.326.0584, blemon@tmfpd.us

- a. This project shall meet and comply with all requirements of currently adopted TMFPD fire codes, ordinances, and standards at the time of construction to include infrastructure for fire apparatus access roads and water supply. <https://tmfpd.us/fire-code/>

Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space

4. The following conditions are requirements of Regional Parks and Open Space, which shall be responsible for determining compliance with these conditions.

Contact Name – Faye-Marie Pekar, Parks Planner, 775.328.6100, fpekar@washoecounty.gov

- a. Should any earthen materials need be imported to the site, they shall be “certified weed free” to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive weeds.

- b. All undeveloped areas disturbed as a result of project activities shall be revegetated utilizing a native seed mix as reviewed and approved by the Washoe Storey Conservation District and/or Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space.

Washoe County Health District

5. The following condition is a requirement of the Health District, which shall be responsible for determining compliance with this condition. The District Board of Health has jurisdiction over all public health matters in the Health District. Any conditions set by the Health District must be appealed to the District Board of Health.

Contact Name – Genine Rosa, Senior Air Quality Specialist, 775.784.7204, grosa@washoecounty.gov

- a. Any dust generating activity, regardless of size of disturbance, will be subject to the Washoe County District Board of Health Regulation Governing the Air Quality Management Division, 040.030 Dust Control. Except when engaged in commercial agricultural operations, no person may disturb the topsoil by removing, altering, or overlaying the ground cover through scraping, burning, excavating, storing of fill, application of palliative, or any other method on any real property unless reasonable precautions are taken to prevent generation of dust during both the active development phases and thereafter if the property is to remain unoccupied, unused, vacant, or undeveloped. If disturbance will be greater than 1 acre, then a Dust Control Permit will be required prior to breaking ground.

6. Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW)

The following conditions are requirements of the NDOW, which shall be responsible for determining compliance with these conditions.

Contact Name: Katie Andrlle, 775.688.1145, kmandrle@ndow.org

- a. NDOW recommends avoiding construction activities between March 1 – May 15, to avoid impacts sage-grouse that are sensitive to noise.
- b. All surface disturbing activities should occur outside of the migratory bird nesting period (March 1 to July 31). If surface disturbing activities are to occur during this period, migratory bird pre-construction avian surveys should be conducted in appropriate habitats by qualified biologists prior to surface disturbing activities commencing. The exact area to be surveyed would be based on the scope of the surface disturbing. If ground disturbing activities do not take place within 14 days, the areas would need to be resurveyed. If nesting migratory birds are present, appropriate buffers determined by the NDOW, in coordination with the USFWS, would be applied until an approved biologist determines the young have fledged or the nest has failed.
- c. Transmission lines and all electrical components should be designed, installed, and maintained in accordance with the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee's (APLIC's) Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines (APLIC 2006) and Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines (APLIC 2012) to reduce the likelihood of large bird electrocutions and collisions.
- d. NDOW encourages that a noxious and invasive species plan be developed and implemented to prevent the introduction and spread of undesirable species into adjacent habitat. Such a plan should include prevention measures, inventory, monitoring, and

treatment. Noxious and invasive species plans ensure wildlife compatibility with new development by protecting and conserving adjacent habitat.

- e. NDOW recommends using the best management practices and other tools to reduce the risk of fire ignitions during construction and operation.

*** End of Conditions ***

From: [Program, EMS](#)
To: [Olander, Julee](#)
Cc: [Program, EMS](#)
Subject: FW: July Agency Review Memo I
Date: Friday, July 21, 2023 11:47:15 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[July Agency Review Memo I.pdf](#)
[image006.png](#)

Hello,

The EMS Program has reviewed the July Agency Review Memo I - Special Use Permit Case Number WSUP23-0020 (PSREC Transmission Line) - and has no concerns or questions at this time based on the information provided.

Thank you,

Sabrina.

Sabrina Brasuell

Pronouns: she/her

Office hours: 7:00AM – 3:30PM Remote on Mondays

EMS Coordinator | Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness

Washoe County Health District

sbrasuell@washoecounty.gov | Cell: (775) 830-7118 | Office: (775) 326-6043

1001 E. Ninth St., Bldg. B. Reno, NV 89512



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From: Roman, Brandon <BRoman@washoecounty.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 9:57 AM

To: Green, Jim D. <JDGreen@washoecounty.gov>; Crump, Eric S <ECrump@washoecounty.gov>;

Pekar, Faye-Marie L. <FPekar@washoecounty.gov>; Mayorga, Alexander R.

<AMayorga@washoecounty.gov>; Rosa, Genine <GRosa@washoecounty.gov>; Restori, Joshua

<JRestori@washoecounty.gov>; Weiss, Timber A. <TWeiss@washoecounty.gov>; Zirkle, Brandon

<BZirkle@washoecounty.gov>; Beard, Blaine <BBeard@washoecounty.gov>; English, James

<JEnglish@washoecounty.gov>; Rubio, Wesley S <WRubio@washoecounty.gov>; Kelly, David A

<DAKelly@washoecounty.gov>; Program, EMS <EMSProgram@washoecounty.gov>; Wimer, Robert

<RWimer@washoecounty.gov>; WRWC <WRWC@washoecounty.gov>; Fink, Mitchell

<MFink@washoecounty.gov>; Handrock, Wayne <WHandrock@washoecounty.gov>; Philumalee,

Matthew <MPhilumalee@washoecounty.gov>

Cc: Gustafson, Jennifer <jgustafson@da.washoecounty.gov>; Smith, Dwayne E.

<DESmith@washoecounty.gov>; Hein, Stephen <SHein@washoecounty.gov>; EHS Plan Review

Date: July 27, 2023

To: Julee Olander, Planner

From: Janelle K. Thomas, P.E., Senior Licensed Engineer
Robert Wimer, P.E., Licensed Engineer

Re: Special Use Permit for ***Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC)
Transmission Line WSUP23-0020***

APNs: 074-061-24, 074-061-33, 074-061-32, 074-061-31, 074-061-30, 074-061-29, 074-061-39, 074-061-38, 074-061-37, 074-061-36, 074-062-39, 074-062-54, 074-062-55, 074-040-61, & 074-040-60

GENERAL PROJECT DISCUSSION

Washoe County Engineering staff has reviewed the above referenced application. The Special Use Permit is for a major public facility use type for an extension of a 2-mile long of a 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from NV Energy's Fort Sage Substation through Washoe County to the California State Line. The applicant is also requesting to waive all landscaping requirements and to vary the maximum height of 35' to allow for structures to be 65' in height. This project meets the standard for a Project of Regional Significance because it entails construction of a transmission line that carries 60 kV or more. It will require approval by the regional planning authorities before any approval at the County level would take effect. This project also requires amendments to the Regional Utility Corridor Map to identify the location of the new transmission line. The amendments must be sponsored by the Board of County Commissioners and approved by the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Authorities. This project will need to comply with all Federal and State approvals before any approval at the County level would take effect. The Engineering and Capital Projects Division recommends approval with the following comments and conditions of approval which supplement applicable County Code and are based upon our review of the site and the application prepared by Manhard Consulting. The County Engineer shall determine compliance with the following conditions of approval.

For questions related to sections below, please see the contact name provided.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Contact Information: Robert Wimer, P.E. (775) 328-2059

1. A complete set of construction improvement drawings, including an on-site grading plan, shall be submitted when applying for a building/grading permit. Grading shall comply with best management practices (BMP's) and shall include detailed plans for grading, site drainage, erosion control (including BMP locations and installation details), slope stabilization, and mosquito abatement. Placement or removal of any excavated materials shall be indicated on the grading plan. Silts shall be controlled on-site and not allowed onto adjacent property.
2. A grading bond of \$2,000/acre of disturbed area shall be provided to the Engineering Division prior to any grading.

3. All disturbed areas left undeveloped for more than 30 days shall be treated with a dust palliative. Disturbed areas left undeveloped for more than 45 days shall be revegetated. Methods and seed mix must be approved by the County Engineer with technical assistance from the Washoe-Storey Conservation District. The applicant shall submit a revegetation plan to the Washoe-Storey Conservation District for review.

TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY (COUNTY CODE 110.436)

Contact Information: Mitchell Fink, P.E. (775) 328-2050

Discussion

1. Provide a construction haul route plan and address the construction traffic impacts to the local streets and Washoe County maintained roadways for accessing the project site. The haul route plan shall also include the proposed mitigation to these impacts to the satisfaction of the County Engineer.

From: [Lemon, Brittany](#)
To: [Olander, Julee](#)
Cc: [Way, Dale](#)
Subject: WSUP23-0020 (PSREC Transmission Line) Conditions of Approval
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 8:38:19 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good Morning Julee,

“This project shall meet and comply with all requirements of currently adopted TMFPD fire codes, ordinances, and standards at the time of construction to include infrastructure for fire apparatus access roads and water supply.”

<https://tmfpd.us/fire-code/>.

A vegetation management plan in accordance with the adopted Wildland Urban Interface Code (WUI) Appendix B is required for this project.

Thank you,

Brittany Lemon

Fire Captain - Fire Prevention | Truckee Meadows Fire & Rescue

blemon@tmfpd.us | Office: 775.326.6079 | Cell: 775.379.0584

3663 Barron Way, Reno, NV 89511



“Committed to excellence, service, and the protection of life and property in our community”

From: [English, James](#)
To: [Olander, Julee](#)
Cc: [Rubio, Wesley S](#)
Subject: RE: WSUP23-0020 (PSREC Transmission Line)
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 7:48:54 AM
Attachments: [image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)

No we don't

James English, REHS, CP-FS

Environmental Health Specialist Supervisor | Environmental Health Services | Washoe County Health District
jenglish@washoecounty.gov | (775) 328-2434 | 1001 E. Ninth St., Bldg. B, Reno, NV 89512



WashoeEats.com

Questions about COVID-19 Vaccines in Washoe County? Visit our website at Covid19Washoe.com for information.

From: Olander, Julee <JOlander@washoecounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2023 8:44 AM
To: English, James <JEnglish@washoecounty.gov>; Rubio, Wesley S <WRubio@washoecounty.gov>
Subject: WSUP23-0020 (PSREC Transmission Line)

Do you have any comments for WSUP23-0020 (PSREC Transmission Line)?
Thanks,



Julee Olander, Planner
jolander@washoecounty.gov | Direct Line: 775.328.3627
My working hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm
Visit us first online: www.washoecounty.gov/csd
Planning Division: 775.328.6100 | Planning@washoecounty.gov
CSD Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm
1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, NV 89512



Washoe-Storey Conservation District

Bret Tyler Chairmen
Jim Shaffer Treasurer
Cathy Canfield Storey app
Jean Herman Washoe app

1365 Corporate Blvd.
Reno NV 89502
775 857-8500 ext. 131
nevadaconservation.com

July 20, 2023

Washoe County Community Services Department

C/O Julee Olander, Planner

1001 E Ninth Street, Bldg. A

Reno, NV 89512

R: WSUP23-0020 PSREC Transmission Line

Dear Julee,

In reviewing the special use for a major public facility to extend a transmission line, the Conservation District has the following comments.

While the total grading is no more than four acres less than 5,0000 cubic yards, weeds with germinate from grading, the District recommends reseeding the graded area for plant communities favorable to alkali soils. As stated in the document sage brush, rabbit brush, grease weed, hop sage, salt brush are plants that flourish in the area. Please send the proposed seed mix to the Conservation District to include a three-year plan of monitoring with the success rate of gemination at minimum 75%.

With the area having noxious weeds such as Scotch Thistle, the District recommends chemically treating this weed and other noxious weeds for a three-year period. In addition, the applicant develop an onsite noxious weed management plan to ensure weed seeds do not impact the project site.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to review the project that may have impacts on our natural resources any questions call us (775-750-8272).

Sincerely,

Jim Shaffer



WASHOE COUNTY
COMMUNITY SERVICES
INTEGRITY COMMUNICATION SERVICE

P.O. Box 11130
Reno, Nevada 89520-0027
Phone: (775) 328-3600
Fax: (775) 328-3699

July 27, 2023

TO: Julee Olander, Planner, CSD, Planning & Development Division
FROM: Timber Weiss, Engineer, CSD
SUBJECT: Special Use Permit Case Number WSUP23-0020 (PSREC Transmission Line)

Project description:

The applicant is proposing to approve a special use permit for a major public facility use type for an extension of a 2-mile long of a 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from NV Energy's Fort Sage Substation through Washoe County to the California State Line. The applicant is also requesting to waive all landscaping requirements and to vary the maximum height of 35' to allow for structures to be 65' in height. This project meets the standard for a Project of Regional Significance because it entails construction of a transmission line that carries 60 kV or more. It will require approval by the regional planning authorities before any approval at the County level would take effect. This project also requires amendments to the Regional Utility Corridor Map to identify the location of the new transmission line. The amendments must be sponsored by the Board of County Commissioners and approved by the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Authorities. This project will need to comply with all Federal and State approvals before any approval at the County level would take effect.

The property is located at North of Indian Ln. & South Anaho Rd.

APN: 074-061-24, 074-061-33, 074-061-32, 074-061-31, 074-061-30, 074-061-29, 074-061-39, 074-061-38, 074-061-37, 074-061-36, 074-062-39, 074-062-54, 074-062-55, 074-040-61, & 074-040-60

The Community Services Department (CSD) recommends approval of this project with the following Water Rights conditions:

No water rights comments for this permit.

From: [Rosa, Genine](#)
To: [Olander, Julee](#)
Subject: RE: July Agency Review Memo I
Date: Monday, August 7, 2023 8:08:13 AM
Attachments: [image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image015.png](#)
[image016.png](#)
[image017.png](#)
[image018.png](#)
[image019.png](#)
[image020.png](#)
[image021.png](#)
[image022.png](#)
[image023.png](#)

Hi Julee,

Just our standard dust language....thank you.

Any dust generating activity, regardless of size of disturbance, will be subject to the Washoe County District Board of Health Regulation Governing the Air Quality Management Division, 040.030 Dust Control. Except when engaged in commercial agricultural operations, no person may disturb the topsoil by removing, altering, or overlaying the ground cover through scraping, burning, excavating, storing of fill, application of palliative, or any other method on any real property unless reasonable precautions are taken to prevent generation of dust during both the active development phases and thereafter if the property is to remain unoccupied, unused, vacant or undeveloped.

If disturbance will be greater than 1 acre then a Dust Control Permit will be required prior to breaking ground, failure to do so may result in enforcement action resulting in a Notice of Violation with associated fines. For Dust Control Permit questions call AQMD at 775-784-7200 or visit www.OurCleanAir.com.

Genine

Senior Air Quality Specialist | Air Quality Management Division | Washoe County Health District
O: (775) 784-7204 | 1001 E. Ninth St., Bldg. B, Reno, NV 89512

Working Hours M-Th: 7 AM-4:30 PM and F: 7 AM-11 AM




 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Olander, Julee <JOlander@washoecounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 4, 2023 3:05 PM

To: Rosa, Genine <GRosa@washoecounty.gov>
Subject: FW: July Agency Review Memo I

Genine.
Do you have any comments/conditions for WSUP23-0020?
Thanks,



Julee Olander, Planner
jolander@washoecounty.gov | Direct Line: 775.328.3627
My working hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm
Visit us first online: www.washoecounty.gov/csd
Planning Division: 775.328.6100 | Planning@washoecounty.gov
CSD Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm
1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, NV 89512


From: Program, EMS <EMSProgram@washoecounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 11:47 AM
To: Olander, Julee <JOlander@washoecounty.gov>
Cc: Program, EMS <EMSProgram@washoecounty.gov>
Subject: FW: July Agency Review Memo I

Hello,

The EMS Program has reviewed the July Agency Review Memo I - Special Use Permit Case Number WSUP23-0020 (PSREC Transmission Line) - and has no concerns or questions at this time based on the information provided.

Thank you,

Sabrina.

Sabrina Brasuell

Pronouns: she/her
Office hours: 7:00AM – 3:30PM Remote on Mondays
EMS Coordinator | Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness
Washoe County Health District
sbrasuell@washoecounty.gov | Cell: (775) 830-7118 | Office: (775) 326-6043
1001 E. Ninth St., Bldg. B. Reno, NV 89512



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WASHOE COUNTY
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Regional Parks and Open Space

1001 EAST 9TH STREET
 RENO, NEVADA 89520-0027
 PHONE (775) 328-3600
 FAX (775) 328.3699

TO: Julee Olander, Planner

FROM: Faye-Marie Pekar, Park Planner

DATE: August 7, 2023

SUBJECT: Special Use Permit Case Number WSUP23-0020 (PSREC Transmission Line)



I have reviewed the application for case number WSUP23-0020 on behalf of the Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Program (Parks Program) and prepared the following comments:

If approved, this special use permit would allow a major public facility use type for an extension of a 2-mile long of a 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from NV Energy’s Fort Sage Substation through Washoe County to the California State Line. The applicant is also requesting to waive all landscaping requirements and to vary the maximum height of 35’ to allow for structures to be 65’ in height. This project meets the standard for a Project of Regional Significance because it entails construction of a transmission line that carries 60 kV or more. It will require approval by the regional planning authorities before any approval at the County level would take effect. This project also requires amendments to the Regional Utility Corridor Map to identify the location of the new transmission line. The amendments must be sponsored by the Board of County Commissioners and approved by the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Authorities. This project will need to comply with all Federal and State approvals before any approval at the County level would take effect.

Grading for this project is stated by the applicant to be confined to the pole locations (anticipated to be 35 poles total) and will not trigger major grading requirements. Exact quantities of grading will be determined by the number of poles and final design specifications. The total grading will not result in more than 4 acres of disturbed area and no more than 5,000 cubic yards of cut or fill.

Given these considerations, the Parks Program requires the following conditions of approval:

1. Should any earthen materials need be imported to the site, they shall be “certified weed free” to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive weeds.
2. All undeveloped areas disturbed as a result of project activities shall be revegetated utilizing a native seed mix as reviewed and approved by the Washoe Storey Conservation District and/or Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space.



From: [Katie Andrie](#)
To: [Roman, Brandon](#)
Cc: [Olander, Julee](#)
Subject: RE: July Agency Review Memo I
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 11:33:42 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

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Hi Brandon and Julie,

NDOW does not have any comments related to item #2. For item #4, I have listed a few comments. I apologize for the delay, I have been in the field most of the last couple weeks:

- We recommend avoiding construction activities between March 1 – May 15, to avoid impacts sage-grouse that are sensitive to noise.
- If any portion of the proposed transmission line is on public land (i.e. BLM, state), the proponent must consult with the Nevada State Conservation Credit System in accordance with state law (NAC 232.400) in order to determine if there is a mitigation obligation for sage-grouse as this project is located with Sage-grouse Habitat Management Areas.
- We recommend burring the transmission line to avoid predation impacts to sage-grouse. Research has demonstrated that sage-grouse in the Virginia Mountains are especially susceptible to predation, particularly by ravens due to increased anthropogenic infrastructure and raven subsidies. If the transmission line cannot be buried, we recommend discouraging raven nest building or perching on poles and infrastructure utilizing the state of the art technologies. Furthermore, we recommend implementing a plan to eliminate or minimize raven food subsidy opportunities.
- Transmission lines and all electrical components should be designed, installed, and maintained in accordance with the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee's (APLIC's) Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines (APLIC 2006) and Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines (APLIC 2012) to reduce the likelihood of large bird electrocutions and collisions.
- All surface disturbing activities should occur outside of the migratory bird nesting period (March 1 to July 31). If surface disturbing activities are to occur during this period, migratory bird pre-construction avian surveys should be conducted in appropriate habitats by qualified biologists prior to surface disturbing activities commencing. The exact area to be surveyed would be based on the scope of the surface disturbing. If ground disturbing activities do not

take place within 14 days, the areas would need to be resurveyed. If nesting migratory birds are present, appropriate buffers determined by the NDOW, in coordination with the USFWS, would be applied until an approved biologist determines the young have fledged or the nest has failed.

- NDOW encourages that a noxious and invasive species plan be developed and implemented to prevent the introduction and spread of undesirable species into adjacent habitat. Such a plan should include prevention measures, inventory, monitoring, and treatment. Noxious and invasive species plans ensure wildlife compatibility with new development by protecting and conserving adjacent habitat.
- Fire ignitions can result from construction and operation activities. Fires have occurred on rangelands in much of northern Nevada leading to cheatgrass (and other weeds) dominated areas. These cheatgrass dominated rangelands have reduced the quality and quantity of wildlife habitat. These areas are prone to burning and are easily ignited. NDOW recommends using the best management practices and other tools to reduce the risk of fire ignitions during construction and operation.

Thanks and let me know if you'd like to discuss,



Katie Andrlle, Western Region Supervising Habitat Biologist
Nevada Department of Wildlife
1100 Valley Road
Reno, Nevada 89512
(775) 688-1145
kmandrle@ndow.org

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From: Roman, Brandon <BRoman@washoecounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 8:56 AM
To: Katie Andrlle <kmandrle@ndow.org>
Subject: FW: July Agency Review Memo I

WARNING - This email originated from outside the State of Nevada. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

From: [Katie Andrie](#)
To: [Olander, Julie](#)
Subject: RE: WSUP23-0020 (PSREC Transmission Line)
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 5:10:03 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

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Hi Julie,

Firstly, apologies for misspelling burying.. must have been typing too fast.

NDOW typically does not have authority over many minimization or mitigation recommendations. Those authorities typically lie with the authorizing land management agency (i.e. BLM, USFS, etc.). While NDOW has the authority to manage the State's wildlife, we unfortunately have few regulatory mechanisms to require certain measures that would benefit wildlife. In this case, NDOW is providing a recommendation that would benefit wildlife species, however we can't require or enforce it. We often rely on the authorizing/approving agency to work with us to provide recommendations, or in some cases, requirements or conditions of approval for certain minimization measures that reduce direct or indirect impacts to wildlife.

Is any part of the powerline on public lands? (BLM here)? If so, they are required by the State to participate in the Conservation Credit System, which is a mitigation program for sage grouse that DCNR manages.

Thanks and please let me know if you have any follow up questions, happy to discuss further.

Katie



Katie Andrie, Western Region Supervising Habitat Biologist
Nevada Department of Wildlife
1100 Valley Road
Reno, Nevada 89512
(775) 688-1145
kmandrie@ndow.org

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information is strictly prohibited.

From: Olander, Julee <JOlander@washoecounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2023 8:51 AM
To: Katie Andrlé <kmandrle@ndow.org>
Subject: RE: WSUP23-0020 (PSREC Transmission Line)

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Katie,

Have been asked to check to see if NDOW has the authority to ask the application for the following as stated in your comments:

We recommend burring the transmission line to avoid predation impacts to sage-grouse. Research has demonstrated that sage-grouse in the Virginia Mountains are especially susceptible to predation, particularly by ravens due to increased anthropogenic infrastructure and raven subsidies. If the transmission line cannot be buried, we recommend discouraging raven nest building or perching on poles and infrastructure utilizing the stat of the art technologies. Furthermore, we recommend implementing a plan to eliminate or minimize raven food subsidy opportunities.

Thank you,



Julee Olander, Planner

jolander@washoecounty.gov | Direct Line: 775.328.3627

My working hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm

Visit us first online: www.washoecounty.gov/csd

Planning Division: 775.328.6100 | Planning@washoecounty.gov

CSD Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm

1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, NV 89512



From: Katie Andrlé <kmandrle@ndow.org>
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2023 11:17 AM
To: Olander, Julee <JOlander@washoecounty.gov>
Subject: RE: WSUP23-0020 (PSREC Transmission Line)

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi Julie,

I have been out of the office the last two weeks so I apologize I have not had a chance to respond, I am currently putting some comments together. I understand it is after the deadline yesterday but I will get something to you and Brandon today.

Thanks!

From: Olander, Julee <JOlander@washoecounty.gov>

Sent: Friday, July 28, 2023 11:12 AM

To: Katie Andrie <kmandrie@ndow.org>

Subject: WSUP23-0020 (PSREC Transmission Line)

WARNING - This email originated from outside the State of Nevada. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Katie,

Just wanted to confirm with you that NDOW has no comments for WSUP23-0020 (PSREC Transmission Line). Have attached the application and if you have comments need them by 8/10.

Thank you,



Julee Olander, Planner

jolander@washoecounty.gov | Direct Line: 775.328.3627

My working hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm

Visit us first online: www.washoecounty.gov/csd

Planning Division: 775.328.6100 | Planning@washoecounty.gov

CSD Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm

1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, NV 89512



INITIAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Julee Olander, Washoe County

FROM: Chris Tolley, TMRPA

DATE: August 22, 2023

SUBJECT: TMRPA initial review of the Washoe County case WSUP23-0020 (PSREC Fort Sage Transmission Line)

This memorandum provides the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency's (TMRPA) initial review comments regarding the subject case (WSUP23-0020), as stated in the 2019 Truckee Meadows Regional Plan (Policy RC 5).

The following constitutes an initial review based on the limited information available at the time of this memorandum. TMRPA recognizes that the proposal may change through the jurisdictional review of the case. Should the case be approved through Washoe County, the proposal will need to be formally submitted to TMRPA for a review of conformance with the 2019 Truckee Meadows Regional Plan in its entirety.

Pursuant to Policy *PF 11 – Regional Utility Corridor and Sites Regional Plan Amendment Requirements*, this case will require an amendment to **Map 3 – Regional Utility Corridors and Sites** of the 2019 Truckee Meadows Regional Plan to include a new regional utility corridor (according to the submittal materials: an approximately 2-mile long, 69 kV overhead transmission line). Additionally, in order to amend Map 3, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners should sponsor the amendment as part of the overall process at Washoe County.

The request, as described in the materials provided by Washoe County, is the following:

Special Use Permit Case Number WSUP23-0020 (as described in the application materials submitted to Washoe County):

The Fort Sage Transmission Line is the extension of a **69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from NV Energy's Fort Sage Substation through Washoe County (+/- 2 miles)** to the California State Line, through existing easements. The transmission line will continue into California to the Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC) Sierra Army Depot Substation and on to the PSREC Patton Substation.

[TMRPA notes: **bolded text** identifies the portion of the request that is subject to review under the Regional Plan]

Potential conformance issues

TMRPA has not identified any potential conformance issues at this time; however, please provide adequate justification for establishing the transmission line outside of existing regional utility corridors (see the paragraph below for the applicable policies). A discussion of the Regional Plan policies and proposed justification should be incorporated into the Washoe County analysis for the subject case.

Policy *PF 13 – Preference for Use of Existing Regional Utility Corridors* requires local government master plans to require the placement of new electrical transmission infrastructure in existing regional utility corridors, unless adequate justification can be provided as to why the new infrastructure cannot be placed in an existing corridor. Additionally, Policy *PF 14 – Priority Hierarchy for Placement of New Transmission Infrastructure* requires local government master plans use the listed priority hierarchy when considering the establishment of new transmission infrastructure. This policy identifies the priorities for locating new transmission infrastructure. Given these priorities, please provide adequate justification for the new section(s) of regional utility corridor(s) that will be necessary as part of this proposal.

Additionally, the materials submitted to Washoe County identify that an archeological/cultural resources report has been prepared for the project; however, the report was not provided to Regional Planning. Please ensure that the archeological/cultural report along with the botanical and wildlife surveys/reports are considered through the Washoe County review process.

Regional Plan policies for consideration in the analysis

RF 11 – Compatibility Factors

PF 11 – Regional Utility Corridor and Sites Regional Plan Amendment Requirements

PF 12 – Regional Utility Corridor Width and Setbacks

PF 14 – Priority Hierarchy for Placement of New Transmission Infrastructure

PF 18 – Regional Renewable Energy Generation

NR 2 – Resilient Region

NR 7 – Wildlife Habitat

NR 14 – Sustainable Development

NR 15 – Cultural Resources

RC 9 – Conformance Review Findings

RC 10 – Regional Plan Amendment Findings

Data and information related to Regional Plan implementation

Regional Land Designation: Rural Area

Request for comment from other local government and/or affected entities

If appropriate, please coordinate and request comment from the Nevada Department of Wildlife, and tribal governments as appropriate.

Other information for review

None at this time

TMRPA Staff Notes

None at this time

Please do not hesitate to contact TMRPA staff at 775-321-8385 if you have any questions or comments on this initial review memorandum. For more information, you can access the [2019 Truckee Meadows Regional Plan](#) and the [Regional Data Viewer](#) at www.tmrpa.org.



PSREC FORT SAGE TRANSMISSION LINE

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING SUMMARY

JUNE 28, 2023 5:30 PM

Hosted by Karen Downs, Manhard Consulting



- Introductory remarks about Washoe County Neighborhood Meeting requirements.
- Overview of the project.
- Opportunity for questions- through verbal comments on zoom and in the chat feature.
- There were no questions about project specifics.
- There was one question asking if there would be a need for construction water.

Media Player

PLUMAS SIERRA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

FORT SAGE TRANSMISSION LINE

Washoe County
Neighborhood Meeting
June 28, 2023



0:03:15 0:13:51

video1308834923


Media Player controls: close, back, 10s, play, 30s, forward, mute, full screen, more options.

gjohn

Karen Downs

Dave Merrill

Dave Merrill



Bill Newberg

Mark Murphy

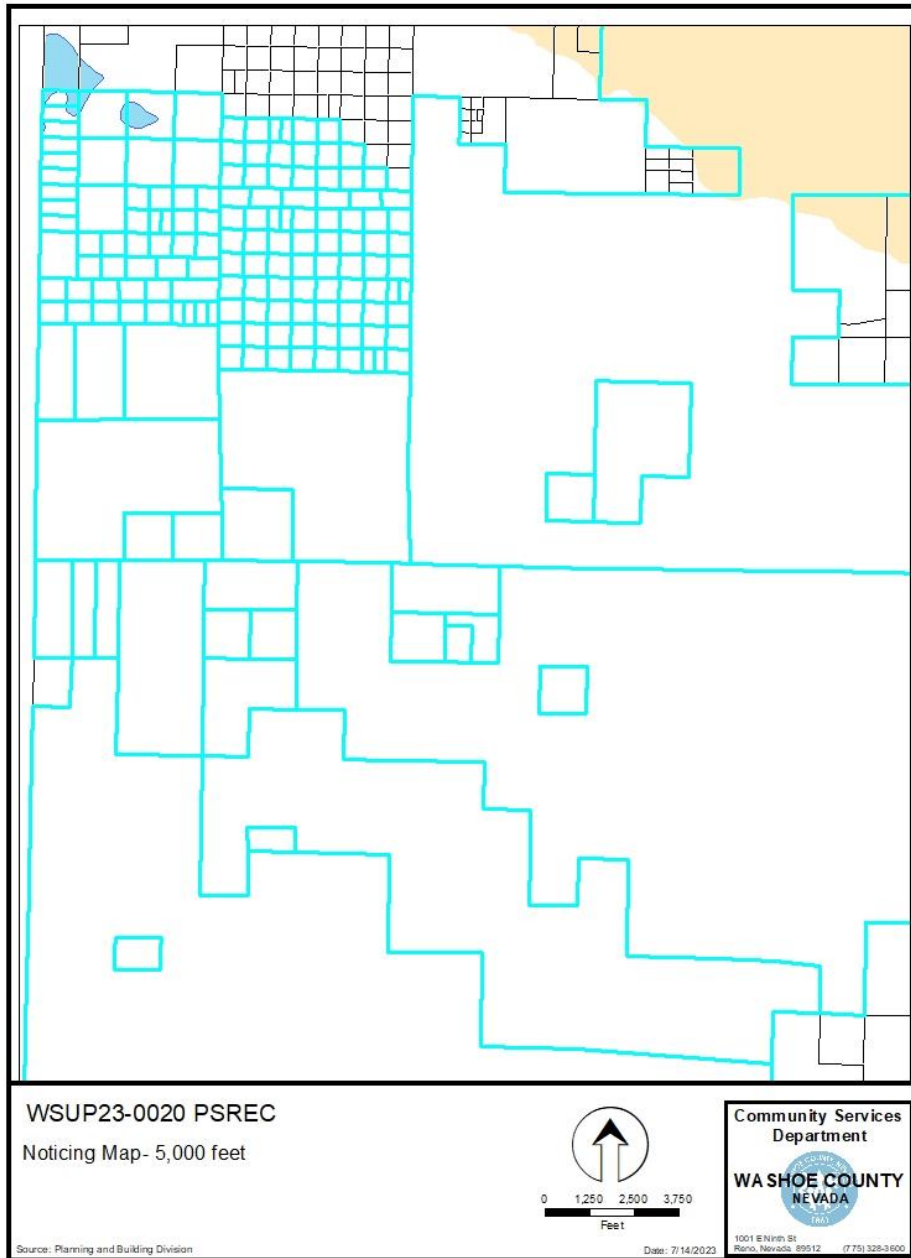
Mark Murphy

Scott Welch

Scott Welch

Public Notice

Washoe County Code requires that public notification for a special use permit must be mailed to a minimum of 30 separate property owners within a minimum 500-foot radius of the subject property a minimum of 10 days prior to the public hearing date. A notice setting forth the time, place, purpose of hearing, a description of the request and the land involved was sent within a 5,000-foot radius of the subject property. A total of 42 separate property owners were noticed a minimum of 10 days prior to the public hearing date.



Public Notice Map
Special Use Case Number WSUP23-0020

Washoe County Development Application

Your entire application is a public record. If you have a concern about releasing personal information, please contact Planning and Building staff at 775.328.6100.

Project Information		Staff Assigned Case No.: _____	
Project Name:			
Project Description:			
Project Address:			
Project Area (acres or square feet):			
Project Location (with point of reference to major cross streets AND area locator):			
Assessor's Parcel No.(s):	Parcel Acreage:	Assessor's Parcel No.(s):	Parcel Acreage:
Indicate any previous Washoe County approvals associated with this application: Case No.(s).			
Applicant Information (attach additional sheets if necessary)			
Property Owner:		Professional Consultant:	
Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
Zip:		Zip:	
Phone: Fax:		Phone: Fax:	
Email:		Email:	
Cell: Other:		Cell: Other:	
Contact Person:		Contact Person:	
Applicant/Developer:		Other Persons to be Contacted:	
Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
Zip:		Zip:	
Phone: Fax:		Phone: Fax:	
Email:		Email:	
Cell: Other:		Cell: Other:	
Contact Person:		Contact Person:	
For Office Use Only			
Date Received: Initial:		Planning Area:	
County Commission District:		Master Plan Designation(s):	
CAB(s):		Regulatory Zoning(s):	

Special Use Permit Application Supplemental Information

(All required information may be separately attached)

1. What is the project being requested?

2. Provide a site plan with all existing and proposed structures (e.g. new structures, roadway improvements, utilities, sanitation, water supply, drainage, parking, signs, etc.)

3. What is the intended phasing schedule for the construction and completion of the project?

4. What physical characteristics of your location and/or premises are especially suited to deal with the impacts and the intensity of your proposed use?

5. What are the anticipated beneficial aspects or affects your project will have on adjacent properties and the community?

6. What are the anticipated negative impacts or affect your project will have on adjacent properties? How will you mitigate these impacts?

7. Provide specific information on landscaping, parking, type of signs and lighting, and all other code requirements pertinent to the type of use being purposed. Show and indicate these requirements on submitted drawings with the application.

8. Are there any restrictive covenants, recorded conditions, or deed restrictions (CC&Rs) that apply to the area subject to the special use permit request? (If so, please attach a copy.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

9. Utilities:

a. Sewer Service	
b. Electrical Service	
c. Telephone Service	
d. LPG or Natural Gas Service	
e. Solid Waste Disposal Service	
f. Cable Television Service	
g. Water Service	

For most uses, Washoe County Code, Chapter 110, Article 422, Water and Sewer Resource Requirements, requires the dedication of water rights to Washoe County. Please indicate the type and quantity of water rights you have available should dedication be required.

h. Permit #		acre-feet per year	
i. Certificate #		acre-feet per year	
j. Surface Claim #		acre-feet per year	
k. Other #		acre-feet per year	

Title of those rights (as filed with the State Engineer in the Division of Water Resources of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources).

--

10. Community Services (provided and nearest facility):

a. Fire Station	
b. Health Care Facility	
c. Elementary School	
d. Middle School	
e. High School	
f. Parks	
g. Library	
h. Citifare Bus Stop	

Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative

FORT SAGE TRANSMISSION LINE

SPECIAL USE PERMIT

JULY 2023



Prepared For:



73233 State Route 70 Portola, CA 96122

Prepared By:



241 Ridge Street, Suite 400 Reno, NV 89501

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APPENDICIES

- SUP Application
- Property Owner Affidavit
- Neighborhood Meeting information
- Typical Pole Design
- PSREC Easements
- 2021 Baseline Wildlife Survey
- Botanical Field Survey



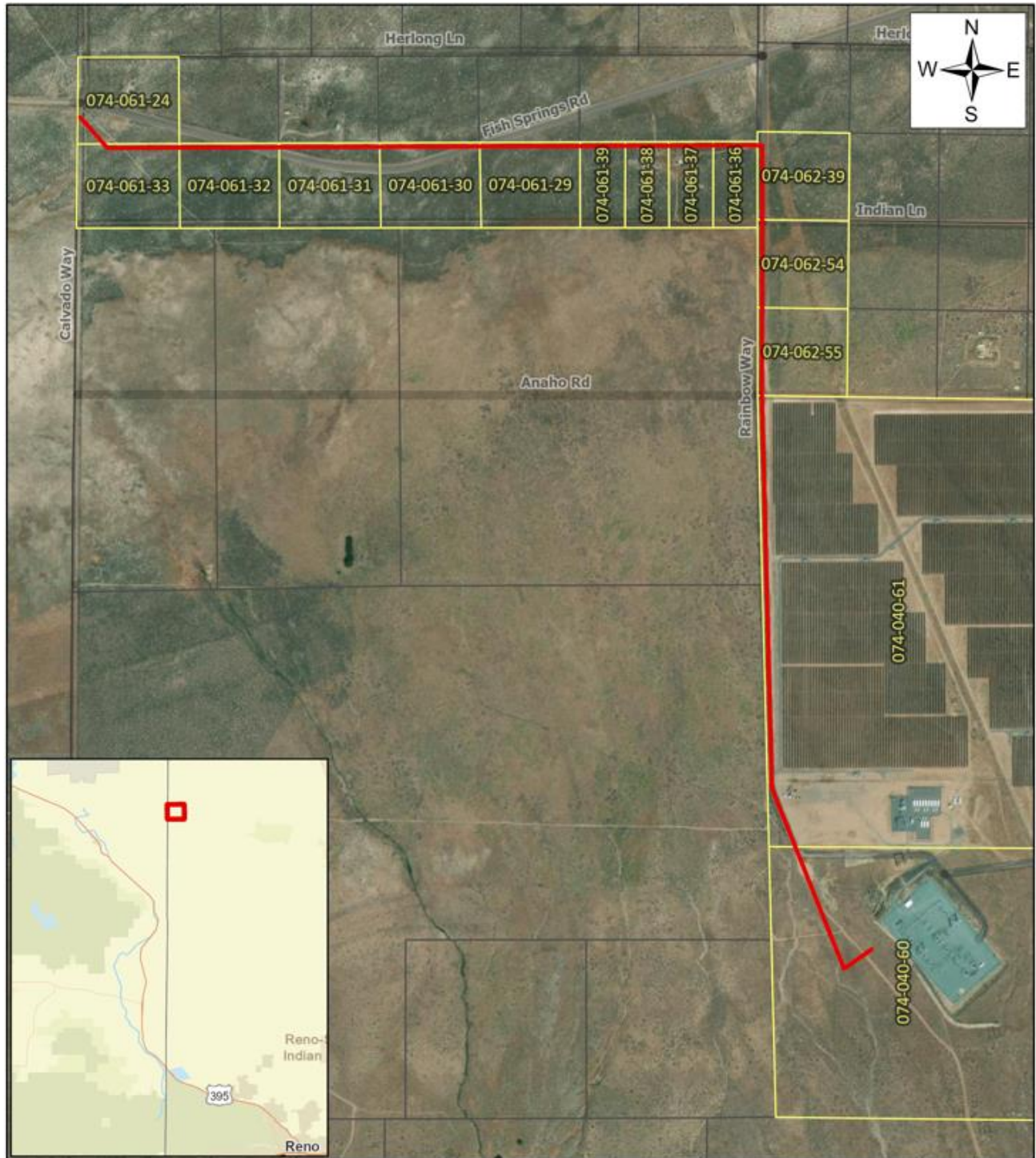
PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed transmission line will be located within existing easements, generally along Rainbow Way north of the existing NV Energy Fort Sage Substation, then continuing west between Herlong Lane and Indian Lane to the California State line. The affected parcels are APNs 074-061-24, -33, -32, -31, -30, -29, -39, -38, -37, -36, 074-062-39, -54, -55, -61, and -60.

Figure 1: Project Location – Vicinity Map



Figure 2: Project Location – Affected Area



Legend

- Approximate Location of Transmission Line
- Parcels



HISTORY OF PLUMAS-SIERRA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC) was founded in 1937 to bring power to Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra Counties. PSREC is a member-owned electric utility and is not-for-profit. It currently serves approximately 8,000 customers in eastern Sierra Nevada, including portions of Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, and Washoe (NV) Counties. In Washoe County, PSREC serves +/- 450 households in the Red Rock community.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

There are existing utility easements along Rainbow Way and through each parcel of the proposed transmission line corridor continuing west between Herlong Lane and Indian Lane to the California State line. The area is generally undeveloped with sparse rural residential development. There is an existing solar energy center (Fish Springs Ranch) and NV Energy 345 kilovolt (kV) Fort Sage Substation.

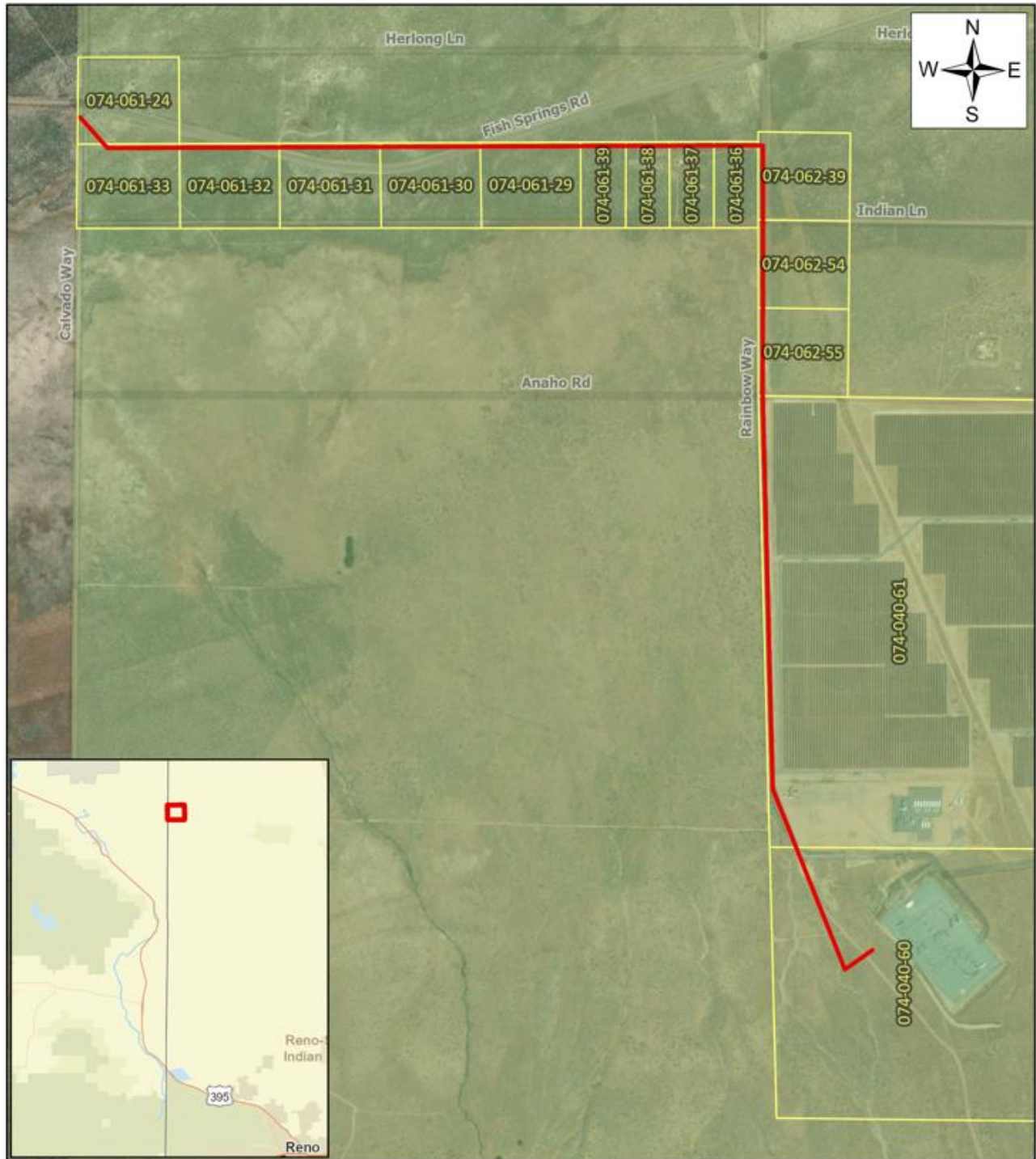
The Master Plan designation of the corridor and surrounding properties is Rural (R), within the High Desert Area Plan and the zoning designation is General Rural (GR).

Figure 3: Surrounding Property Designations

Direction	Master Plan	Zoning	Existing Land Use
North	Rural	General Rural	Undeveloped Rural residential
East	Rural	General Rural	Undeveloped Rural residential Solar Energy Center Fort Sage Substation
South	Rural	General Rural	Undeveloped Rural residential
West	N/A- State of California	N/A- State of California	Undeveloped Rural residential



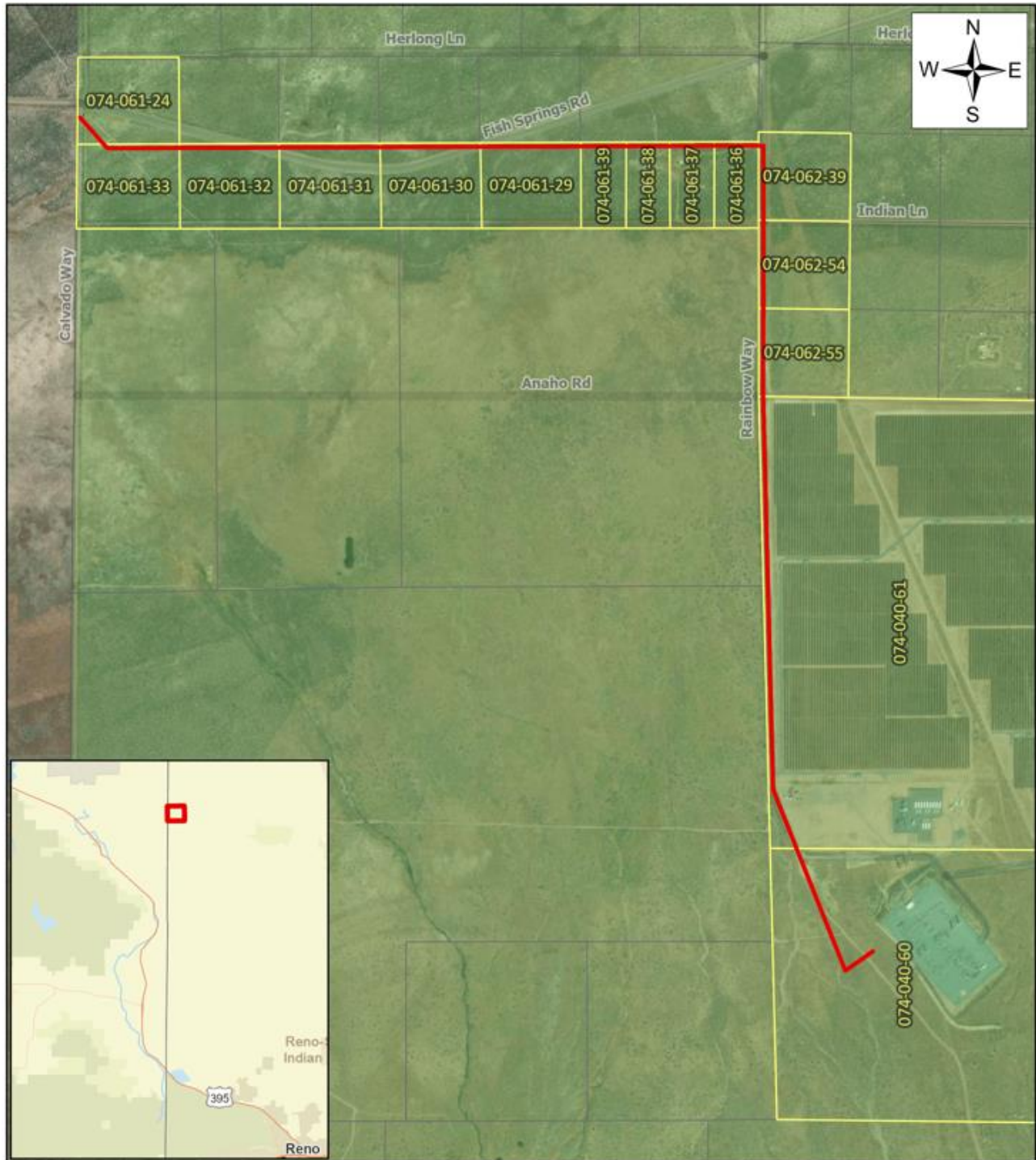
Figure 4: Master Plan Designation – Rural






Legend	Master Plan
Approximate Location of Transmission Line	R - Rural
Parcels	



Figure 5: Zoning Designation – General Rural



Legend		Zoning	
	Approximate Location of Transmission Line		GR - General Rural
	Parcels		



APPLICATION REQUEST

The enclosed application is a request for:

- 1) A **Special Use Permit** for a “Utility Service” use (transmission line) in the General Rural zone

PROJECT DESCRIPTION & JUSTIFICATION

The Fort Sage Transmission Line is the extension of a 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from NV Energy’s Fort Sage Substation through Washoe County (+/- 2 miles) to the California State Line, through existing easements. The transmission line will continue into California to the Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC) Sierra Army Depot Substation and on to the PSREC Patton Substation.

The transmission line will:

- Increase reliability of service to +/- 450 homes in Red Rock.
- Increase reliability of service from wildfire issues.
- Assist the Sierra Army Depot achieve compliance with the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act.
- Increase reliability of service to the Federal Correctional Institute (Herlong) and High Desert State Prison (Susanville).

For the two-mile extension of the transmission line through Washoe County, there will be approximately 35 poles, with a span of approximately 300 feet between poles. The poles will be a maximum of 65 feet in height, and each pole hole will be two feet in diameter.

The transmission line is proposed through an existing 50 ft. public utility easement on Rainbow Way north of the NV Energy Fort Sage Substation and through existing PSREC easements continuing west between Herlong Lane and Indian Lane to the California State line. The size of the PSREC easements range from 60 ft. to 100 ft. The proposed 69 kV line will connect to a 345 kV/69 kV step-down transformer located within NV Energy’s Fort Sage Substation.

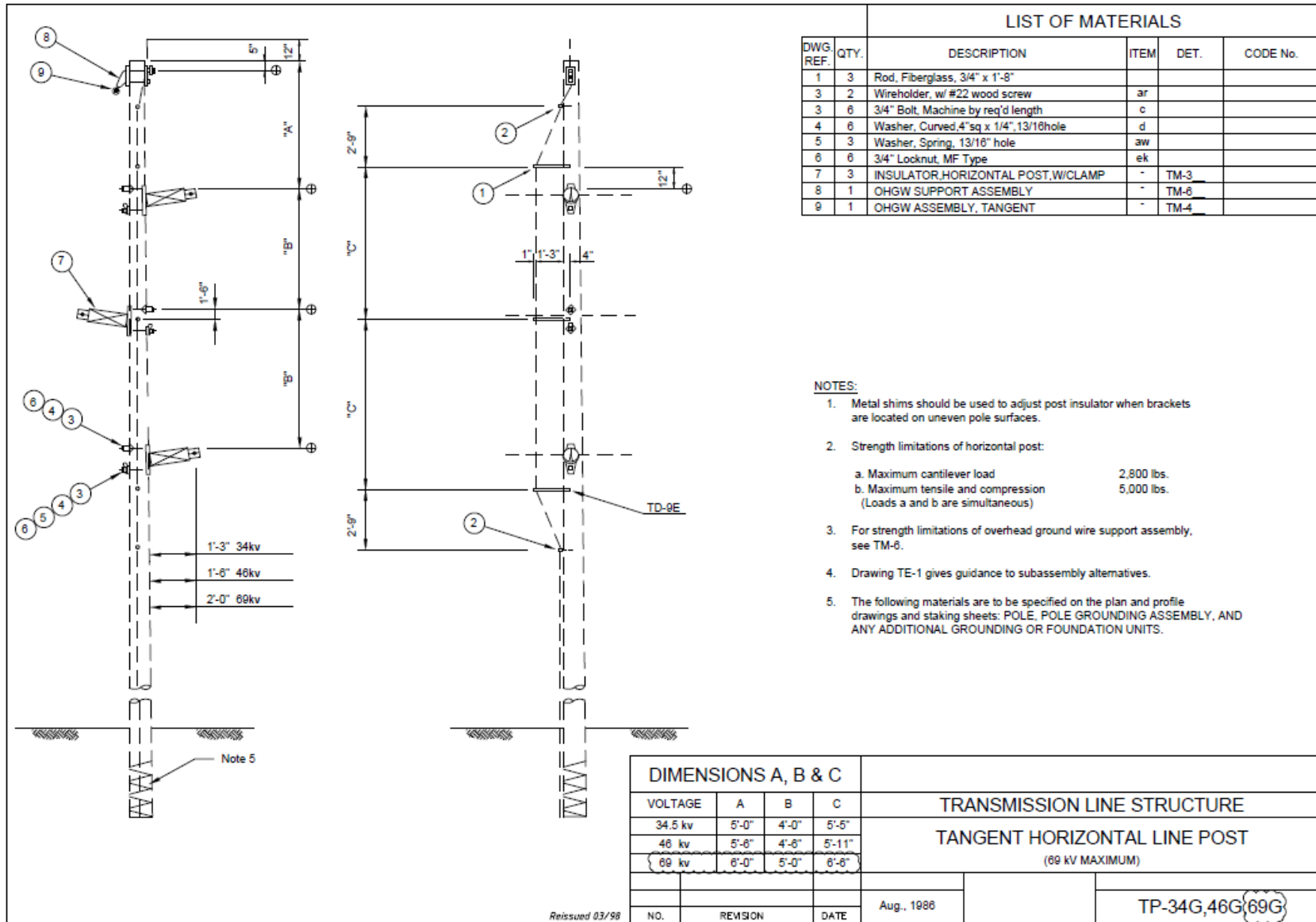
PSREC is working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of Defense (DOD), and Department of Justice (DOJ) as Cooperating Agencies, for the necessary portions of the transmission line.

Figure 6: Project Summary

Project Summary	
Proposed Use	Utility Service- Transmission Line
Number of Poles	+/- 35 poles
Maximum Height	60 ft.
Project Access	From Rainbow Way



Figure 7: Typical Standard Pole Design



HEIGHT

As part of the Special Use Permit, the project includes a request to vary the maximum height of 35 ft. in the GR regulatory zone to allow for maximum 65 ft. poles, as this is consistent with the standard height of a transmission line pole.

LANDSCAPING

As part of the Special Use Permit, the project includes a request to waive landscaping standards (Article 412), so that no formal landscaping of the transmission line poles would be required. Required landscaping for the proposed transmission line would:

1. Be inconsistent with the existing flat terrain with native low-lying vegetation.
2. Not provide screening transmission poles.

GRADING

The easement area is generally flat. The disturbed area/grading will be confined to the pole locations (35 poles) and will not trigger major grading requirements. Exact quantities of grading will be determined by the number of poles and final design specifications. The total grading will not result in more than 4 acres of disturbed area and no more than 5,000 cubic yards of cut or fill, therefore, the project does not require major grading review.

ACCESS

The transmission line will be accessed from the NV Energy Fort Sage Substation/Rainbow Way and through existing easements along the transmission line.

OFF-STREET PARKING

Off street parking for a Utility Services use is specified through the use permit (WCC 110.410.10 (Table 110.410.10.2)). No parking will be needed for this use as there will be limited vehicle traffic only associated with maintenance of the transmission line.

TRIP GENERATION

The trip generation associated with the transmission line is based on general maintenance. It is estimated that there will be +/- 1 trip per month (as needed) associated with maintenance of the transmission line. The trip generation for the transmission line does not warrant a traffic impact report per the Washoe



County trip generation regulations that only require a study for projects generating 80 or more weekday peak hour trips.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The following environmental studies have been completed for the project are included with this application (Washoe County portions of the transmission line project). PSREC will follow the required mitigation measures included in the reports to mitigate potential impacts and improve the existing habitat.

- 2021 Baseline Wildlife Surveys: Summary Report (Hardy Biological Consulting, September 22, 2021)
- Botanical Field Survey (Hardy Conservation, August 28, 2021)

An Archaeology Report has been prepared for this project.

FINDINGS

This project has been designed to consider the following:

Special Use Permit Findings (Section 110.810.30)

a) Consistency. The proposed use is consistent with the action programs, policies, standards and maps of the Master Plan and the applicable area plan;

The proposed utility service use is consistent with the action programs, policies, standards, and maps of the Master Plan and High Desert Area Plan.

(b) Improvements. Adequate utilities, roadway improvements, sanitation, water supply, drainage, and other necessary facilities have been provided, the proposed improvements are properly related to existing and proposed roadways, and an adequate public facilities determination has been made in accordance with Division Seven;

No additional utility, roadway improvements, sanitation, water supply, drainage or other facilities are proposed or required with this transmission line.

(c) Site Suitability. The site is physically suitable for the type of development and for the intensity of development;

The site is generally flat and is suitable there are existing easements for the proposed transmission line, which make the site physically suitable for the proposed use.

(d) Issuance Not Detrimental. Issuance of the permit will not be significantly detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare; injurious to the property or improvements of adjacent properties; or detrimental to the character of the surrounding area;



The proposed utility service use will not be significantly detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare; injurious to the property or improvements of adjacent properties; or detrimental to the character of the surrounding area.

(e) Effect on a Military Installation. Issuance of the permit will not have a detrimental effect on the location, purpose or mission of the military installation.

The project will assist the Sierra Army Depot achieve compliance with the 2018 National defense Authorization Act.



Application Attachment
List of APNs

Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative
FORT SAGE TRANSMISSION LINE
EASEMENTS THROUGH THE FOLLOWING PARCELS:

074-061-24
074-061-33
074-061-32
074-061-31
074-061-30
074-061-29
074-061-39
074-061-38
074-061-37
074-061-36
074-062-39
074-062-54
074-062-55
074-062-61
074-062-60

**LUMAS-SIERRA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
FORT SAGE 69kV TRANSMISSION LINE
LASSEN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

BOTANICAL FIELD SURVEY



Prepared by Terri M. Rust

for

Hardy Conservation

August 28, 2021

Introduction:

The purpose of this report is to document completion of a botanical survey compliant with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the Fort Sage 69kV Transmission Line Project located in Lassen (CA) and Washoe (NV) counties, approximately 6 air miles northeast of Doyle, CA. The proposed project will involve construction of a new 14.35 mile, 69kV sub transmission intertie with the NV Energy 345-kV Reno-Alturas Transmission Line at the Fort Sage Substation. The proposed project was initially approved in 2011 as a 120 kV line, and the federal lead agencies, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) concurred with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A minor re-route of the project alignment has been proposed to avoid private property and land-owner conflicts.

Survey Area Description:

The botanical survey area (BSA) consists of the project corridor, defined as 300' wide (150' on either side of the proposed centerline). At the terminus of the line near the Fort Sage substation in Nevada, an approximate 5-acre site was surveyed, including a 150' buffer extending beyond the site boundaries. All parts of the survey area were accessible by road and/or walking with the exception of two segments that parallel and are adjacent to private land (and not accessible). For these segments a minimum 25' was surveyed on the private land side of the proposed transmission line.

Environmental Setting:

The BSA traverses the southern portion of Honey Lake Valley, east of US Highway 395, and north and east of the Fort Sage Mountains. It is dominated by sagebrush scrub and alkali flat plant communities, and early successional plant community of recently (< 5 years ago) burned sagebrush scrub. The topography varies from flat to gently sloping hills and dunes at the north toe of the Fort Sage Mountains.

The survey area has been impacted on the California side by intensive off-road use as it is part of the BLM Fort Sage OHV Recreation Area as evidenced by the numerous dirt jeep trails and motorcycle tracks that crisscross the survey area. Grazing on BLM allotments and adjacent private lands is another land use that has affected the native plant community. The 2017 Long Valley fire scar is evident along approximately two miles of the proposed transmission line.

Sensitive and/or Special Status Plant Species:

Plant species of concern include those plants species that have been formally listed, or proposed as endangered or threatened, or are candidates for such listing under the

federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or California Endangered Species Act (CESA). These Acts afford protection to both listed and proposed species. In addition, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes and Lichens (CDFW 2018f), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) sensitive species, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and US Forest Service (USFS) sensitive and watchlist species are all considered special status species. Although some of the CDFW Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes and Lichens generally have no special legal status, they are given special consideration under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Plant species ranked on the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants as List 1 or 2 are also considered special status plant species.

Methodology:

Database & Literature Search:

Potential occurrence of special status species in the BSA was evaluated by first determining which special status species occur in the vicinity of the Project Area through a literature and database search. Database searches for known occurrences of special status species focused on the Herlong, Doyle, Calneva Lake, State Line Peak, and McKesick Peak USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle maps. All special-status species known from the Lassen National Forest and BLM sensitive plant lists were also included in the analysis. The following sources were reviewed to determine which special status plant species have been documented to occur in the vicinity of the Project Area:

- California Natural Diversity Database records (CNDDDB 2021)
- CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants in California (CNPS 2021)
- Bureau of Land Management Sensitive Species List (2013)
- Lassen National Forest/Region 5 Sensitive Plant Species List (2015)
- PSREC 120kV Transmission Line Project Botanical Survey (Hafen, 2008)

Table 1 lists the species from the database searches that have the potential to occur in the project botanical survey area due to suitable habitat and/or close proximity of previously documented occurrences.

Table 1. List of plant species that have the potential to occur in the botanical survey area.

Genus species	Common name	Status
<i>Allium atrorubens</i> var. <i>atrorubens</i>	Great basin onion	CNPS 2B.3
<i>Astragalus geyeri</i> var. <i>geyeri</i>	Geyer's milkvetch	CNPS 2B.2
<i>Chylismia claviformis</i> var. <i>cruciformis</i>	Cruciform evening primrose	CPNS 2B.3

<i>Eriogonum nutans</i> var. <i>nutans</i>	Dugway's buckwheat	CNPS 2B.3
<i>Ladeania lanceolata</i>	Lance-leaved scurf pea	CNPS 2B.3
<i>Loeflingia squarrosa</i> var. <i>artemiarum</i>	Sagebrush loeflingia	CNPS 2B.2; BLM Sensitive
<i>Lomatium foeniculaceum</i> var. <i>macdouglasi</i>	MacDouglas' lomatium	CNPS 2B.2
<i>Lomatium ravenii</i> var. <i>paiutense</i>	Paiute's lomatium	CNPS 2B.3
<i>Rumex venosus</i>	Winged dock	CNPS 2B.3
<i>Thelypodium milleflorum</i>	Many-flowered thelypodium	CNPS 2B.2
<i>Sphaeralcea grossulariifolia</i>	Currant-leaved desert mallow	CNPS 2B.3

**** Species names in bold indicate species identified to occur in the BSA during the 2021 survey.**

Of the plant species with potential to be in the BSA, seven have a CNPS Rare Plant Rank of 2B.3, four a CNPS rank of 2B.2, and one species is considered a BLM Sensitive species. A rating rank of 2B means a plant species is considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California but common elsewhere. A threat rank extension of '.2' means the species is moderately threatened in California (20-80 % of occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat). A threat rank extension of '.3' means a species is not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened/low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known) (CNPS, 2021).

Field Survey:

Botanical field surveys are conducted when a majority of plant species of interest are flowering, typically late May-July for this region of California and Nevada. On April 26, 2021, the botanical consultant and Hardy Conservation met at the Project site to discuss logistics, confirm project area recently surveyed and flagged by PSREC contractor, and check the growth stage of plant species. A preliminary botanical survey was conducted of the 5-acre site near the Fort Sage substation located in Nevada. Despite the below normal precipitation over the 2020-21 winter/spring (4.89" vs 15.7" in an average water year (DWR CDEC, 2021; StreamStats, 2021)), many of the early flowering species appeared to be in the normal growth stage for this time of year; however, plant vigor, abundance, and diversity were lower than normal. Botanical consultant returned on May 12, 13, and June 9 to complete all botanical survey work. On the June 9th field day, consultant stopped at the Fort Sage Trailhead to reference the growth stage of *Astragalus geyeri* var. *geyeri* known to occur at that location. Numerous plants were found and identity confirmed; plants were past peak flowering and starting to seed.

Field surveys followed the protocols compiled by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, “Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities” (CDFW, 2021). Specific to this field survey, efforts were focused on the 150 feet with more focused effort on the 30 feet either side of centerline of the proposed transmission line right of way (R/W), as this is the area that would be affected by construction activities and placement of poles. Emphasis was also directed towards those areas with potential habitat for sensitive and special status species.

Survey Results:

Prior to the survey, the CNDDDB database, CNPS Rare Plant Inventory, BLM Sensitive Plant Species List, and the Lassen National Forest Sensitive Plant List were consulted to identify federal and State sensitive, threatened or endangered species that have the potential to occur in the project area. It was determined that suitable habitat does not exist for any threatened or endangered state or federal species. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) maintains a list of sensitive species that are not on federal or state lists as endangered, threatened, candidate or proposed, but are designated by the BLM State Director for special management consideration. Potential habitat exists for one BLM sensitive plant species, *Loeflingia squarrosa* variety *artemisiarum*, and plants have been found near the project area in the past; however, none of the currently listed BLM sensitive plant species were found during either the 2010 or 2021 surveys, which were both drier than normal years.

Appendix A lists all plant species identified to species level in the BSA. Some species found in the 2010 Botanical Survey were not found in 2021, and numerous species not listed in 2010 were identified through this updated 2021 survey. This is likely due to even drier conditions in 2021 than 2010 and re-routing of some of the proposed transmission line right of way. Of the eleven special status species with potential to occur in the BSA, three species with a CNPS Rare Plant Rank of 2B.3 and one with a rank of 2B.2 were found and mapped. No federally listed or BLM-listed sensitive species were observed. Below are more detailed observations for the four special status species identified in the BSA.

Erigonum nutans var. *nutans* (CNPS 2B.3). Numerous plants were scattered throughout the area surveyed where it was in the vicinity of the toe of Turtle Mountain. Individual plants were too numerous and distributed over too large an area to accurately GPS.

Ladeania lanceolata (CNPS 2B.3). This species was abundant and scattered throughout the burn scar within the BSA at the toe of Turtle Mountain. Individual plants were too numerous and distributed over too large an area to accurately GPS.

Lomatium foeniculaceum var. *macdouglasi* (CNPS 2B.2). Only 12 plants were documented to occur in one area near where they previously have been documented

approximately 4 miles along the proposed transmission line R/W from the Fort Sage substation. Six of the plants were in the middle of the off-road track #71.

Rumex venosus (CNPS 2B.3). This was the most abundant special status species that was found. It seems to have responded positively to past fire activity and is concentrated between mile 6 and 7 along the transmission line from the Fort Sage substation. Locations represent several to many plants in small patches, as well as large patches of 100 or more plants.

While the majority of the species observed in the Project Area are native species, some are non-native and one (*Onopordum acanthium*, or Scotch thistle) is listed as a Category C species on the Nevada Noxious Weed List (NDA, 2021), but is a Category A-rated weed in California (CDFA, 2021) and will be discussed under the Recommendations section of this report.

The dominant shrub throughout the proposed project area is sagebrush along with bitterbrush, greasewood, saltbush, ephedra, and hop sage. Desert peach and rabbitbrush are present throughout the project area. Many flowering plants that are normally seen in this habitat were not present in 2021.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Recommendations:

The affected environment for this project has been degraded for decades and the evidence of careless human activity and management is seen all along the proposed route. The rich native herbaceous diversity has largely been replaced by annual weedy species in many areas. Dominant shrubs include sagebrush, rabbitbrush, desert peach, greasewood, hop sage, saltbush. Bitterbrush, a species of concern for the deer population, is sparse along the proposed route.

Of the special status species found within the BSA, none are considered seriously threatened at the State or federal level. The twelve plants of *Ladearnia lanceolata* were on the south side of Fort Sage Road, and the proposed transmission line parallels the north side so avoidance of this area will prevent this small population from being negatively affected by the project activities. The other three special status species are scattered and abundant; therefore, minimizing the construction activities and pole placement, particularly between miles 6 and 7, would reduce the loss of individual plants in this area. Following this guidance, it is anticipated that these species would not be affected long-term by this project.

The only non-native species with a noxious weed rating is *Onopordum acanthium* (Scotch thistle). In Nevada, the weed is rated a Category C, which generally means the weed is well-established and widespread in many counties of the State. However, in California, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, considers it an A-listed

noxious weed, which means it is of limited distribution and has the potential to be eradicated before getting widespread. The two populations of Scotch thistle observed during the survey were both in Nevada, one is located within the first mile of the transmission alignment west of the Fort Sage Substation, and the other was a patch of dead standing plants on the east side of the Fort Sage substation. The latter appeared to have been chemically treated as there were no new rosettes present at the time this area was surveyed in 2021. The mapped site did have many live rosettes within the BSA. It is recommended to chemically treat this population prior to project implementation if possible, minimize disturbance during project activities, and treat any new growth post-project. Keeping vehicles and construction equipment clean is also strongly recommended.

Revegetation of disturbed areas following project completion using a certified California Native Seed mixture should be considered. Native seed can be expensive and sometimes slow to germinate depending on local environmental conditions in the years following seed dispersal. However, selecting several sections along the route to seed could be helpful in creating 'islands' of native plants that can spread over time.

In conclusion, the proposed project is not expected to have adverse long term impact on the native flora of the area.

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Appendix A.

Botanical Survey Plant List

Fort Sage 69kV Transmission Line Project

May, June 2021

<u>Genus</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Shrubs:			
<i>Artemisia</i>	<i>spinosa</i>	Budsage	
<i>Artemisia</i>	<i>tridentata</i>	Big sagebrush	
<i>Atriplex</i>	<i>canescens</i>	Four-wing saltbush	var. <i>canescens</i>
<i>Atriplex</i>	<i>confertifolia</i>	Spiny saltbush	
<i>Chrysothamnus</i>	<i>viscidiflorus</i>	Green rabbitbrush	
<i>Ephedra</i>	<i>viridis</i>	Mormon tea	
<i>Ericameria</i>	<i>nauseosa</i>	Rubber rabbitbrush	
<i>Grayia</i>	<i>spinosa</i>	Hop sage	
<i>Krascheninnikovia</i>	<i>lanata</i>	Winterfat	
<i>Prunus</i>	<i>andersonii</i>	Desert peach	
<i>Purshia</i>	<i>tridentata</i>	Bitterbrush	
<i>Sarcobatus</i>	<i>vermiculatus</i>	Black greasewood	
<i>Tetradymia</i>	<i>canescens</i>	Gray horsebrush	
<i>Tetradymia</i>	<i>glabrata</i>	Little leaf horsebrush	
Grasses:			
<i>Achnatherum</i>	<i>hymenoides</i>	Indian Rice Grass	
<i>Bromus</i>	<i>tectorum</i>	Cheatgrass	non-native
<i>Distichlis</i>	<i>spicata</i>	Salt grass	
<i>Elymus</i>	<i>cinereus</i>	Great Basin rye	
<i>Elymus</i>	<i>elemoides</i>	Squirreltail	
<i>Hordeum</i>	<i>brachyantherum</i>	Meadow barley	
<i>Poa</i>	<i>bulbosa</i>	Bulbous bluegrass	non-native
Annual & perennial forbes:			
<i>Amsinckia</i>	<i>tessellata</i>	Devil's lettuce	
<i>Argemone</i>	<i>munita</i>	Prickely Poppy	
<i>Astragalus</i>	<i>sp.</i>		
<i>Balsamorhiza</i>	<i>sagittata</i>	Arrowleaf Balsamroot	
<i>Camissonia</i>	<i>contorta</i>	Contorted suncup	
<i>Castilleja</i>	<i>linariifolia</i>	Desert paintbrush	
<i>Chaenactis</i>	<i>douglasii</i>	Dusty maidens	var. <i>douglasii</i>
<i>Crepis</i>	<i>bakeri</i>	Baker's hawkbeard	
<i>Cryptantha</i>	<i>ambigua</i>	Basin cryphantha	

<i>Cryptantha</i>	<i>pterocaya</i>	Wingnut cryptantha	var. <i>pterocaya</i>
<i>Descurainia</i>	<i>pinnata</i>	Tansy mustard	
<i>Eriastrum</i>	<i>wilcoxii</i>	Wilcox's woollystar	
<i>Erigeron</i>	<i>bloomeri</i>	Bloomer's fleabane	var. <i>bloomeri</i>
<i>Eriogonum</i>	<i>nutans</i>	Dugway's buckwheat	var. <i>nutans</i> ; CNPS Rare Plant Rank 2B.3
<i>Eriogonum</i>	<i>umbellatum</i>	Sulphur buckwheat	
<i>Erodium</i>	<i>cicutarium</i>	Red Stemmed Filaree	
<i>Erythranthe</i>	<i>guttata</i>	Yellow monkeyflower	
<i>Gayophytum</i>	<i>diffusum</i>	Diffuse groundsmoke	
<i>Gayophytum</i>	<i>ramosissimum</i>	Groundsmoke	
<i>Halogeton</i>	<i>glomeratus</i>	Halogeton	non-native
<i>Iva</i>	<i>axillaris</i>	Povertyweed	
<i>Juncus</i>	<i>balticus</i>	Baltic rush	
<i>Ladania</i>	<i>lanceolatum</i>	Lance-leaved scurf pea	CNPS Rare Plant Rank 2B.3
<i>Layia</i>	<i>glandulosa</i>	Tidytops	
<i>Lepidium</i>	<i>perfoliatum</i>	Clasping pepperweed	non-native
<i>Lomatium</i>	<i>foeniculaceum</i>	MacDougal's lomatium	var. <i>macdouglasi</i> ; CNPS Rare Plant Rank 2B.2
<i>Lupinus</i>	<i>argenteus</i>	Silvery lupine	
<i>Mentzelia</i>	<i>albicaulis</i>	White-stemmd mentzelia	
<i>Mentzelia</i>	<i>congesta</i>	Clustered blazing star	
<i>Mimulus</i>	<i>nanus</i>	Skunky monkeyflower	var. <i>mephiticus</i>
<i>Muilla</i>	<i>transmontana</i>	Great Basin muilla	
<i>Myosurus</i>	<i>apetalus</i>	Bristly mousetail	var. <i>borealis</i>
<i>Nama</i>	<i>artiodes</i>	Purple nama	var. <i>multiflorum</i>
<i>Nama</i>	<i>densum</i>	Leafy nama	
<i>Nastursium</i>	<i>officinale</i>	Water cress	
<i>Onopardum</i>	<i>acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle	Nevada Category C noxious weed
<i>Paeonia</i>	<i>brownii</i>	Western peony	
<i>Penstemon</i>	<i>speciosus</i>	Showy penstemon	
<i>Phacelia</i>	<i>bicolor</i>	Twocolor phacelia	
<i>Phacelia</i>	<i>humilis</i>	Low phacelia	var. <i>humilis</i>
<i>Phlox</i>	<i>stansburyi</i>	Cold desert phlox	
<i>Ranunculus</i>	<i>cymbalaria</i>	Alkali buttercup	
<i>Rumex</i>	<i>venosus</i>	Winged dock	CNPS Rare Plant Rank 2B.3
<i>Salsola</i>	<i>tragus</i>	Russian thistle	non-native
<i>Sisymbrium</i>	<i>altissimum</i>	Tumble mustard	non-native
<i>Stephanomeria</i>	<i>paniculata</i>	Tufted wirelettuce	
<i>Tiquilla</i>	<i>nuttalii</i>	Nuttall's crinkleemat	
<i>Veronica</i>	<i>americana</i>	American speedwell	
<i>Zigadensus</i>	<i>venosus</i>	Death camas	

**PLUMAS-SIERRA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
FORT SAGE 69Kv INTERCONNECTION PROJECT,
LASSEN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, AND WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

2021 BASELINE WILDLIFE SURVEYS: SUMMARY REPORT

Hardy Biological Consulting, Paul C. Hardy

September 22, 2021

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to document completion of wildlife surveys compliant with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the proposed Fort Sage 69kV Transmission Line Project located in Lassen (CA) and Washoe (NV) counties, approximately 6 air miles northeast of Doyle, CA. This report also documents baseline conditions for special status wildlife species and associated habitats along the proposed transmission line route and identifies key issues for future consideration and analysis.

The proposed project involves construction of a new 14.35-mile, 69kV sub transmission intertie with the NV Energy 345-kV Reno-Alturas Transmission Line at the Fort Sage Substation. The proposed project was initially approved in 2011 as a 120kV line and the federal lead agencies, the Rural Utilities Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), concurred with a Finding of No Significant Impact. A minor re-route of the project alignment has been proposed to avoid private property and landowner conflicts. The proposed project would ensure reliability for the Sierra Army Depot (SIAD), prisons, irrigators, and most customers by connecting the NV Energy Fort Sage Substation to PSREC’s Patton and proposed SIAD Substations. This project would facilitate SIAD’s Resiliency Mandate, as directed by the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, and would help to mitigate the impacts of PG&E’s Public Safety Power Shutoff program (PSPS) events, not only at SIAD and the prisons, but for PSREC’s entire system.

Methods

Wildlife Baseline Surveys

Prior to conducting field surveys, consultation was initiated with the BLM Eagle Lake Field Office, NV Department of Wildlife, and CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife biologists and ecologists to inquire about known occurrences of special status wildlife species along the proposed project route. The CA Natural Diversity Database and the NV Natural Heritage Program database were searched for records of special status species. The 120kV project surveys and reports completed in 2007 and 2010 were reviewed. Based on agency biologist/ecologist feedback, state database searches, and review of prior reports, a target list of special status species (see **Table 1** below) and a survey plan were developed for the 2021 field survey.

Table 1. List of special status wildlife species that have the potential to occur within the project area¹.

Class	Scientific Name	Common Name*	Status**
INSECTA	<i>Pseudocopaeodes eunus obscurus</i>	Carson wandering skipper	Federal Endangered
INSECTA	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	monarch butterfly	Federal Candidate Endangered

INSECTA	<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	western bumble bee	CA Candidate Endangered BLM:S USFS:S
REPTILIA	<i>Sceloporus graciosus graciosus</i>	northern sagebrush lizard	BLM:S
AVES	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	greater sage-grouse	BLM:S CDFW:SSC
AVES	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	golden eagle	BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:FP CDFW:WL
AVES	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	ferruginous hawk	USFWS:BCC CDFW: WL
AVES	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk	CA Threatened BLM:S USFWS:BCC
AVES	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	northern harrier	CDFW:SSC
AVES	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	bald eagle	CA Endangered BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:FP
AVES	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	prairie falcon	USFWS:BCC CDFW:WL
AVES	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American peregrine falcon	USFWS:BCC CDFW:FP
AVES	<i>Antigone canadensis tabida</i>	greater sandhill crane	CA Threatened BLM:S CDFW:FP
AVES	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	long-billed curlew	USFSW:BCC CDFW:WL
AVES	<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	western yellow-billed cuckoo	Federal Endangered CA Threatened BLM:S USFWS:BCC
AVES	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	short-eared owl	CDFW:SSC
AVES	<i>Asio otus</i>	long-eared owl	CDFW:SSC
AVES	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl	BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC
AVES	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	loggerhead shrike	USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC
AVES	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	bank swallow	CA Threatened BLM:S
AVES	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	Brewer's sparrow	USFWS:BCC
AVES	<i>Icteria virens</i>	yellow-breasted chat	CDFW:SSC
AVES	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	tricolored blackbird	CA Threatened BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC

AVES	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	yellow warbler	USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC
MAMMALIA	<i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i>	pygmy rabbit	BLM:S CDFW:SSC
MAMMALIA	<i>Lepus townsendii</i>	western white-tailed jackrabbit	CDFW:SSC
MAMMALIA	<i>Canis lupus</i>	gray wolf	CA Endangered
MAMMALIA	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	CDFW:SSC BLM:SSI
MAMMALIA	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	mule deer	BLM:SSI
MAMMALIA	<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	pronghorn	BLM:SSI
MAMMALIA	<i>Cervus canadensis nelsoni</i>	Rocky Mountain elk	BLM:SSI

¹These special status species have the potential to occur with project area based upon CA Natural Diversity Database and NV Natural Heritage Program database searches, consultation with BLM and CA Department of Fish and wildlife biologists and ecologists, and previous surveys in the project area.

*Species names **in bold** indicate species observed in the project area during the 2021 wildlife surveys (see **Table 2** for additional detail on all species observed).

**Species Status Categories: BLM:S = Bureau of Land Management – Sensitive; BLM:SSI = Bureau of Land Management Species of Special Interest; CA Endangered = State-listed as Endangered under CA Endangered Species Act (CESA); CA Threatened = State-listed as Threatened under CESA; CA FP = CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Fully-Protected Species; CA SSC = CA Species of Special Concern; CA WL = CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Watch List Species; USFWS:BCC = U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern.

The wildlife field surveys along the proposed 14.35-mile transmission line corridor were conducted from late April through mid-June 2021, and followed BLM wildlife survey protocols (2014 BLM Nevada Statewide Wildlife Survey Protocols, see **Appendix B**). Field surveys were conducted on April 26, April 28, April 30, June 14, and June 15, 2021.

A pedestrian survey followed the entire proposed transmission line right of way (R/W), with the exception of the 1.4-mile stretch along the Herlong Access Road, which was surveyed by vehicle from the Herlong Access Road. Per BLM survey protocols (**Appendix B**), surveys were conducted within a 150-foot buffer on either side of the staked centerline for all species except raptors. For all raptor species except golden eagle, surveys were conducted within a 1-mile buffer on either side of the staked centerline; for golden eagle, surveys were conducted within a 2-mile buffer on either side of the centerline. At the terminus of the proposed line near the Fort Sage substation in Nevada, a staked, proposed substation area comprising approximately five acres, including a 150-foot buffer around site was surveyed.

Surveys were conducted for birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and the federally-endangered Carson wandering skipper (*Pseudocopaeodes eunus obscurus*). Reptiles and amphibians were identified by sight, and birds were identified by sight and sound. Mammals (except bats, which were not surveyed) were identified by sight, and/or by sign (e.g., tracks, scat, and burrows/diggings). Surveys for the Carson wandering skipper, were conducted on June 14 and June 15, 2021, and were limited to visual identification of adults along all stretches of the proposed transmission line route that supported saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), the preferred habitat for the Carson wandering skipper.

During the course of wildlife surveys, habitat types along the proposed transmission line route were identified and recorded according to the California WHR classification system (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988).

Results

A total of 40 bird species, 12 mammal species, and 3 reptile species were identified during wildlife surveys within the protocol survey area (**Appendix A**), including 11 special status species (see **Table 2**). No Carson wandering skippers or other federally-listed species within the project area were observed. The California State-threatened Swainson’s hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) was detected and, two nest sites were documented. Among the 11 special status species observed, five are BLM Sensitive Species (northern sagebrush lizard, golden eagle, Swainson’s hawk, burrowing owl, and pygmy rabbit) and three are BLM Species of Special Interest (American badger, mule deer, and pronghorn).

Among the 11 special status species observed, the following six species were confirmed to breed in the vicinity of the proposed transmission line route within the protocol survey area: golden eagle, Swainson’s hawk, burrowing owl, loggerhead shrike, Brewer’s sparrow, and American badger.

Table 2. Potential special status wildlife species, species observations, breeding status, and presence of suitable habitat, PSREC Fort Sage 69kV Project.

Species*	Status**	Date(s) Observed	Total # Observed	Breeding Status	Potentially-Suitable Habitat Present in Project Area?
Carson wandering skipper	Federal Endangered	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes
monarch butterfly	Federal Candidate Endangered	N/A	Not observed	N/A	No (no milkweed spp. observed)
western bumble bee	CA Candidate Endangered BLM:S USFS:S	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes
northern sagebrush lizard	BLM:S	4/28, 4/30, 6/14	25+	Highly Probable	Yes
greater sage-grouse	BLM:S CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes
golden eagle	BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:FP CDFW:WL	4/28, 4/30, 6/14, 6/15	5	Confirmed (nest and 2 lg chicks)	Yes
ferruginous hawk	USFWS:BCC CDFW: WL	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes (species likely only present in winter)
Swainson’s hawk	CA Threatened BLM:S USFWS:BCC	4/30, 6/14	3	Confirmed	Yes

northern harrier	CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes (no suitable nesting habitat; but suitable for foraging, migration)
bald eagle	CA Endangered BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:FP	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes (no suitable nesting habitat; but suitable for foraging, migration)
prairie falcon	USFWS:BCC CDFW:WL	4/30	1	Likely	Yes (suitable breeding habitat in rock formations/cliffs of Turtle Mtn)
American peregrine falcon	USFWS:BCC CDFW:FP	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes (suitable breeding habitat in rock formations/cliffs of Turtle Mtn)
greater sandhill crane	CA Threatened BLM:S CDFW:FP	N/A	Not observed	N/A	No
long-billed curlew	USFSW:BCC CDFW:WL	N/A	Not observed	N/A	No
western yellow-billed cuckoo	Federal Endangered CA Threatened BLM:S USFWS:BCC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	No
short-eared owl	CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes
long-eared owl	CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes (ornamental trees)
burrowing owl	BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC	4/26, 4/28, 4/30, 6/14, 6/15	8	Confirmed (2 nest burrows w/ 4 total owlets)	Yes
loggerhead shrike	USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC	4/26, 4/28, 4/30, 6/14, 6/15	15+	Confirmed (2 nests located)	Yes
bank swallow	CA Threatened BLM:S	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes (no nesting habitat present; but potential foraging and migration habitat is)
Brewer's sparrow	USFWS:BCC	4/28, 4/30, 6/14	12+	Confirmed (4 nests located)	Yes
yellow-breasted chat	CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	No
tricolored blackbird	CA Threatened BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	No
yellow warbler	USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	No
pygmy rabbit	BLM:S CDFW:SSC	4/30, 5/11	2	Highly Probable	Yes

western white-tailed jackrabbit	CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes
gray wolf	CA Endangered	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes
American badger	CDFW:SSC BLM:SSI	4/26, 4/28, 4/30, 6/14, 6/15	14 active burrows	Confirmed	Yes (very common in dune areas)
mule deer	BLM:SSI	4/28, 4/30	Fresh tracks, scat	Unlikely	Yes (wintering habitat present)
pronghorn	BLM:SSI	4/26, 4/28, 4/30, 6/14, 6/15	20	Confirmed	Yes
Rocky Mountain elk	BLM:SSI	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes

¹These special status species have the potential to occur with project area based upon CA Natural Diversity Database and NV Natural Heritage Program database searches, consultation with BLM and CA Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists and ecologists, and previous survey experience in the project area.

*Species names **in bold** indicate species observed in the project area during the 2021 wildlife surveys.

**Species Status Categories: BLM:S = Bureau of Land Management – Sensitive; BLM:SSI = Bureau of Land Management Species of Special Interest; CA Endangered = State-listed as Endangered under CA Endangered Species Act (CESA); CA Threatened = State-listed as Threatened under CESA; CA FP = CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Fully-Protected Species; CA SSC = CA Species of Special Concern; CA WL = CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Watch List Species; USFWS:BCC = U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern.

Potential Impacts and Recommendations

The only listed species observed within the protocol survey area was State-threatened Swainson’s hawk, for which two active nests were located. Given the distance from the proposed transmission line to this nest, no adverse project impacts would occur. The second Swainson’s hawk nest is located near Herlong Access Road. Given the nearly constant flow of daytime traffic along Herlong Access Road, it is anticipated that the proposed project would not introduce any negative effects to this nesting site.

The perennially-used golden eagle nest on Turtle Mountain produced two fledglings again in 2021. Given its distance from the proposed transmission line and that fact that the nest site is subject to heavy traffic along Fort Sage Road, it is anticipated that the construction of the transmission line would not introduce any negative effects to the species and to this nesting site. However, the natural flight trajectory may frequently take the eagles across the new transmission line and introduce the potential for line collision. Therefore, it is recommended that increasing the visibility of the line with flagging, reflective material, and/or other best practices should occur. Also, given that the eagles frequently hunt in the vicinity of the proposed transmission line, attention should be given to a pole/insulator/crossbar/line design that minimizes risk of electrocution, while providing safe perch sites.

The burrowing owl, a California Species of Special Concern and BLM Sensitive Species, was found near the proposed transmission line. Give the distance from the proposed line and the fact that these nest sites are subject to a regular flow of vehicle traffic (including heavy equipment), it is anticipated that this project would not affect this species.

Many active American badger (BLM Sensitive Species) burrow/dens occur in the immediate vicinity of the proposed transmission line and badgers are especially common along the 1.5-mile stretch of the proposed line located north/northeast of Turtle Mountain. These dens and burrows are often also used by nesting burrowing owls as well (see 2011 report) and a variety of other species. In order to minimize potential impacts to breeding American badgers, the following mitigation measures are recommended: 1) delaying construction until after May 30th (badger kits are usually born between March and late April and are highly mobile by late May); and 2) avoiding grading over, excavating, or otherwise disturbing badger dens with heavy equipment. This recommended mitigation would entail scouting the proposed line and pole placement locations prior to construction, flagging burrow/den sites, and avoiding these sites whenever possible.

The other special status species found nesting in the immediate vicinity of the proposed transmission line are loggerhead shrike and pygmy rabbit. Both of these species were found nesting and/or utilizing the mature sagebrush stands in the immediate vicinity of the proposed transmission line route. To minimize potential impacts to both species, it is recommended that construction occur after May 30th (a date after which shrike chicks have fledged and pygmy bunnies are highly mobile). Additionally, avoiding grading over, excavating, or otherwise disturbing pygmy rabbit burrows with heavy equipment is suggested. This avoidance practice would entail scouting the proposed line and pole placement locations prior to construction, flagging burrows, and avoiding these sites whenever possible.

The large, high-intensity Long Valley and Laura 2 fires of 2017 and 2020, respectively, greatly impacted the formerly very diverse Great Basin scrub habitats on the northeast and north slopes of Turtle Mountain. The diverse structure and composition of the scrub habitats along the proposed route supported a surprising number of nesting bird species. Black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*), lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), and loggerhead shrike were all common breeders. All of these species are still found in the project area, but in much lower densities than in 2007 and 2010. Burrowing owls and American badgers are also less common in the project area now than prior to these fires. A widespread reduction of nesting substrate, cover, and food/prey sources are among the post-fire drivers of this dramatic change in bird density/diversity.

Considerable dumping (including of boats) was observed along the proposed transmission route in the 0.75 miles south of the Union Pacific Railroad line. Therefore, it is recommended the project's habitat improvement and mitigation components would include cleaning up this trash and eliminating the hazard it represents to public safety, wildlife species, and water quality.

In summary, the proposed Fort Sage 69kV transmission line would not significantly affect any special status wildlife species, provided the previously discussed potential minor impacts would be mitigated and/or avoided by following the mitigation recommendations as noted. See **Table 3** below for a summary of recommended mitigation and habitat improvement measures.

Table 3. Recommended mitigation and habitat improvement measures for special status species.

Species	Potential Impacts	Recommended Mitigation and Habitat Improvement Measures
golden eagle	Transmission line collision	Increase visibility of transmission lines with flagging, reflective material, and/or other best practices.
golden eagle	Electrocution	Utilize pole/insulator/crossbar/line design and best practices that minimize risk of electrocution while providing safe perch sites.
American badger	Disruption of and/or harm to denning badgers and badger kits	Delay construction until after May 30th (badger kits usually born between March and late April and highly mobile by late May).
American badger	Damage/destruction of badger dens	Avoid grading over, excavating, or otherwise disturbing badger dens with heavy equipment. Recommended mitigation would also entail scouting the proposed line and pole placement locations prior to construction, flagging burrow/den sites, and avoiding these sites whenever possible.
loggerhead shrike	Disruption of and/or harm to nesting shrikes, nests, and nestlings	Delay construction until after May 30th (date after which shrike chicks have fledged).
pygmy rabbit	Disruption of and/or harm to denning pygmy rabbits and bunnies.	Delay construction until after May 30th (date after which pygmy rabbit bunnies are highly mobile).
pygmy rabbit	Damage/destruction of pygmy rabbit burrows	Avoid grading over, excavating, or otherwise disturbing pygmy rabbit burrows with heavy equipment. This avoidance practice would also entail scouting the proposed line and pole placement locations prior to construction, flagging burrows, and avoiding these sites whenever possible.
All Species	Dump sites and the hazard they represent to wildlife, water quality, and public safety.	Clean up this trash and safely dispose of off-site.

Appendix A. List of all wildlife species observed during surveys.

Bird Species Observed (40 species)

CALIFORNIA QUAIL
TURKEY VULTURE
RED-TAILED HAWK
SWAINSON'S HAWK
GOLDEN EAGLE
AMERICAN KESTREL
PRAIRIE FALCON
KILLDEER
MOURNING DOVE
EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE
COMMON NIGHTHAWK
GREAT HORNED OWL
BURROWING OWL
WESTERN KINGBIRD
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE
COMMON RAVEN
HORNED LARK
BUSHTIT
ROCK WREN
BEWICK'S WREN
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD
AMERICAN ROBIN
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD
SAGE THRASHER
EUROPEAN STARLING
SPOTTED TOWHEE
BREWER'S SPARROW
LARK SPARROW
BLACK-THROATED SPARROW
SAGE SPARROW
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD
WESTERN MEADOWLARK
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD
BULLOCK'S ORIOLE
HOUSE FINCH
LESSER GOLDFINCH
HOUSE SPARROW

Mammal Species Observed (12 species)

BROAD-FOOTED MOLE
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
BLACK-TAILED JACKRABBIT
BELDING'S GROUND SQUIRREL
ANTELOPE GROUND SQUIRREL
TOWNSEND'S GROUND SQUIRREL
KANGAROO RAT SP. (PROBABLY ORD'S)
DESERT WOOD RAT
MULE DEER
PRONGHORN
AMERICAN BADGER
COYOTE

Herp Species Observed (3 species)

GREAT BASIN FENCE LIZARD
NORTHERN SAGEBRUSH LIZARD
LONG-NOSED LEOPARD LIZARD

July 10, 2023

Jeffrey D. Larson, MSc., RPA
Archaeologist & Historian
Environmental & Historic Preservation Division
Rural Utilities Service, Rural Development
Office: 202-692-4905 | Mobile: 202-604-9943

Re: End-of-Field Letter Report for the Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of Approximately 693.8 acres of Transmission Line for the Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC) Fort Sage 69kV Project in Washoe County, Nevada, and Lassen County, California.

Dear Mr. Larson,

On May 31, 2023, ASM Affiliates Inc. (ASM) completed a Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of approximately 681.3 acres of land in Lassen County, California, and Washoe County, Nevada, for the Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC) Fort Sage to Sierra Army Depot 69kV transmission line project (Figure 1). Private lands account for 264.9 of the 681.3 acres, and of this, 60.1 acres are in Lassen County, California and 210.3 acres are in Washoe County, Nevada. A total of 204.8 acres are on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eagle Lake Field Office in Lassen County, California; 185.7 acres are on lands administered by the Department of Defense on the Sierra Army Depot property in Lassen County, California, and 25.9 acres are on lands administered by the Department of Justice in Lassen County, California.

The project area is in portions of Section 5 in T25N, R18E, in portions of Sections 28, 29, 32, 33 in T26N, R18E, and in portions of Sections 24 and 25 in T26N, R17E in State Line Peak, CA-NV (1981) USGS 7.5' Series Quadrangle; in portions of Sections 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, and 25 in T26N, R17E in Doyle, California (1988) USGS 7.5' Series Quadrangle; in portions of Sections 4, 5, 8, and 9 in T26N, R17E, in portions of Section 36 in T27N, R16E, and in portions of Sections 31 and 32 in T27N, R17E in Calneva, California (1988) USGS 7.5' Series Quadrangle; and in portions of Sections 34, 35, and 36 in T27N, R26E in Herlong, California (1988) USGS 7.5' Series Quadrangle (Figure 2, Maps 1-6) .

At least half of the project area was previously surveyed since 1984, and 27 previously recorded sites are within the project area or overlap its boundaries. An additional 26 sites are within 0.5 mi. of the project area.

Inventory of the 693.8-acre project area resulted in updating 21 previously recorded sites and the documentation of 16 previously unrecorded sites and three previously unrecorded isolated finds.

Of the previously recorded sites within the project area, 21 were updated and six were not relocated. The updated resources include five prehistoric sites made up of flaked stone and ground stone scatters with features, six are historic-era sites that consist of refuse scatters and road segments. The rest (n = 10) are multicomponent sites with prehistoric and historic artifact assemblages and features (Table 1; Figure 3 Maps 1-6). Twelve of the updated sites are on BLM land, eight are on private land, and one is on both BLM and private lands.

Of the newly documented sites, two are prehistoric complex flaked stone and ground stone assemblages, one with a hearth feature. Fourteen are historic-era sites that include road segments, homesteads, and refuse deposits (Table 2; Figure 3 Maps 1-6). Seven of the newly documented sites lie on private land, seven are on federal land in the Sierra Army Depot, and two are on both BLM and private lands.

The isolated finds consist of three prehistoric artifacts (Table 3; Figure 3 Maps 1-6), two are on federal land in the Sierra Army Depot and one is on BLM land.

Table 1. Updated Previously Recorded Sites

Status	Agency	Trinomial	Primary	Other No.	Comp.	Property Type	County	Land-owner	UTM (NAD83)			Previous NRHP
									Zone	mE	mN	
NF	-	CA-LAS-1701H	18-001701	-	H	Refuse Scatter	Lassen	ARMY	-			NE
NF	-	-	18-002727	-	P	Isolated Obsidian Projectile Point	Lassen	ARMY	-			N/A
UPD	26.16.16.25	-	-	PH30	H	Refuse Scatter	Lassen	BLM	10			NE
UPD	26.17.08.T01	CA-LAS-1870H	-	-	H	Three Refuse Concentrations and a Linear Feature	Lassen	BLM	10			NE
UPD	26.17.16.T01*	CA-LAS-1874H	-	-	H	Refuse Scatter	Lassen	BLM	10			NE
UPD	26.17.16.25 / (26.17.16.00)	-	-	PH29	M	Lithic Scatter and Historic Features and Three Refuse Concentrations	Lassen	BLM	10			NE
UPD	26.17.16.26	-	-	PH33	M	Two Refuse Concentrations and Debris and an Isolated Prehistoric Artifact (Flaked Tool)	Lassen	BLM	10			NE
UPD	26.17.16.27	-	-	PH34	M	Flaked Stone and Ground Stone Scatter with a Thermal Feature; Refuse Debris	Lassen	BLM	10			E, Crit. D (P); NE (H)
UPD	26.17.16.28	-	-	PH35	M	Flaked Stone and Ground Stone Scatter and Isolated Historic Artifact (Oil Can)	Lassen	BLM	10			E, Crit. D (P); NE (H)
UPD	26.17.17.26	-	-	TC-04	H	Historic Road Segment and Four Associated Refuse Dumps	Lassen	BLM	10			NE
UPD	26.17.22.25	-	-	PH22	P	Flaked Stone and Ground Stone Scatter	Lassen	BLM	10			NL
UPD	26.17.22.26	-	-	PH23	P	Lithic Scatter	Lassen	BLM	10			NL

Status	Agency	Trinomial	Primary	Other No.	Comp.	Property Type	County	Land-owner	UTM (NAD83)		Previous NRHP	
									Zone	mE		mN
UPD	26.17.23.25	-	-	PH20	M	Lithic Scatter and FCR Feature and Six Historic Features and Refuse	Lassen	BLM	10			NL
UPD	26.17.23.26	-	-	PH21	M	Flaked Stone and Ground Stone and Isolated Historic Metal Animal Trap	Lassen	BLM	10			NL
UPD	-	-	-	TC-10	M	Flaked Stone and Ground Stone Scatter and Historic Refuse Scatter	Lassen	PRVT	11			E, Crit. D (P); NE (H)
NF	-	-	-	TC-12	M	Lithic Scatter and an Isolated Historic Artifact (Cartridge Case)	Lassen	PRVT	10			NE
UPD	26.17.23.27	26WA1016 1	-	PH50	H	Road (Fish Springs Road) and Associated Refuse	Lassen & Washoe	BLM; PRVT	10			NE
UPD	-	26WA1016 2	-	PH51	M	Utility Line, Roads, Associated Refuse, and an Isolated Prehistoric Artifact (Ground Stone)	Lassen & Washoe	PRVT				NE
UPD	-	-	-	PH52	M	Flaked Stone Scatter and Isolated Historic Artifact (Milk Can)	Lassen	PRVT	11			NL
NF	CrNV-31-4684	26WA0619 0	-	-	P	Lithic Scatter	Washoe	PRVT	11			E
UPD	CrNV-31-4685	26WA0619 1	-	-	P	Flaked Stone and Ground Stone Scatter (Tested)	Washoe	PRVT	11			E
NF	CrNV-03-6221	26WA0804 5	-	-	P	Lithic Scatter – Not relocated in 2018	Washoe	PRVT	11			NE
NF	CrNV-03-6205	26WA0918 2	-	-	P	Lithic Scatter	Washoe	PRVT	11			NE
UPD	-	26WA0944 4	-	TC-06	M	Lithic and Ground Stone Scatter and Historic Refuse Scatter	Washoe	PRVT	11			E, Crit. D (P); NE (H)

Status	Agency	Trinomial	Primary	Other No.	Comp.	Property Type	County	Land-owner	UTM (NAD83)			Previous NRHP
									Zone	mE	mN	
UPD	-	26WA0948 1	-	PH10	P	Lithic and Ground Stone Scatter	Washoe	PRVT	11			E, Crit. D (P) - SHPO Con. (2011)
UPD	-	26WA0948 2	-	PH11	P	Lithic and Ground Stone Scatter	Washoe	PRVT	11			E, Crit. D (P) - SHPO Con. (2011)
UPD	-	26WA1289 5**	-	-	H	In-Process Feature: Rainbow Blvd. Road Segment	Washoe	PRVT	11			IP

Status (NF = Not Found/Not Relocated; UPD = Updated); Comp. = Component (H = Historic; M = Multicomponent; P = Prehistoric); Landowner (ARMY = Sierra Army Depot; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; PRVT = Private); Previous NRHP (E = Eligible [Crit. = Criterion; (P) = Prehistoric; (H) = Historic]; IP = In-process; N/A = Not Applicable [I.E. Isolated Find]; NE = Not Eligible; NL = Not Listed; SHPO Con. = SHPO Concurrence).

* = Site 26.17.16.T01/CA-LAS-1874H is subsumed by 26.17.16.25.

**= Site 26WA12895 extends south into the current project area.

Table 2. Newly Recorded Sites

ASM Temp. No.	Comp	Property Type	County	Land- owner	UTM (NAD83)		Preliminary NRHP
					Zone	mE mN	
PS-01	H	Historic Property Type II: Water Management, Farming and Ranching Resources Homestead	Lassen	PRVT	10		Eligible (A)
PS-02	H	Historic Property Type III: Refuse Deposit	Washoe	PRVT	11		NE
PS-03	H	Historic Property Type III: Refuse Deposit	Washoe	PRVT	11		NE
PS-04	P	Prehistoric Property Type III: Complex Flaked Stone and Ground Stone Assemblage	Washoe	PRVT	11		Eligible (D)
PS-05	H	Prehistoric Property Type IV: Complex Flaked Stone and Ground Stone Assemblage with a Feature (Hearth)	Washoe	PRVT	11		Eligible (D)
PS-06	P	Historic Property Type II: Water Management, Farming and Ranching Resources Homestead	Washoe	PRVT	11		Eligible (A)
PS-07	H	Historic Property Type III: Refuse Deposit	Lassen	ARMY	10		NE
PS-08	H	Historic Property Type III: Refuse Deposit	Lassen	ARMY	10		NE
PS-10	H	Historic Property Type I. Transportation and Infrastructure System Resources: Paved Road Segment, Herlong Access Rd. / County Hwy. A25	Lassen	ARMY	10		NE
PS-11	H	Historic Property Type I. Transportation and Infrastructure System Resources: Paved Road Segment, Chewing Gum Rd.	Lassen	ARMY	10		NE

ASM Temp. No.	Comp	Property Type	County	Land- owner	UTM (NAD83)		Preliminary NRHP
					Zone	mE mN	
PS-12	H	Historic Property Type I. Transportation and Infrastructure System Resources: Two-Track Road Segment, Stateline Rd.	Lassen/ Washoe	PRVT	11		NE
PS-13	H	Historic Property Type I. Transportation and Infrastructure System Resources: Two-Track Road Segment	Washoe	PRVT/ BLM	11		NE
PS-14	H	Historic Property Type I. Transportation and Infrastructure System Resources: Two-Track Road Segment	Lassen	PRVT/ BLM	11		NE
PS-15	H	Historic Property Type I. Transportation and Infrastructure System Resources: Paved Road Segment, Unnamed Road	Lassen	ARMY	10		NE
PS-16	H	Historic Property Type I. Transportation and Infrastructure System Resources: Paved Road Segment, Magazine Road	Lassen	ARMY	10		NE
PS-17	H	Historic Property Type I. Transportation and Infrastructure System Resources: Paved Road Segment, Unnamed Road	Lassen	ARMY	10		NE

Table 3. Newly Recorded Isolated Finds

ASM Temp. No.	Comp.	Type	Description	County	Land-owner	UTM (Zone 10, NAD83)	
						mE	mN
PS-ISO-001	P	Projectile Point	One near-complete, basalt Elko-Corner notched projectile point with a broken distal end. It measures 2.9 x 2.0 x 0.4 cm.	Lassen	BLM		
PS-ISO-002	P	Ground Stone	One complete, vesicular basalt handstone with heavy use-wear on both sides and moderate use-wear along the margins. It measures 12.7 x 9.1 x 3.5 cm.	Lassen	ARMY		
PS-ISO-003	P	Ground Stone	One millingstone fragment of gray rhyolite with heavy use-wear on one side found in an active dune field. It measures 26.0 x 23.0 x 4.7 cm.	Lassen	ARMY		

Comp.: Component (P, Prehistoric); Landowner: BLM, Bureau of Land Management (Eagle Lake); ARMY, Sierra Army Depot.

If you should have any questions or require additional information regarding this End-of-Field letter report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ed Stoner
 Director – Principal Investigator
 ASM Affiliates
estoner@asmaffiliates.com

Encl. GIS Shapefiles

CC: Mary Bobbitt, BLM

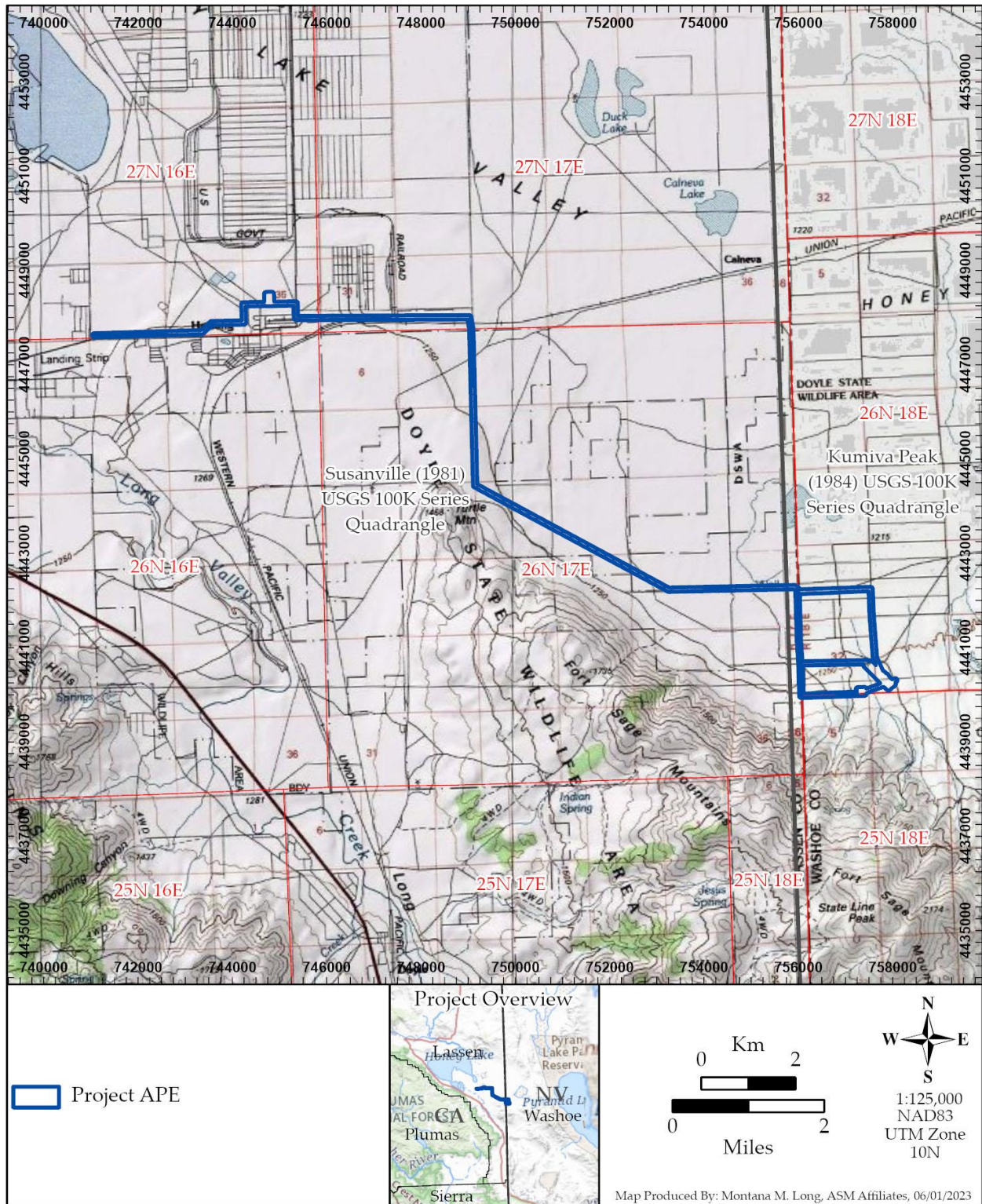


Figure 1. Project Location

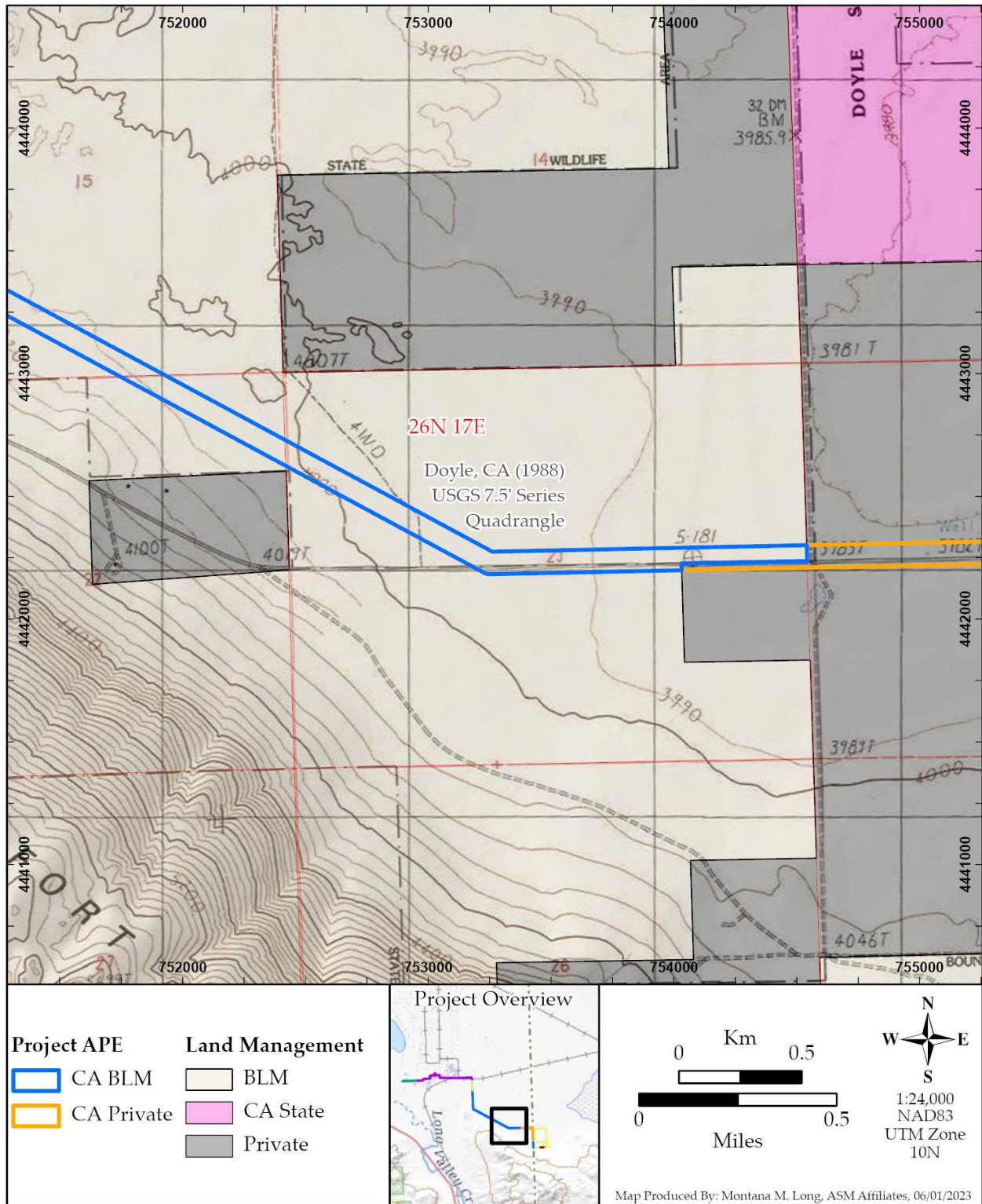


Figure 2. Project Area Map 1.

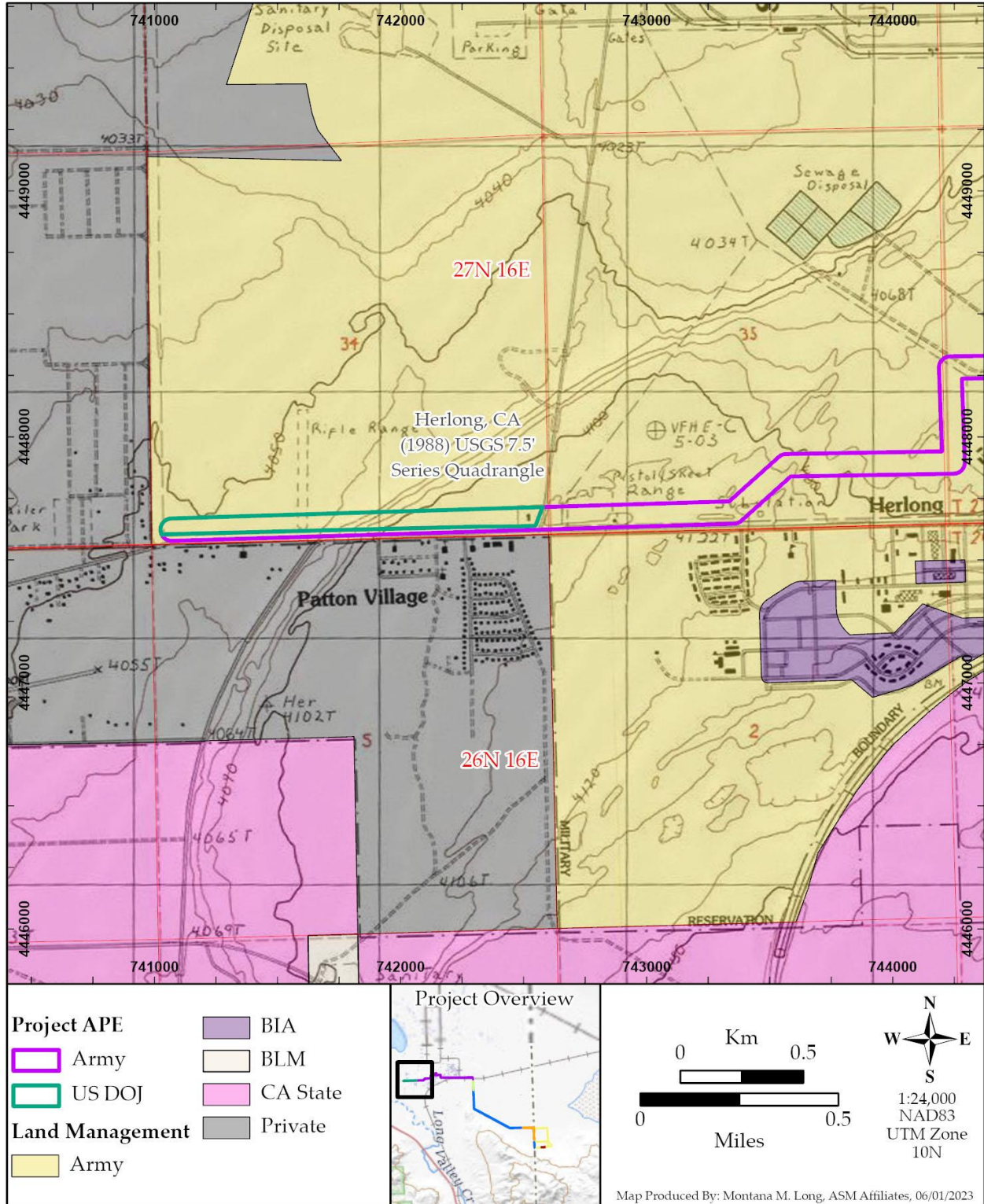


Figure 2. Project Area Map 2.

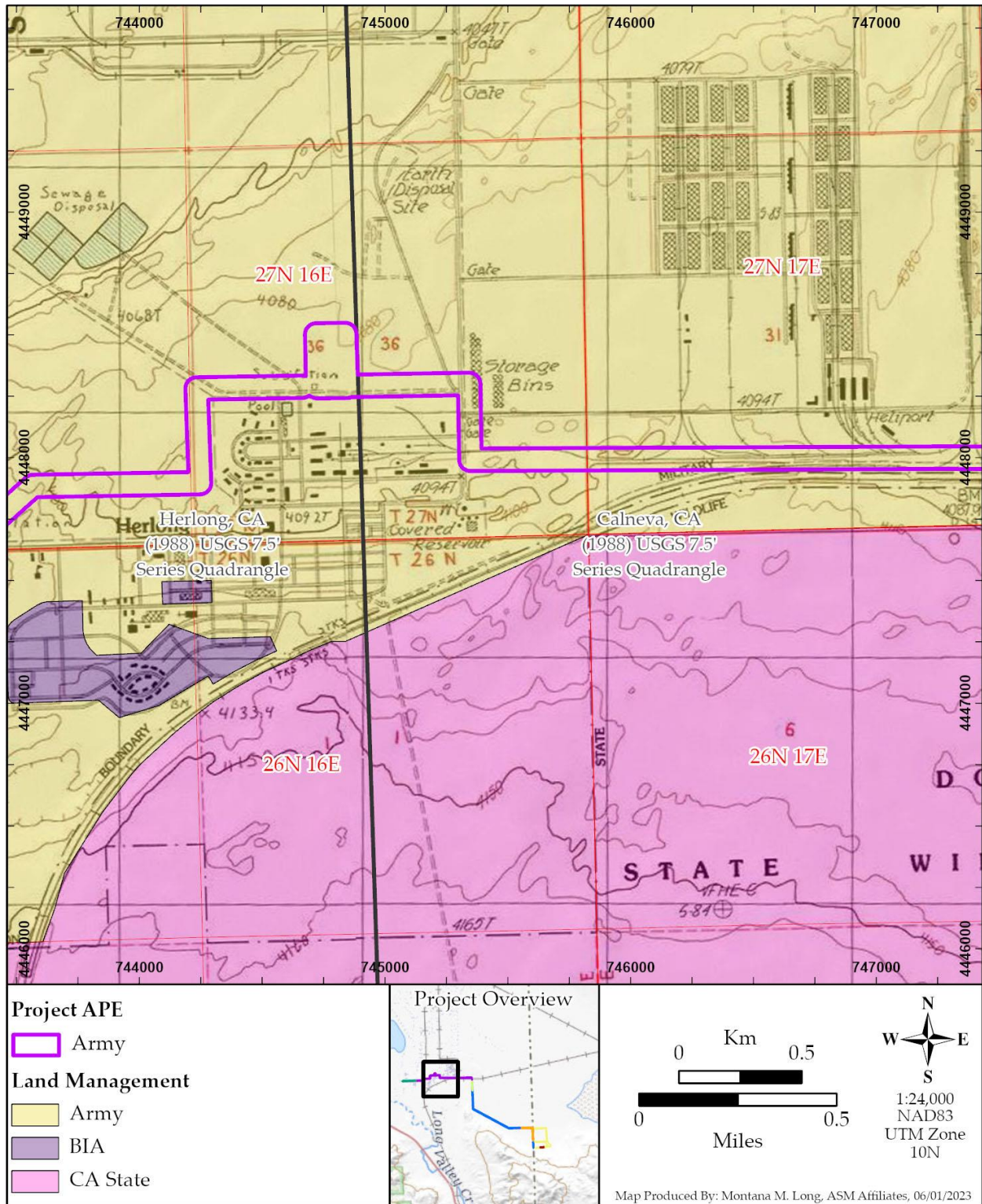


Figure 2. Project Area Map 3

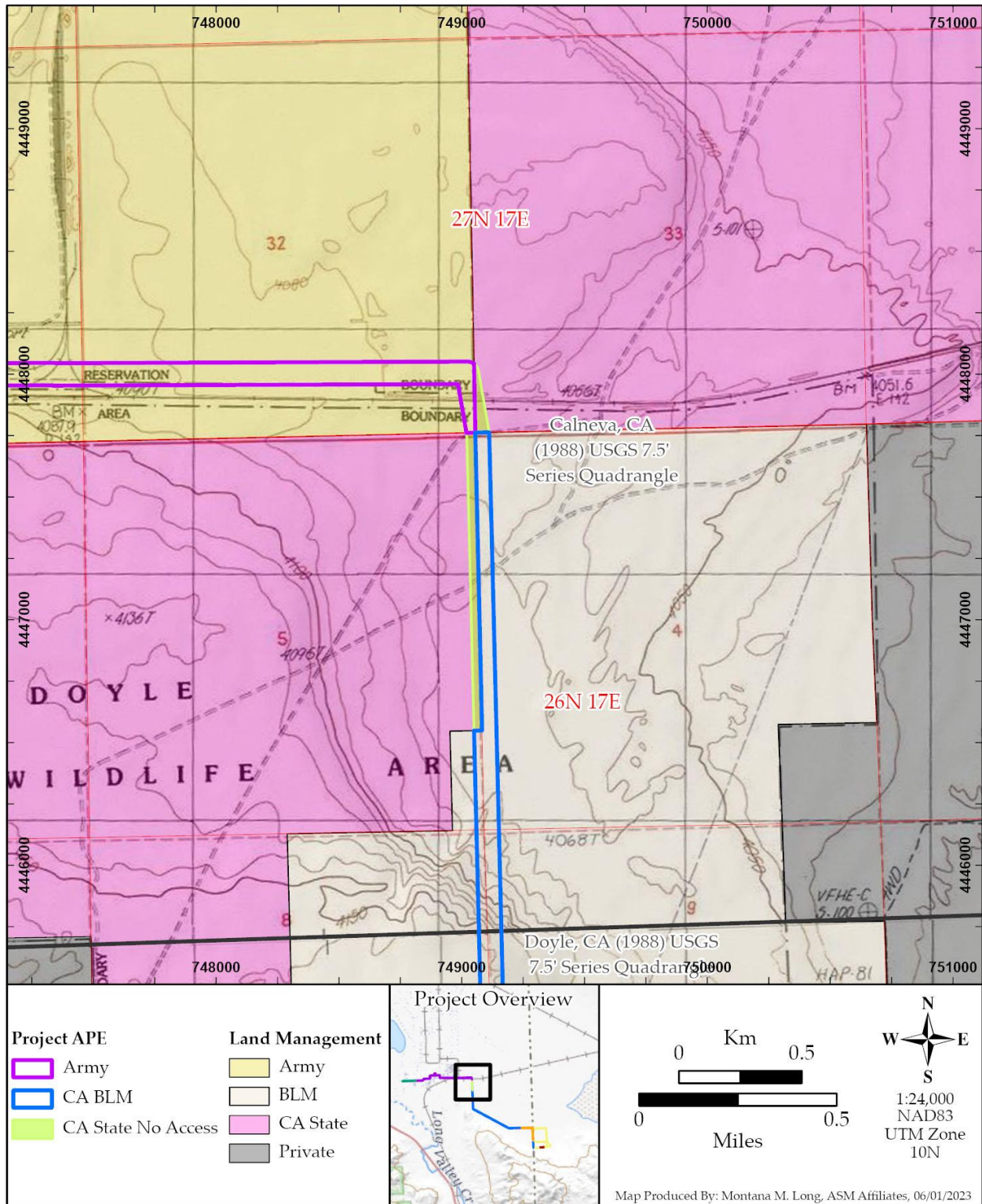


Figure 2. Project Area Map 4

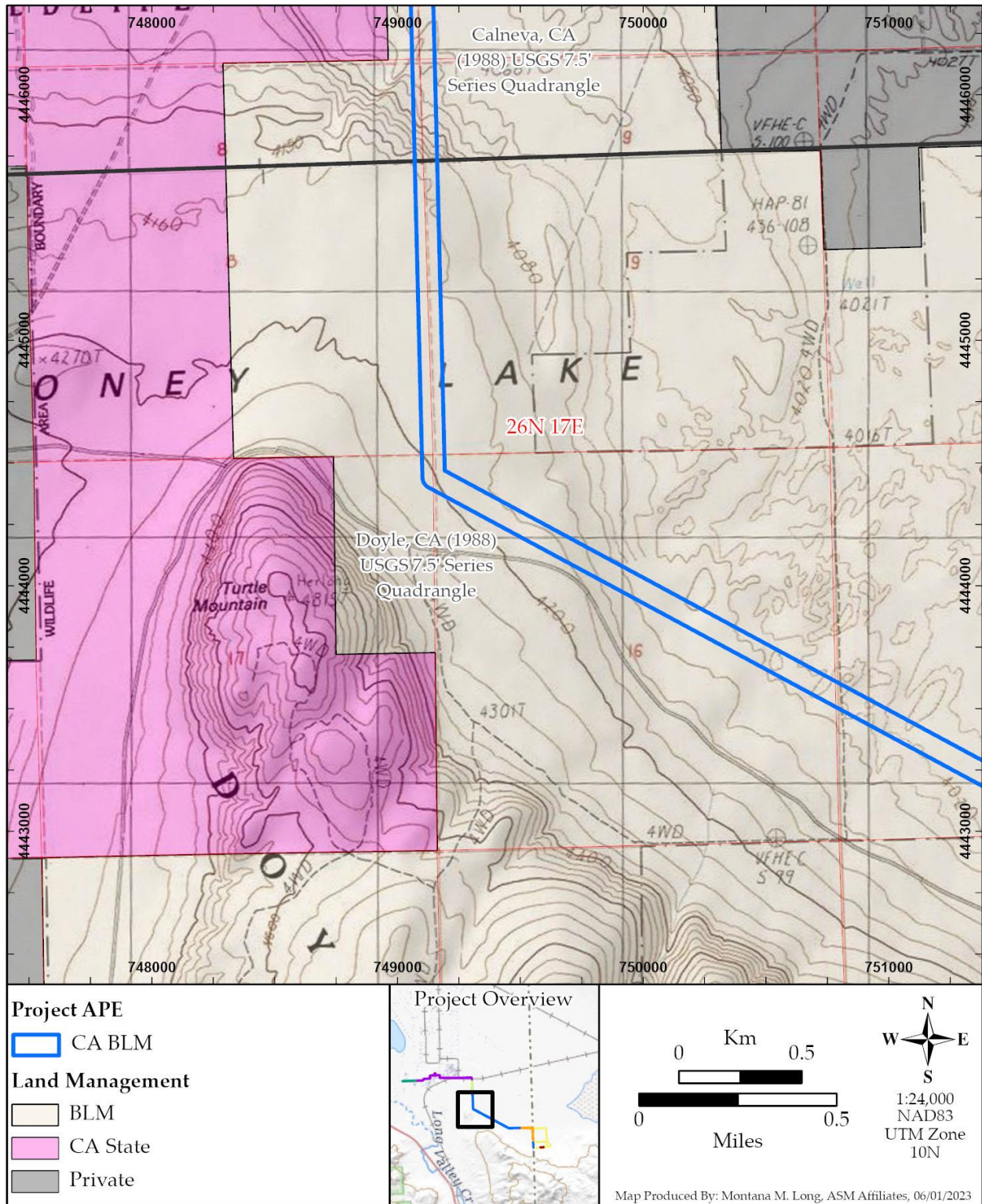


Figure 2. Project Area Map 5

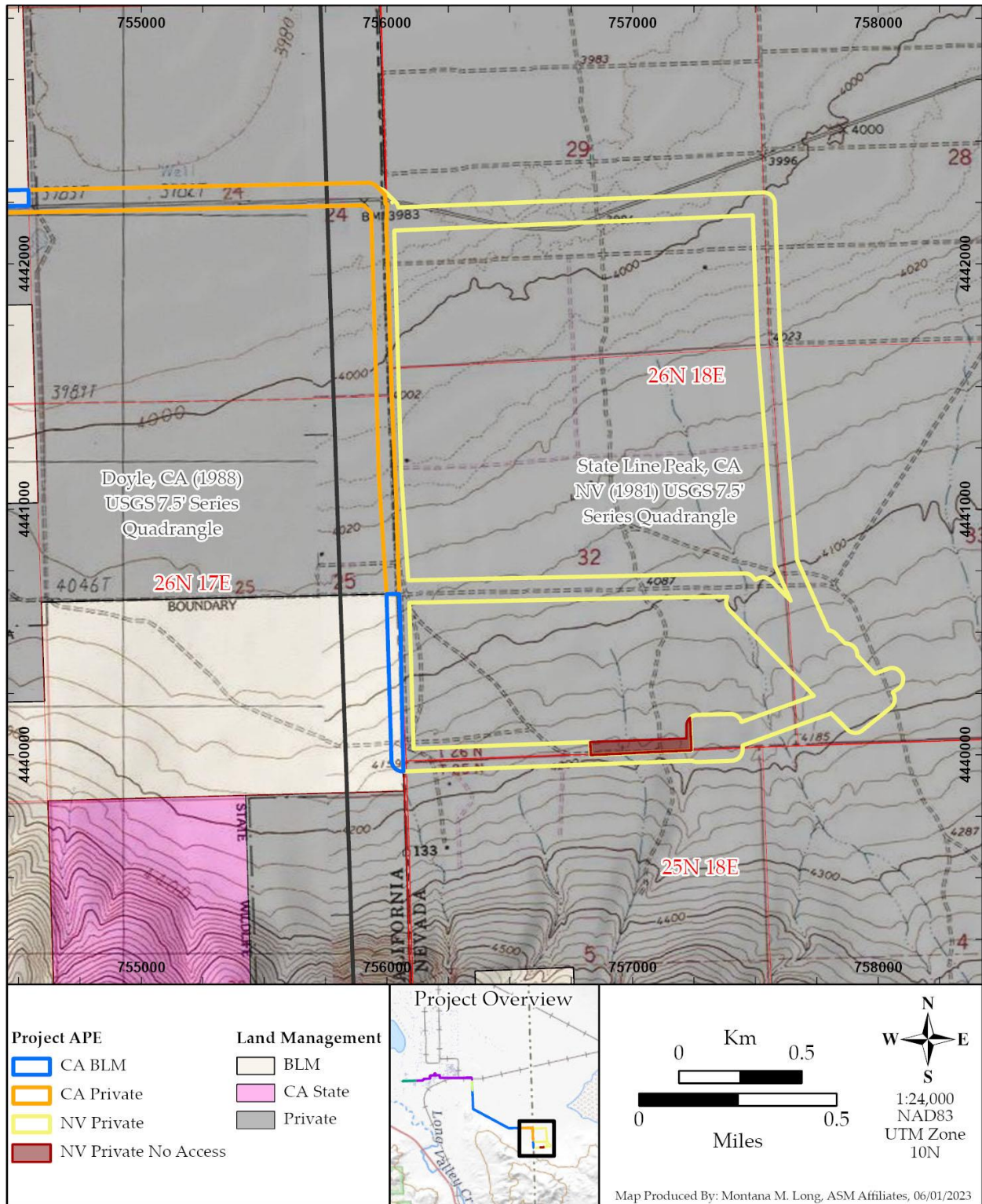


Figure 2. Project Area Map 6

TRUCKEE MEADOWS REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY (TMRPA) REVIEW

This project meets the criteria for a Project of Regional Significance as defined in NRS 278.026(6), as it proposes a transmission line of greater than 60 kV (TMRPA 2019 Regional Plan, Appendix 2, Resolution No. 13-06 (RPC)), and therefore require a conformance review from TMRPA. It will also require an amendment to the TMRPA Regional Utility Corridor Map (2019 Truckee Meadows Regional Plan Map 3-Regional Utility Corridors & Sites) to identify the location of the proposed transmission line. See TMRPA Map Viewer- Transmission Corridor Location below.

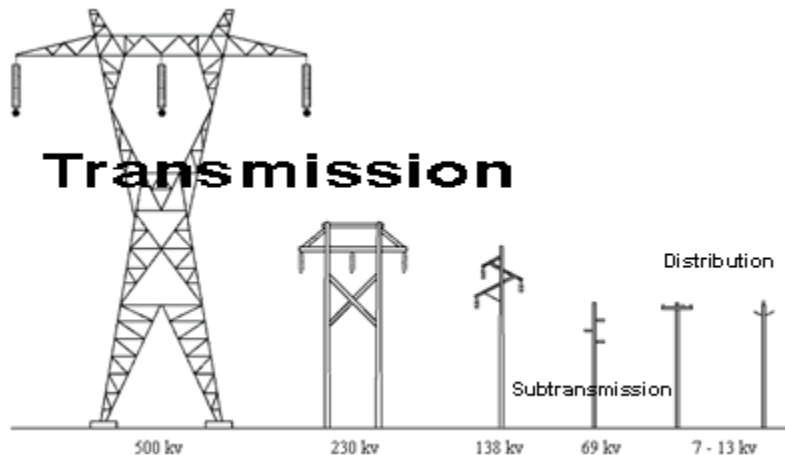
Reasons for the Proposed Utility Corridor Location

- The proposed transmission line is not able to be located within the existing corridor because it is NV Energy's easement. The easement would have to be widened to accommodate the proposed line (and would be outside of the utility corridor). In discussion with the property owners where the existing corridor is located, it is not feasible to get an easement.
- The original corridor has an archaeological site. While a larger (i.e. 345 kV) line can span the archaeological site between the poles, the smaller 69 kV line has to locate poles closer together, which would impact the archaeological site.
- In reviewing location alternatives for the corridor with Cooperating Agencies for environmental review, the Bureau of Land Management recommended this alternative corridor.

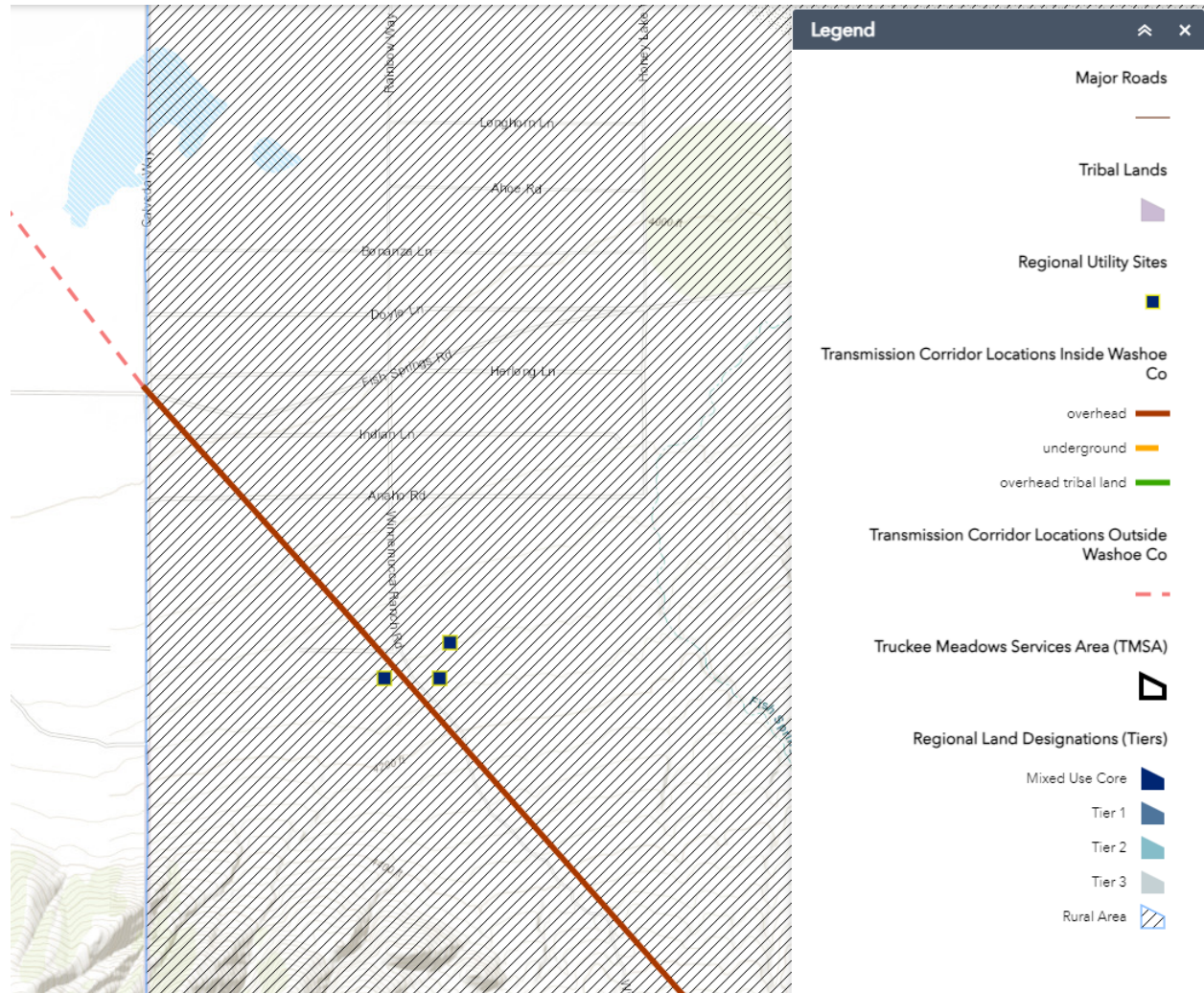
Based on this review and the proposed corridor, easements have been obtained and are in place along the proposed corridor through Washoe County.

Please also note that the proposed corridor is for a 69 kV transmission line, which is significantly different than a larger voltage transmission line. See examples of transmission lines below.

Examples of Transmission Lines



United States Department of Labor, Overhead Transmission Lines
TMRPA Map Viewer- Transmission Corridor Location





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SIERRA ARMY DEPOT
74 CURRANT STREET
HERLONG CA 96113-5000

Randy Howard
Northern California Power Agency
651 Commerce Drive
Roseville, CA 95678

Dear Mr. Howard:

Sierra Army Depot (SIAD) endorses and supports the Northern California Power Agency's Office of Local Defense Communities Cooperation (OLDCC) Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot (DCIP) Program application for Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC) to construct a mission-critical transmission line and intertie with Nevada Energy (NV Energy). This project, referred to as the Fort Sage Intertie, will significantly enhance military value for SIAD—improving readiness, enabling modernization, and minimizing disruptions, all while providing necessary relief to the community and surrounding area as well as meaningful cost benefits for the installation.

Located in Herlong, California, SIAD is in critical need of reliable and cost-effective transmission infrastructure to ensure that rapid deployment, power projection, and industrial capabilities remain uninterrupted for the Army and Joint Partners. However, recent extreme weather events, including the record-setting wildfires across Northern California, have prompted sudden, unplanned, and virtually no-notice power outages. These power outages have negatively impacted SIAD's ability to maintain the core logistics capabilities required to ensure the Army can respond to a mobilization or national defense emergency in an effective and timely manner. Every hour of unplanned depot-wide power outage prevents our workers from performing their critical tasks, resulting in upwards of \$100,000 loss of customer revenue. In FY21, SIAD experienced 14 outages for a combined total of 24 hours and 45 minutes, equating to \$2.4M in lost revenue. Over the last five fiscal years, power outages have impacted the financial position of SIAD by more than \$9M. Additionally, SIAD incurred costs to run backup generators to unburden the grid when PSREC itself was utilizing backup power. PSREC will control this new line which will greatly reduce the threat of Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

SIAD is one of 23 Army Organic Industrial Base (AOIB) sites, which provide critical materiel and sustainment support essential to Army strategic readiness while maintaining a surge capability for support of Large-Scale Combat Operations. SIAD is a premier life cycle management installation and Joint Strategic Power Projection

TASI-?
SUBJECT:

Platform providing a wide variety of long-term, life cycle logistics solutions for the Joint Services. AOIB sites are not funded in the same manner as other Army installations. As such, SIAD operates on the Army Working Capital Fund and does not receive funding from Installation Management Command (IMCOM). Given the current fiscal environment, SIAD is not able to fund any portion of this project.

Using DCIP funding and partnering with PSREC for the construction of a transmission line and intertie with NV Energy will provide SIAD with a reliable primary source of power by eliminating the installation's current single point of failure and increasing its grid capacity. This will enable SIAD to be less susceptible to forced shutoffs and reduce the negative impacts from environmental conditions in California while increasing the installation's readiness and energy resiliency posture and enabling mission assurance—a priority for all Army installations. The project will also increase SIAD's potential for the future expansion of renewable energy sources, such as onsite solar generation, in support of the Army Climate Strategy, as well as the further development of target transformation strategies aligned with AOIB Modernization efforts.

This project is of vital importance to our mission here at SIAD and is my number one priority going forward. Therefore, I strongly recommend approval of the Fort Sage Intertie and look forward to hearing the outcome of the DCIP application submission. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Cowley, Energy Manager, at 530-827-4177 or email at heather.m.cowley.civ@army.mil.

AMY M. CORY
LTC, LG
Commanding

**LUMAS-SIERRA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
FORT SAGE 69kV TRANSMISSION LINE
LASSEN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

BOTANICAL FIELD SURVEY



Prepared by Terri M. Rust

for

Hardy Conservation

August 28, 2021

Introduction:

The purpose of this report is to document completion of a botanical survey compliant with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the Fort Sage 69kV Transmission Line Project located in Lassen (CA) and Washoe (NV) counties, approximately 6 air miles northeast of Doyle, CA. The proposed project will involve construction of a new 14.35 mile, 69kV sub transmission intertie with the NV Energy 345-kV Reno-Alturas Transmission Line at the Fort Sage Substation. The proposed project was initially approved in 2011 as a 120 kV line, and the federal lead agencies, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) concurred with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A minor re-route of the project alignment has been proposed to avoid private property and land-owner conflicts.

Survey Area Description:

The botanical survey area (BSA) consists of the project corridor, defined as 300' wide (150' on either side of the proposed centerline). At the terminus of the line near the Fort Sage substation in Nevada, an approximate 5-acre site was surveyed, including a 150' buffer extending beyond the site boundaries. All parts of the survey area were accessible by road and/or walking with the exception of two segments that parallel and are adjacent to private land (and not accessible). For these segments a minimum 25' was surveyed on the private land side of the proposed transmission line.

Environmental Setting:

The BSA traverses the southern portion of Honey Lake Valley, east of US Highway 395, and north and east of the Fort Sage Mountains. It is dominated by sagebrush scrub and alkali flat plant communities, and early successional plant community of recently (< 5 years ago) burned sagebrush scrub. The topography varies from flat to gently sloping hills and dunes at the north toe of the Fort Sage Mountains.

The survey area has been impacted on the California side by intensive off-road use as it is part of the BLM Fort Sage OHV Recreation Area as evidenced by the numerous dirt jeep trails and motorcycle tracks that crisscross the survey area. Grazing on BLM allotments and adjacent private lands is another land use that has affected the native plant community. The 2017 Long Valley fire scar is evident along approximately two miles of the proposed transmission line.

Sensitive and/or Special Status Plant Species:

Plant species of concern include those plants species that have been formally listed, or proposed as endangered or threatened, or are candidates for such listing under the

federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or California Endangered Species Act (CESA). These Acts afford protection to both listed and proposed species. In addition, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes and Lichens (CDFW 2018f), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) sensitive species, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and US Forest Service (USFS) sensitive and watchlist species are all considered special status species. Although some of the CDFW Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes and Lichens generally have no special legal status, they are given special consideration under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Plant species ranked on the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants as List 1 or 2 are also considered special status plant species.

Methodology:

Database & Literature Search:

Potential occurrence of special status species in the BSA was evaluated by first determining which special status species occur in the vicinity of the Project Area through a literature and database search. Database searches for known occurrences of special status species focused on the Herlong, Doyle, Calneva Lake, State Line Peak, and McKesick Peak USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle maps. All special-status species known from the Lassen National Forest and BLM sensitive plant lists were also included in the analysis. The following sources were reviewed to determine which special status plant species have been documented to occur in the vicinity of the Project Area:

- California Natural Diversity Database records (CNDDDB 2021)
- CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants in California (CNPS 2021)
- Bureau of Land Management Sensitive Species List (2013)
- Lassen National Forest/Region 5 Sensitive Plant Species List (2015)
- PSREC 120kV Transmission Line Project Botanical Survey (Hafen, 2008)

Table 1 lists the species from the database searches that have the potential to occur in the project botanical survey area due to suitable habitat and/or close proximity of previously documented occurrences.

Table 1. List of plant species that have the potential to occur in the botanical survey area.

Genus species	Common name	Status
<i>Allium atrorubens</i> var. <i>atorubens</i>	Great basin onion	CNPS 2B.3
<i>Astragalus geyeri</i> var. <i>geyeri</i>	Geyer's milkvetch	CNPS 2B.2
<i>Chylismia claviformis</i> var. <i>cruciformis</i>	Cruciform evening primrose	CPNS 2B.3

<i>Eriogonum nutans</i> var. <i>nutans</i>	Dugway's buckwheat	CNPS 2B.3
<i>Ladeania lanceolata</i>	Lance-leaved scurf pea	CNPS 2B.3
<i>Loeflingia squarrosa</i> var. <i>artemiarum</i>	Sagebrush loeflingia	CNPS 2B.2; BLM Sensitive
<i>Lomatium foeniculaceum</i> var. <i>macdouglasi</i>	MacDouglas' lomatium	CNPS 2B.2
<i>Lomatium ravenii</i> var. <i>paiutense</i>	Paiute's lomatium	CNPS 2B.3
<i>Rumex venosus</i>	Winged dock	CNPS 2B.3
<i>Thelypodium milleflorum</i>	Many-flowered thelypodium	CNPS 2B.2
<i>Sphaeralcea grossulariifolia</i>	Currant-leaved desert mallow	CNPS 2B.3

**** Species names in bold indicate species identified to occur in the BSA during the 2021 survey.**

Of the plant species with potential to be in the BSA, seven have a CNPS Rare Plant Rank of 2B.3, four a CNPS rank of 2B.2, and one species is considered a BLM Sensitive species. A rating rank of 2B means a plant species is considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California but common elsewhere. A threat rank extension of '.2' means the species is moderately threatened in California (20-80 % of occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat). A threat rank extension of '.3' means a species is not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened/low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known) (CNPS, 2021).

Field Survey:

Botanical field surveys are conducted when a majority of plant species of interest are flowering, typically late May-July for this region of California and Nevada. On April 26, 2021, the botanical consultant and Hardy Conservation met at the Project site to discuss logistics, confirm project area recently surveyed and flagged by PSREC contractor, and check the growth stage of plant species. A preliminary botanical survey was conducted of the 5-acre site near the Fort Sage substation located in Nevada. Despite the below normal precipitation over the 2020-21 winter/spring (4.89" vs 15.7" in an average water year (DWR CDEC, 2021; StreamStats, 2021)), many of the early flowering species appeared to be in the normal growth stage for this time of year; however, plant vigor, abundance, and diversity were lower than normal. Botanical consultant returned on May 12, 13, and June 9 to complete all botanical survey work. On the June 9th field day, consultant stopped at the Fort Sage Trailhead to reference the growth stage of *Astragalus geyeri* var. *geyeri* known to occur at that location. Numerous plants were found and identity confirmed; plants were past peak flowering and starting to seed.

Field surveys followed the protocols compiled by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, “Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities” (CDFW, 2021). Specific to this field survey, efforts were focused on the 150 feet with more focused effort on the 30 feet either side of centerline of the proposed transmission line right of way (R/W), as this is the area that would be affected by construction activities and placement of poles. Emphasis was also directed towards those areas with potential habitat for sensitive and special status species.

Survey Results:

Prior to the survey, the CNDDDB database, CNPS Rare Plant Inventory, BLM Sensitive Plant Species List, and the Lassen National Forest Sensitive Plant List were consulted to identify federal and State sensitive, threatened or endangered species that have the potential to occur in the project area. It was determined that suitable habitat does not exist for any threatened or endangered state or federal species. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) maintains a list of sensitive species that are not on federal or state lists as endangered, threatened, candidate or proposed, but are designated by the BLM State Director for special management consideration. Potential habitat exists for one BLM sensitive plant species, *Loeflingia squarrosa* variety *artemisiarum*, and plants have been found near the project area in the past; however, none of the currently listed BLM sensitive plant species were found during either the 2010 or 2021 surveys, which were both drier than normal years.

Appendix A lists all plant species identified to species level in the BSA. Some species found in the 2010 Botanical Survey were not found in 2021, and numerous species not listed in 2010 were identified through this updated 2021 survey. This is likely due to even drier conditions in 2021 than 2010 and re-routing of some of the proposed transmission line right of way. Of the eleven special status species with potential to occur in the BSA, three species with a CNPS Rare Plant Rank of 2B.3 and one with a rank of 2B.2 were found and mapped. No federally listed or BLM-listed sensitive species were observed. Below are more detailed observations for the four special status species identified in the BSA.

Erigonum nutans var. *nutans* (CNPS 2B.3). Numerous plants were scattered throughout the area surveyed where it was in the vicinity of the toe of Turtle Mountain. Individual plants were too numerous and distributed over too large an area to accurately GPS.

Ladeania lanceolata (CNPS 2B.3). This species was abundant and scattered throughout the burn scar within the BSA at the toe of Turtle Mountain. Individual plants were too numerous and distributed over too large an area to accurately GPS.

Lomatium foeniculaceum var. *macdouglasi* (CNPS 2B.2). Only 12 plants were documented to occur in one area near where they previously have been documented

approximately 4 miles along the proposed transmission line R/W from the Fort Sage substation. Six of the plants were in the middle of the off-road track #71.

Rumex venosus (CNPS 2B.3). This was the most abundant special status species that was found. It seems to have responded positively to past fire activity and is concentrated between mile 6 and 7 along the transmission line from the Fort Sage substation. Locations represent several to many plants in small patches, as well as large patches of 100 or more plants.

While the majority of the species observed in the Project Area are native species, some are non-native and one (*Onopardum acanthium*, or Scotch thistle) is listed as a Category C species on the Nevada Noxious Weed List (NDA, 2021), but is a Category A-rated weed in California (CDFA, 2021) and will be discussed under the Recommendations section of this report.

The dominant shrub throughout the proposed project area is sagebrush along with bitterbrush, greasewood, saltbush, ephedra, and hop sage. Desert peach and rabbitbrush are present throughout the project area. Many flowering plants that are normally seen in this habitat were not present in 2021.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Recommendations:

The affected environment for this project has been degraded for decades and the evidence of careless human activity and management is seen all along the proposed route. The rich native herbaceous diversity has largely been replaced by annual weedy species in many areas. Dominant shrubs include sagebrush, rabbitbrush, desert peach, greasewood, hop sage, saltbush. Bitterbrush, a species of concern for the deer population, is sparse along the proposed route.

Of the special status species found within the BSA, none are considered seriously threatened at the State or federal level. The twelve plants of *Ladeania lanceolata* were on the south side of Fort Sage Road, and the proposed transmission line parallels the north side so avoidance of this area will prevent this small population from being negatively affected by the project activities. The other three special status species are scattered and abundant; therefore, minimizing the construction activities and pole placement, particularly between miles 6 and 7, would reduce the loss of individual plants in this area. Following this guidance, it is anticipated that these species would not be affected long-term by this project.

The only non-native species with a noxious weed rating is *Onopardum acanthium* (Scotch thistle). In Nevada, the weed is rated a Category C, which generally means the weed is well-established and widespread in many counties of the State. However, in California, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, considers it an A-listed

noxious weed, which means it is of limited distribution and has the potential to be eradicated before getting widespread. The two populations of Scotch thistle observed during the survey were both in Nevada, one is located within the first mile of the transmission alignment west of the Fort Sage Substation, and the other was a patch of dead standing plants on the east side of the Fort Sage substation. The latter appeared to have been chemically treated as there were no new rosettes present at the time this area was surveyed in 2021. The mapped site did have many live rosettes within the BSA. It is recommended to chemically treat this population prior to project implementation if possible, minimize disturbance during project activities, and treat any new growth post-project. Keeping vehicles and construction equipment clean is also strongly recommended.

Revegetation of disturbed areas following project completion using a certified California Native Seed mixture should be considered. Native seed can be expensive and sometimes slow to germinate depending on local environmental conditions in the years following seed dispersal. However, selecting several sections along the route to seed could be helpful in creating 'islands' of native plants that can spread over time.

In conclusion, the proposed project is not expected to have adverse long term impact on the native flora of the area.

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Appendix A.

Botanical Survey Plant List

Fort Sage 69kV Transmission Line Project

May, June 2021

<u>Genus</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Shrubs:			
<i>Artemisia</i>	<i>spinosa</i>	Budsage	
<i>Artemisia</i>	<i>tridentata</i>	Big sagebrush	
<i>Atriplex</i>	<i>canescens</i>	Four-wing saltbush	var. <i>canescens</i>
<i>Atriplex</i>	<i>confertifolia</i>	Spiny saltbush	
<i>Chrysothamnus</i>	<i>viscidiflorus</i>	Green rabbitbrush	
<i>Ephedra</i>	<i>viridis</i>	Mormon tea	
<i>Ericameria</i>	<i>nauseosa</i>	Rubber rabbitbrush	
<i>Grayia</i>	<i>spinosa</i>	Hop sage	
<i>Krascheninnikovia</i>	<i>lanata</i>	Winterfat	
<i>Prunus</i>	<i>andersonii</i>	Desert peach	
<i>Purshia</i>	<i>tridentata</i>	Bitterbrush	
<i>Sarcobatus</i>	<i>vermiculatus</i>	Black greasewood	
<i>Tetradymia</i>	<i>canescens</i>	Gray horsebrush	
<i>Tetradymia</i>	<i>glabrata</i>	Little leaf horsebrush	
Grasses:			
<i>Achnatherum</i>	<i>hymenoides</i>	Indian Rice Grass	
<i>Bromus</i>	<i>tectorum</i>	Cheatgrass	non-native
<i>Distichlis</i>	<i>spicata</i>	Salt grass	
<i>Elymus</i>	<i>cinereus</i>	Great Basin rye	
<i>Elymus</i>	<i>elemoides</i>	Squirreltail	
<i>Hordeum</i>	<i>brachyantherum</i>	Meadow barley	
<i>Poa</i>	<i>bulbosa</i>	Bulbous bluegrass	non-native
Annual & perennial forbes:			
<i>Amsinckia</i>	<i>tessellata</i>	Devil's lettuce	
<i>Argemone</i>	<i>munita</i>	Prickely Poppy	
<i>Astragalus</i>	<i>sp.</i>		
<i>Balsamorhiza</i>	<i>sagittata</i>	Arrowleaf Balsamroot	
<i>Camissonia</i>	<i>contorta</i>	Contorted suncup	
<i>Castilleja</i>	<i>linariifolia</i>	Desert paintbrush	
<i>Chaenactis</i>	<i>douglasii</i>	Dusty maidens	var. <i>douglasii</i>
<i>Crepis</i>	<i>bakeri</i>	Baker's hawkbeard	
<i>Cryptantha</i>	<i>ambigua</i>	Basin cryphantha	

<i>Cryptantha</i>	<i>pterocaya</i>	Wingnut cryptantha	var. <i>pterocaya</i>
<i>Descurainia</i>	<i>pinnata</i>	Tansy mustard	
<i>Eriastrum</i>	<i>wilcoxii</i>	Wilcox's woollystar	
<i>Erigeron</i>	<i>bloomeri</i>	Bloomer's fleabane	var. <i>bloomeri</i>
<i>Eriogonum</i>	<i>nutans</i>	Dugway's buckwheat	var. <i>nutans</i> ; CNPS Rare Plant Rank 2B.3
<i>Eriogonum</i>	<i>umbellatum</i>	Sulphur buckwheat	
<i>Erodium</i>	<i>cicutarium</i>	Red Stemmed Filaree	
<i>Erythranthe</i>	<i>guttata</i>	Yellow monkeyflower	
<i>Gayophytum</i>	<i>diffusum</i>	Diffuse groundsmoke	
<i>Gayophytum</i>	<i>ramosissimum</i>	Groundsmoke	
<i>Halogeton</i>	<i>glomeratus</i>	Halogeton	non-native
<i>Iva</i>	<i>axillaris</i>	Povertyweed	
<i>Juncus</i>	<i>balticus</i>	Baltic rush	
<i>Ladania</i>	<i>lanceolatum</i>	Lance-leaved scurf pea	CNPS Rare Plant Rank 2B.3
<i>Layia</i>	<i>glandulosa</i>	Tidytops	
<i>Lepidium</i>	<i>perfoliatum</i>	Clasping pepperweed	non-native
<i>Lomatium</i>	<i>foeniculaceum</i>	MacDougal's lomatium	var. <i>macdouglasi</i> ; CNPS Rare Plant Rank 2B.2
<i>Lupinus</i>	<i>argenteus</i>	Silvery lupine	
<i>Mentzelia</i>	<i>albicaulis</i>	White-stemmd mentzelia	
<i>Mentzelia</i>	<i>congesta</i>	Clustered blazing star	
<i>Mimulus</i>	<i>nanus</i>	Skunky monkeyflower	var. <i>mephiticus</i>
<i>Muilla</i>	<i>transmontana</i>	Great Basin muilla	
<i>Myosurus</i>	<i>apetalus</i>	Bristly mousetail	var. <i>borealis</i>
<i>Nama</i>	<i>artiodes</i>	Purple nama	var. <i>multiflorum</i>
<i>Nama</i>	<i>densum</i>	Leafy nama	
<i>Nastursium</i>	<i>officinale</i>	Water cress	
<i>Onopardum</i>	<i>acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle	Nevada Category C noxious weed
<i>Paeonia</i>	<i>brownii</i>	Western peony	
<i>Penstemon</i>	<i>speciosus</i>	Showy penstemon	
<i>Phacelia</i>	<i>bicolor</i>	Twocolor phacelia	
<i>Phacelia</i>	<i>humilis</i>	Low phacelia	var. <i>humilis</i>
<i>Phlox</i>	<i>stansburyi</i>	Cold desert phlox	
<i>Ranunculus</i>	<i>cymbalaria</i>	Alkali buttercup	
<i>Rumex</i>	<i>venosus</i>	Winged dock	CNPS Rare Plant Rank 2B.3
<i>Salsola</i>	<i>tragus</i>	Russian thistle	non-native
<i>Sisymbrium</i>	<i>altissimum</i>	Tumble mustard	non-native
<i>Stephanomeria</i>	<i>paniculata</i>	Tufted wirelettuce	
<i>Tiquilla</i>	<i>nuttalii</i>	Nuttall's crinklemat	
<i>Veronica</i>	<i>americana</i>	American speedwell	
<i>Zigadensus</i>	<i>venenosus</i>	Death camas	

**PLUMAS-SIERRA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
FORT SAGE 69Kv INTERCONNECTION PROJECT,
LASSEN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, AND WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

2021 BASELINE WILDLIFE SURVEYS: SUMMARY REPORT

Hardy Biological Consulting, Paul C. Hardy

September 22, 2021

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to document completion of wildlife surveys compliant with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the proposed Fort Sage 69kV Transmission Line Project located in Lassen (CA) and Washoe (NV) counties, approximately 6 air miles northeast of Doyle, CA. This report also documents baseline conditions for special status wildlife species and associated habitats along the proposed transmission line route and identifies key issues for future consideration and analysis.

The proposed project involves construction of a new 14.35-mile, 69kV sub transmission intertie with the NV Energy 345-kV Reno-Alturas Transmission Line at the Fort Sage Substation. The proposed project was initially approved in 2011 as a 120kV line and the federal lead agencies, the Rural Utilities Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), concurred with a Finding of No Significant Impact. A minor re-route of the project alignment has been proposed to avoid private property and landowner conflicts. The proposed project would ensure reliability for the Sierra Army Depot (SIAD), prisons, irrigators, and most customers by connecting the NV Energy Fort Sage Substation to PSREC’s Patton and proposed SIAD Substations. This project would facilitate SIAD’s Resiliency Mandate, as directed by the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, and would help to mitigate the impacts of PG&E’s Public Safety Power Shutoff program (PSPS) events, not only at SIAD and the prisons, but for PSREC’s entire system.

Methods

Wildlife Baseline Surveys

Prior to conducting field surveys, consultation was initiated with the BLM Eagle Lake Field Office, NV Department of Wildlife, and CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife biologists and ecologists to inquire about known occurrences of special status wildlife species along the proposed project route. The CA Natural Diversity Database and the NV Natural Heritage Program database were searched for records of special status species. The 120kV project surveys and reports completed in 2007 and 2010 were reviewed. Based on agency biologist/ecologist feedback, state database searches, and review of prior reports, a target list of special status species (see **Table 1** below) and a survey plan were developed for the 2021 field survey.

Table 1. List of special status wildlife species that have the potential to occur within the project area¹.

Class	Scientific Name	Common Name*	Status**
INSECTA	<i>Pseudocopaesodes eunus obscurus</i>	Carson wandering skipper	Federal Endangered
INSECTA	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	monarch butterfly	Federal Candidate Endangered

INSECTA	<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	western bumble bee	CA Candidate Endangered BLM:S USFS:S
REPTILIA	<i>Sceloporus graciosus graciosus</i>	northern sagebrush lizard	BLM:S
AVES	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	greater sage-grouse	BLM:S CDFW:SSC
AVES	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	golden eagle	BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:FP CDFW:WL
AVES	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	ferruginous hawk	USFWS:BCC CDFW: WL
AVES	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk	CA Threatened BLM:S USFWS:BCC
AVES	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	northern harrier	CDFW:SSC
AVES	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	bald eagle	CA Endangered BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:FP
AVES	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	prairie falcon	USFWS:BCC CDFW:WL
AVES	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American peregrine falcon	USFWS:BCC CDFW:FP
AVES	<i>Antigone canadensis tabida</i>	greater sandhill crane	CA Threatened BLM:S CDFW:FP
AVES	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	long-billed curlew	USFSW:BCC CDFW:WL
AVES	<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	western yellow-billed cuckoo	Federal Endangered CA Threatened BLM:S USFWS:BCC
AVES	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	short-eared owl	CDFW:SSC
AVES	<i>Asio otus</i>	long-eared owl	CDFW:SSC
AVES	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl	BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC
AVES	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	loggerhead shrike	USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC
AVES	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	bank swallow	CA Threatened BLM:S
AVES	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	Brewer's sparrow	USFWS:BCC
AVES	<i>Icteria virens</i>	yellow-breasted chat	CDFW:SSC
AVES	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	tricolored blackbird	CA Threatened BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC

AVES	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	yellow warbler	USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC
MAMMALIA	<i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i>	pygmy rabbit	BLM:S CDFW:SSC
MAMMALIA	<i>Lepus townsendii</i>	western white-tailed jackrabbit	CDFW:SSC
MAMMALIA	<i>Canis lupus</i>	gray wolf	CA Endangered
MAMMALIA	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	CDFW:SSC BLM:SSI
MAMMALIA	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	mule deer	BLM:SSI
MAMMALIA	<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	pronghorn	BLM:SSI
MAMMALIA	<i>Cervus canadensis nelsoni</i>	Rocky Mountain elk	BLM:SSI

¹These special status species have the potential to occur with project area based upon CA Natural Diversity Database and NV Natural Heritage Program database searches, consultation with BLM and CA Department of Fish and wildlife biologists and ecologists, and previous surveys in the project area.

*Species names **in bold** indicate species observed in the project area during the 2021 wildlife surveys (see **Table 2** for additional detail on all species observed).

**Species Status Categories: BLM:S = Bureau of Land Management – Sensitive; BLM:SSI = Bureau of Land Management Species of Special Interest; CA Endangered = State-listed as Endangered under CA Endangered Species Act (CESA); CA Threatened = State-listed as Threatened under CESA; CA FP = CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Fully-Protected Species; CA SSC = CA Species of Special Concern; CA WL = CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Watch List Species; USFWS:BCC = U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern.

The wildlife field surveys along the proposed 14.35-mile transmission line corridor were conducted from late April through mid-June 2021, and followed BLM wildlife survey protocols (2014 BLM Nevada Statewide Wildlife Survey Protocols, see **Appendix B**). Field surveys were conducted on April 26, April 28, April 30, June 14, and June 15, 2021.

A pedestrian survey followed the entire proposed transmission line right of way (R/W), with the exception of the 1.4-mile stretch along the Herlong Access Road, which was surveyed by vehicle from the Herlong Access Road. Per BLM survey protocols (**Appendix B**), surveys were conducted within a 150-foot buffer on either side of the staked centerline for all species except raptors. For all raptor species except golden eagle, surveys were conducted within a 1-mile buffer on either side of the staked centerline; for golden eagle, surveys were conducted within a 2-mile buffer on either side of the centerline. At the terminus of the proposed line near the Fort Sage substation in Nevada, a staked, proposed substation area comprising approximately five acres, including a 150-foot buffer around site was surveyed.

Surveys were conducted for birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and the federally-endangered Carson wandering skipper (*Pseudocopaeodes eunus obscurus*). Reptiles and amphibians were identified by sight, and birds were identified by sight and sound. Mammals (except bats, which were not surveyed) were identified by sight, and/or by sign (e.g., tracks, scat, and burrows/diggings). Surveys for the Carson wandering skipper, were conducted on June 14 and June 15, 2021, and were limited to visual identification of adults along all stretches of the proposed transmission line route that supported saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), the preferred habitat for the Carson wandering skipper.

During the course of wildlife surveys, habitat types along the proposed transmission line route were identified and recorded according to the California WHR classification system (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988).

Results

A total of 40 bird species, 12 mammal species, and 3 reptile species were identified during wildlife surveys within the protocol survey area (**Appendix A**), including 11 special status species (see **Table 2**). No Carson wandering skippers or other federally-listed species within the project area were observed. The California State-threatened Swainson’s hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) was detected and, two nest sites were documented. Among the 11 special status species observed, five are BLM Sensitive Species (northern sagebrush lizard, golden eagle, Swainson’s hawk, burrowing owl, and pygmy rabbit) and three are BLM Species of Special Interest (American badger, mule deer, and pronghorn).

Among the 11 special status species observed, the following six species were confirmed to breed in the vicinity of the proposed transmission line route within the protocol survey area: golden eagle, Swainson’s hawk, burrowing owl, loggerhead shrike, Brewer’s sparrow, and American badger.

Table 2. Potential special status wildlife species, species observations, breeding status, and presence of suitable habitat, PSREC Fort Sage 69kV Project.

Species*	Status**	Date(s) Observed	Total # Observed	Breeding Status	Potentially-Suitable Habitat Present in Project Area?
Carson wandering skipper	Federal Endangered	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes
monarch butterfly	Federal Candidate Endangered	N/A	Not observed	N/A	No (no milkweed spp. observed)
western bumble bee	CA Candidate Endangered BLM:S USFS:S	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes
northern sagebrush lizard	BLM:S	4/28, 4/30, 6/14	25+	Highly Probable	Yes
greater sage-grouse	BLM:S CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes
golden eagle	BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:FP CDFW:WL	4/28, 4/30, 6/14, 6/15	5	Confirmed (nest and 2 lg chicks)	Yes
ferruginous hawk	USFWS:BCC CDFW: WL	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes (species likely only present in winter)
Swainson’s hawk	CA Threatened BLM:S USFWS:BCC	4/30, 6/14	3	Confirmed	Yes

northern harrier	CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes (no suitable nesting habitat; but suitable for foraging, migration)
bald eagle	CA Endangered BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:FP	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes (no suitable nesting habitat; but suitable for foraging, migration)
prairie falcon	USFWS:BCC CDFW:WL	4/30	1	Likely	Yes (suitable breeding habitat in rock formations/cliffs of Turtle Mtn)
American peregrine falcon	USFWS:BCC CDFW:FP	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes (suitable breeding habitat in rock formations/cliffs of Turtle Mtn)
greater sandhill crane	CA Threatened BLM:S CDFW:FP	N/A	Not observed	N/A	No
long-billed curlew	USFSW:BCC CDFW:WL	N/A	Not observed	N/A	No
western yellow-billed cuckoo	Federal Endangered CA Threatened BLM:S USFWS:BCC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	No
short-eared owl	CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes
long-eared owl	CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes (ornamental trees)
burrowing owl	BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC	4/26, 4/28, 4/30, 6/14, 6/15	8	Confirmed (2 nest burrows w/ 4 total owlets)	Yes
loggerhead shrike	USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC	4/26, 4/28, 4/30, 6/14, 6/15	15+	Confirmed (2 nests located)	Yes
bank swallow	CA Threatened BLM:S	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes (no nesting habitat present; but potential foraging and migration habitat is)
Brewer's sparrow	USFWS:BCC	4/28, 4/30, 6/14	12+	Confirmed (4 nests located)	Yes
yellow-breasted chat	CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	No
tricolored blackbird	CA Threatened BLM:S USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	No
yellow warbler	USFWS:BCC CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	No
pygmy rabbit	BLM:S CDFW:SSC	4/30, 5/11	2	Highly Probable	Yes

western white-tailed jackrabbit	CDFW:SSC	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes
gray wolf	CA Endangered	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes
American badger	CDFW:SSC BLM:SSI	4/26, 4/28, 4/30, 6/14, 6/15	14 active burrows	Confirmed	Yes (very common in dune areas)
mule deer	BLM:SSI	4/28, 4/30	Fresh tracks, scat	Unlikely	Yes (wintering habitat present)
pronghorn	BLM:SSI	4/26, 4/28, 4/30, 6/14, 6/15	20	Confirmed	Yes
Rocky Mountain elk	BLM:SSI	N/A	Not observed	N/A	Yes

¹These special status species have the potential to occur with project area based upon CA Natural Diversity Database and NV Natural Heritage Program database searches, consultation with BLM and CA Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists and ecologists, and previous survey experience in the project area.

*Species names **in bold** indicate species observed in the project area during the 2021 wildlife surveys.

**Species Status Categories: BLM:S = Bureau of Land Management – Sensitive; BLM:SSI = Bureau of Land Management Species of Special Interest; CA Endangered = State-listed as Endangered under CA Endangered Species Act (CESA); CA Threatened = State-listed as Threatened under CESA; CA FP = CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Fully-Protected Species; CA SSC = CA Species of Special Concern; CA WL = CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Watch List Species; USFWS:BCC = U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern.

Potential Impacts and Recommendations

The only listed species observed within the protocol survey area was State-threatened Swainson’s hawk, for which two active nests were located. Given the distance from the proposed transmission line to this nest, no adverse project impacts would occur. The second Swainson’s hawk nest is located near Herlong Access Road. Given the nearly constant flow of daytime traffic along Herlong Access Road, it is anticipated that the proposed project would not introduce any negative effects to this nesting site.

The perennially-used golden eagle nest on Turtle Mountain produced two fledglings again in 2021. Given its distance from the proposed transmission line and that fact that the nest site is subject to heavy traffic along Fort Sage Road, it is anticipated that the construction of the transmission line would not introduce any negative effects to the species and to this nesting site. However, the natural flight trajectory may frequently take the eagles across the new transmission line and introduce the potential for line collision. Therefore, it is recommended that increasing the visibility of the line with flagging, reflective material, and/or other best practices should occur. Also, given that the eagles frequently hunt in the vicinity of the proposed transmission line, attention should be given to a pole/insulator/crossbar/line design that minimizes risk of electrocution, while providing safe perch sites.

The burrowing owl, a California Species of Special Concern and BLM Sensitive Species, was found near the proposed transmission line. Give the distance from the proposed line and the fact that these nest sites are subject to a regular flow of vehicle traffic (including heavy equipment), it is anticipated that this project would not affect this species.

Many active American badger (BLM Sensitive Species) burrow/dens occur in the immediate vicinity of the proposed transmission line and badgers are especially common along the 1.5-mile stretch of the proposed line located north/northeast of Turtle Mountain. These dens and burrows are often also used by nesting burrowing owls as well (see 2011 report) and a variety of other species. In order to minimize potential impacts to breeding American badgers, the following mitigation measures are recommended: 1) delaying construction until after May 30th (badger kits are usually born between March and late April and are highly mobile by late May); and 2) avoiding grading over, excavating, or otherwise disturbing badger dens with heavy equipment. This recommended mitigation would entail scouting the proposed line and pole placement locations prior to construction, flagging burrow/den sites, and avoiding these sites whenever possible.

The other special status species found nesting in the immediate vicinity of the proposed transmission line are loggerhead shrike and pygmy rabbit. Both of these species were found nesting and/or utilizing the mature sagebrush stands in the immediate vicinity of the proposed transmission line route. To minimize potential impacts to both species, it is recommended that construction occur after May 30th (a date after which shrike chicks have fledged and pygmy bunnies are highly mobile). Additionally, avoiding grading over, excavating, or otherwise disturbing pygmy rabbit burrows with heavy equipment is suggested. This avoidance practice would entail scouting the proposed line and pole placement locations prior to construction, flagging burrows, and avoiding these sites whenever possible.

The large, high-intensity Long Valley and Laura 2 fires of 2017 and 2020, respectively, greatly impacted the formerly very diverse Great Basin scrub habitats on the northeast and north slopes of Turtle Mountain. The diverse structure and composition of the scrub habitats along the proposed route supported a surprising number of nesting bird species. Black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*), lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), and loggerhead shrike were all common breeders. All of these species are still found in the project area, but in much lower densities than in 2007 and 2010. Burrowing owls and American badgers are also less common in the project area now than prior to these fires. A widespread reduction of nesting substrate, cover, and food/prey sources are among the post-fire drivers of this dramatic change in bird density/diversity.

Considerable dumping (including of boats) was observed along the proposed transmission route in the 0.75 miles south of the Union Pacific Railroad line. Therefore, it is recommended the project's habitat improvement and mitigation components would include cleaning up this trash and eliminating the hazard it represents to public safety, wildlife species, and water quality.

In summary, the proposed Fort Sage 69kV transmission line would not significantly affect any special status wildlife species, provided the previously discussed potential minor impacts would be mitigated and/or avoided by following the mitigation recommendations as noted. See **Table 3** below for a summary of recommended mitigation and habitat improvement measures.

Table 3. Recommended mitigation and habitat improvement measures for special status species.

Species	Potential Impacts	Recommended Mitigation and Habitat Improvement Measures
golden eagle	Transmission line collision	Increase visibility of transmission lines with flagging, reflective material, and/or other best practices.
golden eagle	Electrocution	Utilize pole/insulator/crossbar/line design and best practices that minimize risk of electrocution while providing safe perch sites.
American badger	Disruption of and/or harm to denning badgers and badger kits	Delay construction until after May 30th (badger kits usually born between March and late April and highly mobile by late May).
American badger	Damage/destruction of badger dens	Avoid grading over, excavating, or otherwise disturbing badger dens with heavy equipment. Recommended mitigation would also entail scouting the proposed line and pole placement locations prior to construction, flagging burrow/den sites, and avoiding these sites whenever possible.
loggerhead shrike	Disruption of and/or harm to nesting shrikes, nests, and nestlings	Delay construction until after May 30th (date after which shrike chicks have fledged).
pygmy rabbit	Disruption of and/or harm to denning pygmy rabbits and bunnies.	Delay construction until after May 30th (date after which pygmy rabbit bunnies are highly mobile).
pygmy rabbit	Damage/destruction of pygmy rabbit burrows	Avoid grading over, excavating, or otherwise disturbing pygmy rabbit burrows with heavy equipment. This avoidance practice would also entail scouting the proposed line and pole placement locations prior to construction, flagging burrows, and avoiding these sites whenever possible.
All Species	Dump sites and the hazard they represent to wildlife, water quality, and public safety.	Clean up this trash and safely dispose of off-site.

Appendix A. List of all wildlife species observed during surveys.

Bird Species Observed (40 species)

CALIFORNIA QUAIL
TURKEY VULTURE
RED-TAILED HAWK
SWAINSON'S HAWK
GOLDEN EAGLE
AMERICAN KESTREL
PRAIRIE FALCON
KILLDEER
MOURNING DOVE
EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE
COMMON NIGHTHAWK
GREAT HORNED OWL
BURROWING OWL
WESTERN KINGBIRD
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE
COMMON RAVEN
HORNED LARK
BUSHTIT
ROCK WREN
BEWICK'S WREN
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD
AMERICAN ROBIN
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD
SAGE THRASHER
EUROPEAN STARLING
SPOTTED TOWHEE
BREWER'S SPARROW
LARK SPARROW
BLACK-THROATED SPARROW
SAGE SPARROW
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD
WESTERN MEADOWLARK
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD
BULLOCK'S ORIOLE
HOUSE FINCH
LESSER GOLDFINCH
HOUSE SPARROW

Mammal Species Observed (12 species)

BROAD-FOOTED MOLE
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
BLACK-TAILED JACKRABBIT
BELDING'S GROUND SQUIRREL
ANTELOPE GROUND SQUIRREL
TOWNSEND'S GROUND SQUIRREL
KANGAROO RAT SP. (PROBABLY ORD'S)
DESERT WOOD RAT
MULE DEER
PRONGHORN
AMERICAN BADGER
COYOTE

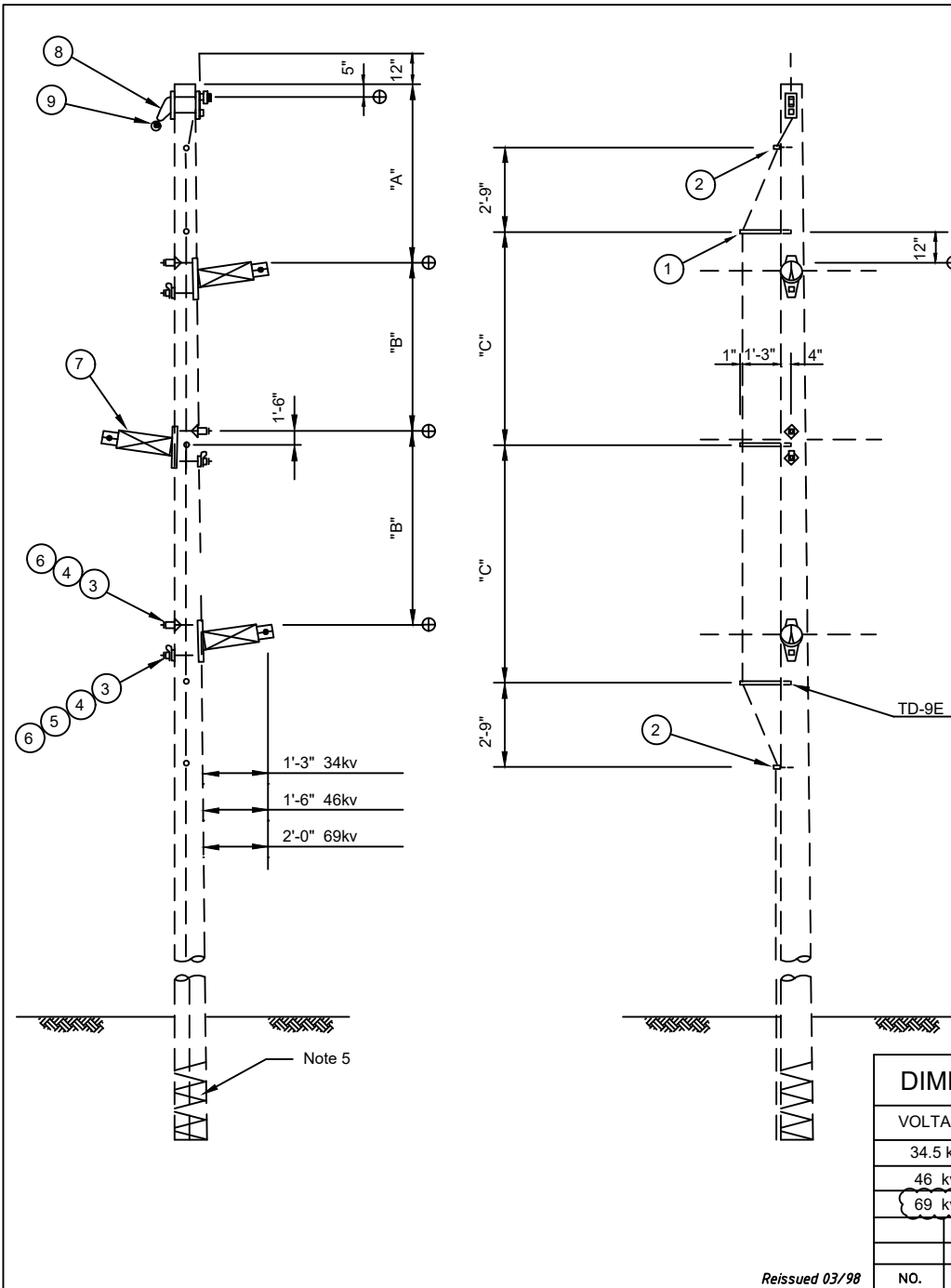
Herp Species Observed (3 species)

GREAT BASIN FENCE LIZARD
NORTHERN SAGEBRUSH LIZARD
LONG-NOSED LEOPARD LIZARD

Appendix B. 2014 BLM Nevada Statewide Wildlife Survey Protocols.

References

Mayer, K. E. and W. F. Laudenslayer Jr. (Eds.). 1988. A Guide to Wildlife Habitats in California.



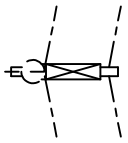
LIST OF MATERIALS					
DWG. REF.	QTY.	DESCRIPTION	ITEM	DET.	CODE No.
1	3	Rod, Fiberglass, 3/4" x 1'-8"			
3	2	Wireholder, w/ #22 wood screw	ar		
3	6	3/4" Bolt, Machine by req'd length	c		
4	6	Washer, Curved, 4"sq x 1/4", 13/16hole	d		
5	3	Washer, Spring, 13/16" hole	aw		
6	6	3/4" Locknut, MF Type	ek		
7	3	INSULATOR, HORIZONTAL POST, W/CLAMP	-	TM-3	
8	1	OHGW SUPPORT ASSEMBLY	-	TM-6	
9	1	OHGW ASSEMBLY, TANGENT	-	TM-4	

NOTES:

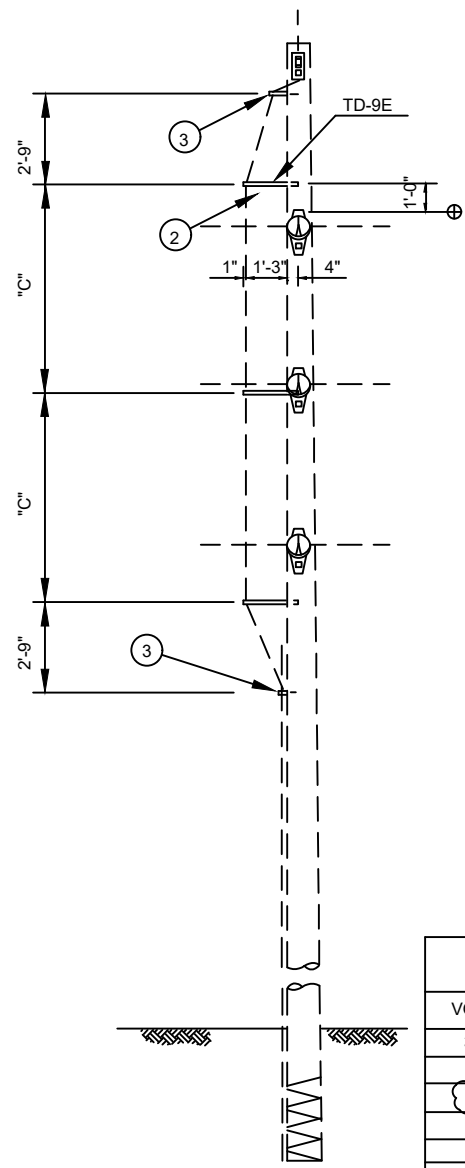
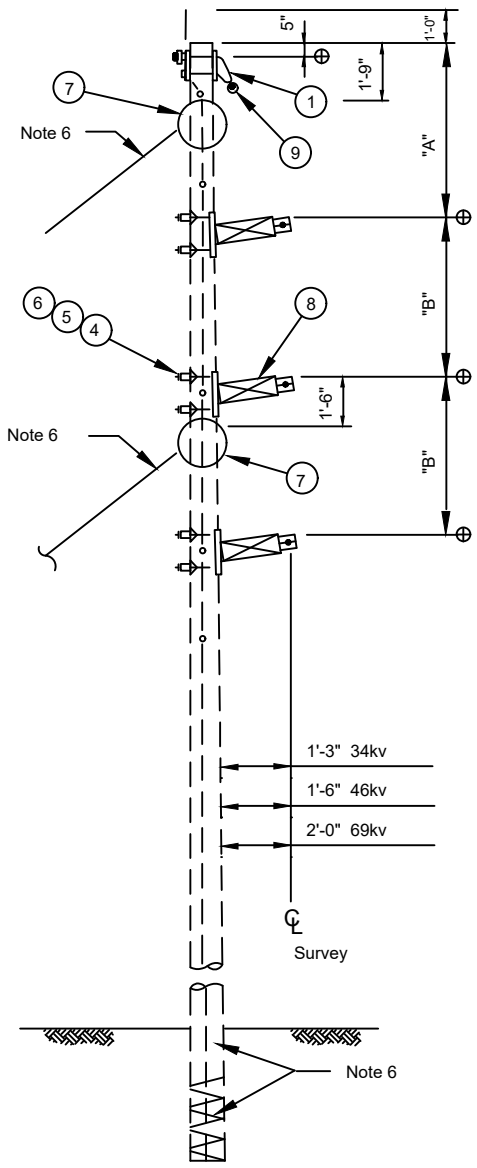
1. Metal shims should be used to adjust post insulator when brackets are located on uneven pole surfaces.
2. Strength limitations of horizontal post:
 - a. Maximum cantilever load 2,800 lbs.
 - b. Maximum tensile and compression 5,000 lbs.
(Loads a and b are simultaneous)
3. For strength limitations of overhead ground wire support assembly, see TM-6.
4. Drawing TE-1 gives guidance to subassembly alternatives.
5. The following materials are to be specified on the plan and profile drawings and staking sheets: POLE, POLE GROUNDING ASSEMBLY, AND ANY ADDITIONAL GROUNDING OR FOUNDATION UNITS.

DIMENSIONS A, B & C				TRANSMISSION LINE STRUCTURE	
VOLTAGE	A	B	C	TANGENT HORIZONTAL LINE POST	
34.5 kv	5'-0"	4'-0"	5'-5"	(69 kV MAXIMUM)	
46 kv	5'-6"	4'-6"	5'-11"		
69 kv	6'-0"	5'-0"	6'-6"		
NO.	REVISION	DATE	Aug., 1986	TP-34G, 46G (69G)	

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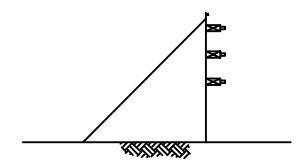
PLAN VIEW



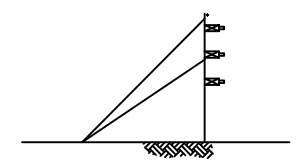
			LIST OF MATERIALS			
DWG. REF.	B1	B2	DESCRIPTION	ITEM	DET.	CODE No.
1	1	1	OHGW Support Assembly, double bolt	-	TM-6B	
2	3	3	Rod, Fiberglass, 3/4" x 1'-8"			
3	2	2	Wireholder, w/#22 wood screw	ar		
4	6	6	3/4" Bolt, Machine, by req'd length	c		
5	6	6	Washer, Curved, 4"sq x 1/4", 13/16" hole	d		
6	6	6	3/4" Locknut, MF Type	ek		
7	1	2	GUY ATTACHMENT, _____ DUTY	-	TG- C	
8	3	3	INSULATOR, HORIZONTAL POST w/CLAMP	-	TM-3	
9	1	1	OGHW ASSEMBLY, TANGENT	-	TM-4	

NOTES:

1. Metal shims should be used to adjust post insulator when brackets are located on uneven pole surfaces.
2. This structure is to be used for line angles up to 15 degrees.
3. Strength limitations of horizontal post:
 - a. Maximum cantilever load 2,800 lbs.
 - b. Maximum tensile load 5,000 lbs.
 - (Loads a plus b are simultaneous)
4. Strength limitations of overhead ground wire support assembly, see TM-6B.
5. See drawing TE-1 for guidance to subassembly alternatives.
6. The following materials are to be specified on the plan and profile drawings and staking sheets: POLE, POLE GROUNDING ASSEMBLY, GUYING ASSEMBLIES, ANCHORS, AND ANY ADDITIONAL GROUNDING OR FOUNDATION UNITS.



TYPE B1

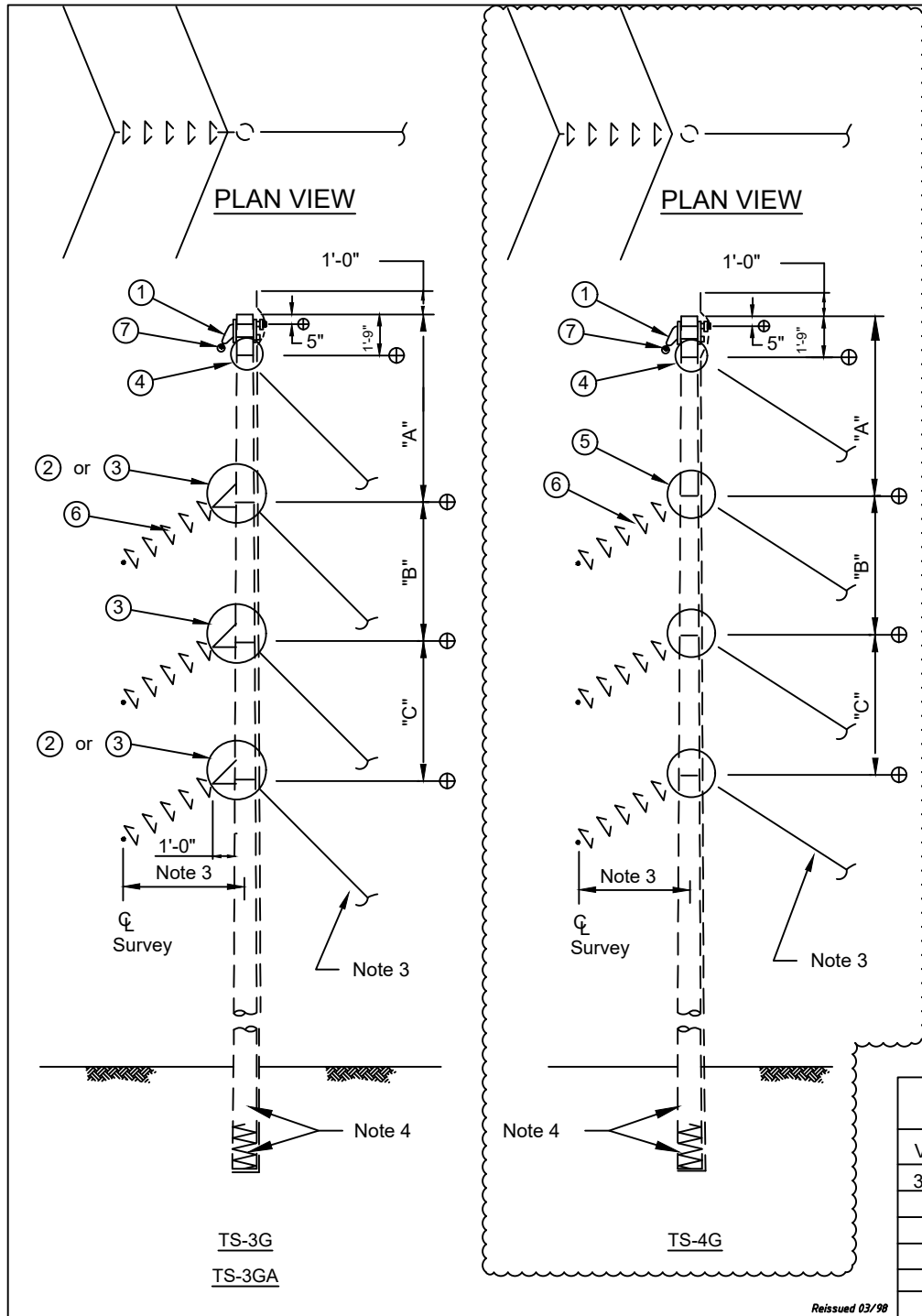


TYPE B2

DIMENSION A, B & C				TRANSMISSION LINE STRUCTURE		
VOLTAGE	A	B	C	SMALL ANGLE HORIZONTAL LINE POST		
34.5 kv	6'-0"	5'-0"	6'-5"	(69kv MAXIMUM)		
46 kv	6'-6"	5'-6"	6'-11"			
69 kv	7'-0"	6'-0"	7'-6"			
NO.	REVISION	DATE	Aug., 1986	TP-34GB, 46GB, 69GB		

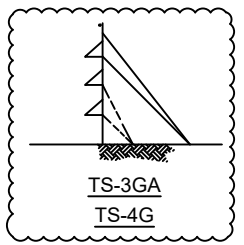
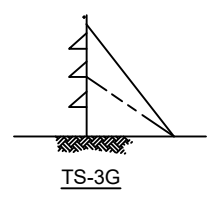
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Figure #3b - Typical RUS Standard Small Angle Structure



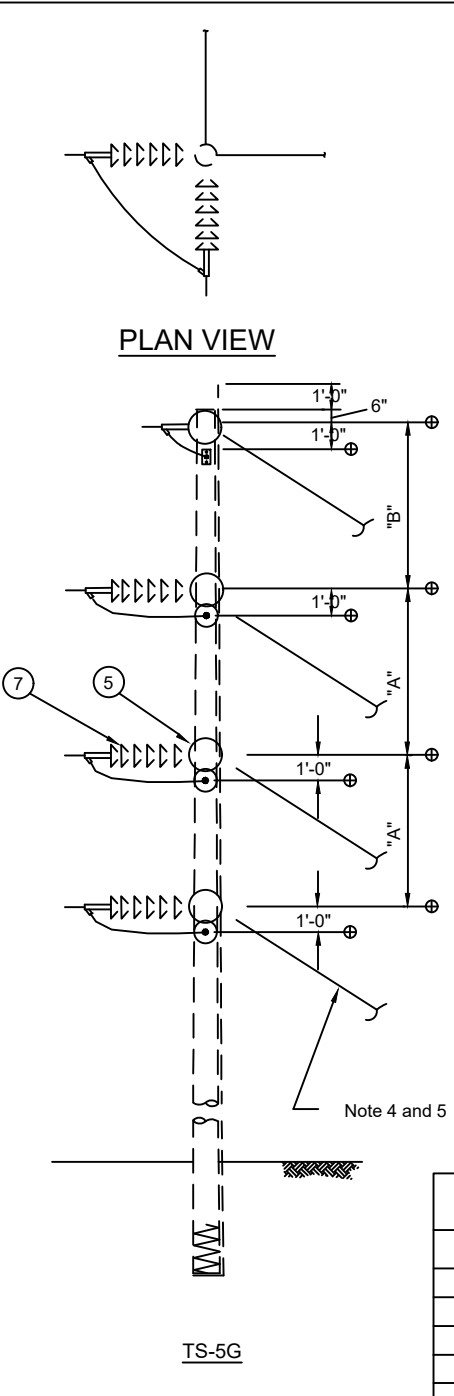
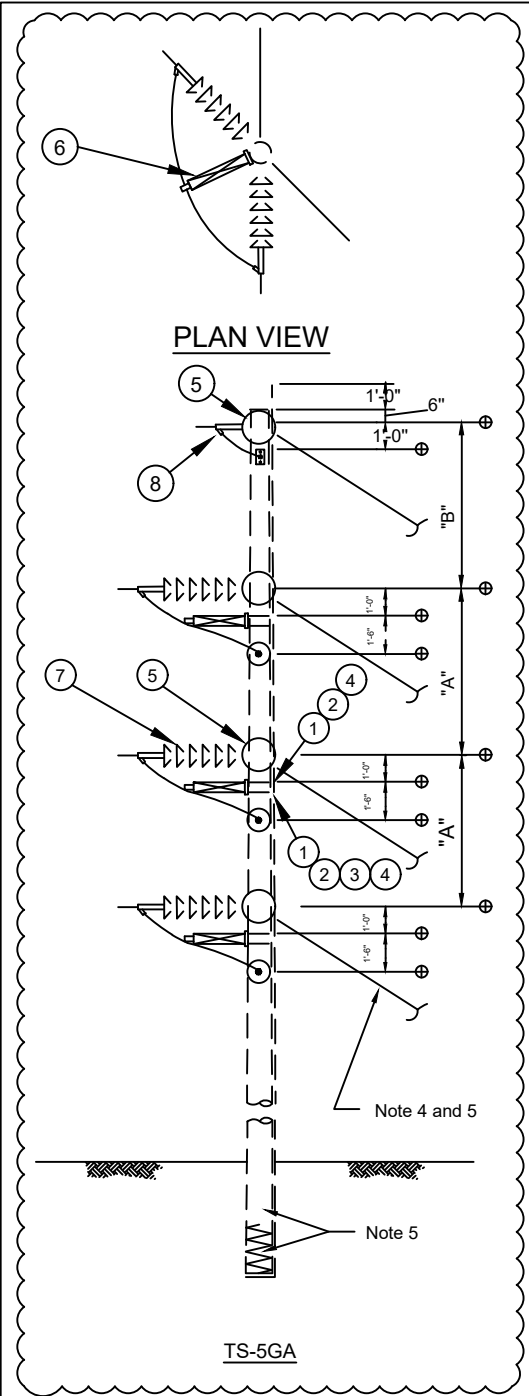
DWG. REF.	TS-			DESCRIPTION	ITEM	DET.	CODE No.
	3G	3GA	4G				
1	1	1	1	OHWG Support Assembly, double bolt	-	TM-6B	
2	2	-	-	BRACKET ASSEMBLY, _____ DUTY	-	TG-_____	
3	1	3	-	BRACKET & GUY ATTACH., _____ DUTY	-	TG-_____	
4	1	1	1	GUY ATTACHMENT, _____ DUTY	-	TG-_____ C	
5	-	-	3	GUY ATTACHMENT, _____ DUTY	-	TG-_____ D	
6	3	3	3	INSULATOR ASSEMBLY, ANGLE	-	TM-_____ C	
7	1	1	1	OHWG ASSEMBLY, ANGLE	-	TM-4_____	

- NOTES:**
- Maximum line angle for TS-4G is 50 degrees.
 - Drawing TE-1 gives guidance to subassembly alternatives.
 - For guying arrangements and offset table, see drawing TMG-2G.
 - The following materials are to be specified on plan and profile drawings and staking sheets: POLES, POLE GROUNDING ASSEMBLY, GUYING ASSEMBLIES, ANCHORS, AND ANY ADDITIONAL GROUNDING OR POLE FOUNDATION UNITS.



DIMENSIONS A, B & C				TRANSMISSION LINE STRUCTURE
VOLTAGE	A	B	C	
34kV, 46kV	6'-0"	6'-0"	6'-0"	MEDIUM AND LARGE VERTICAL ANGLES (69 kV MAXIMUM)
69 kV	7'-0"	7'-0"	7'-0"	
NO.				REVISION
NO.				DATE
NO.				Aug., 1986
NO.				TS-3G, 3GA, 4G

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DWG. REF.	TS -		LIST OF MATERIALS			
	5A	5	DESCRIPTION	ITEM	DET.	CODE No.
1	6	-	3/4" Bolt, Machine, by req'd length	c		
2	6	-	Washer, Curved, 4"sq x 1/4", 13/16" hole	d		
3	3	-	Washer, Spring, 13/16" hole	aw		
4	6	-	3/4" Locknut, MF Type	ek		
5	8	8	GUY ATTACHMENT, ___ DUTY	-	TG-__D	
6	3	-	INSULATOR, HORIZONTAL POST, W/CLAMP	-	TM-3__	
7	6	6	INSULATOR ASSEMBLY, DEADEND	-	TM-__	
8	2	2	OHGW ASSEMBLY, DEADEND	-	TM-4__	

- NOTES:**
1. Metal shims should be used to adjust post insulators when brackets are located on uneven pole surfaces.
 2. Minimum line angle for TS-5GA is 50 degrees. Maximum line angle for TS-5G is 90 degrees.
 3. Drawing TE-1 gives guidance to subassembly alternatives.
 4. For guying arrangements, see drawing TMG-2G.
 5. The following materials are to be specified on plan and profile drawings and staking sheets: POLES, POLE GROUNDING ASSEMBLY, GUYING ASSEMBLIES, ANCHORS, AND ANY ADDITIONAL GROUNDING OR POLE FOUNDATION UNITS.

DIMENSIONS A & B			TRANSMISSION LINE STRUCTURE
VOLTAGE	A	B	
34kV & 46kV	6'-0"	6'-0"	VERTICAL DOUBLE DEADEND (69 kV MAXIMUM)
69 kV	7'-0"	7'-0"	
NO.	REVISION	DATE	Aug., 1986
			TS-5G, 5GA

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