

Comments captured at the June 6, 2006 Caribou public meeting

Comment from Forest Service – In the Environmental Assessment, the decisions that the Forest Service will make include:

1. Designate a new utility corridor for the Caribou-Targhee Forest Plan.
2. Granting of special use permit for the utility corridor and update Lower Valley Energy existing permit.

Elk and deer move north to south across the area of the Blackfoot River Ranch with the first rains in fall/winter, usually early November. Lower Valley Energy and BPA should not have any construction activity in this area during that time period.

Don't break up the landscape and habitat with another utility corridor. Look at installing the line on or next to existing disrupted corridor. For example along highway 34 or Monsanto haul road/Union Pacific railroad tracks, where there already is a disruption in landscape and habitat.

Use Monsanto Haul road as a route for the transmission line. Don't go across agriculture land west of Highway 34.

Mitch Hart is the developer and owner of Mountain Island Energy. They are doing a feasibility study now for the proposed coal-fired generation plant. He would like to site the substation on his property.

To limit the impact to irrigation, keep easements on section lines and not through middle of sections.

Avoid all Monsanto mineral leases.

Check out Haul road for available vertical clearance for siting the transmission line there.

Would there need to be new access roads created for the transmission line?

Avoid nearby cattle ranches when siting the line.

There may be a proposed geothermal plant near China Hat.

The proposed project should mitigate for any disturbance of farm land.

Clarify whether LVE would buy pole easements, land, or utility easements? What will the set width be for the new easement?

Site the transmission line and substation to avoid the bald eagle nest.

Consider a new route north of the river.

Current bird flights would be killed crossing the river with the new line.

Study the impacts of selenium poison from the mines (soil). During construction trucks and equipment may disturb soil and spread obnoxious weeds and poisons.

Find a new route that avoids farm lands and wet lands.