



June 20, 2006

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Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs Office - DKC-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, OR 97293-4428

RE: BPA Proposed Caribou 138/155-kilovolt Substation and Caribou-Lower Valley 115 kV Transmission Line

Dear Planning Team:

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation reviewed BPA Proposed Caribou 138/155-kilovolt Substation and Caribou-Lower Valley 115 kV Transmission Line scoping document. BPA proposes to build a substation and Lower Valley Energy proposes to build a transmission line near Soda Springs, Idaho.

The scoping letter noted that BPA's proposed substation is adjacent to an existing substation. This project will have no effect on recreation opportunities and a minimal effect on visual quality.

Lower Valley's proposed transmission line parallels State Highway 34. This highway is a part of the Pioneer Historic Byway. The planning team should work with the Idaho Transportation Department to insure visual standards for the historic byway are met.

The proposed transmission line also would pass through Caribou National Forest lands near the Blackfoot Narrows. The line itself wouldn't be visible in the narrows, but the surrounding lands are designated as a partial retention visual quality standard as a part of the Caribou National Forest Revised Forest Plan. Lower Valley Energy should work with the forest to minimize the visual impact on National Forest lands.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposal and look forward to receiving an electronic copy of the preliminary EA. If you have any questions about our comments, please contact me at (208) 334-4180 ext. 230.

Sincerely,

Jeff Cook, Outdoor Recreation Analyst
Comprehensive Planning, Research and Review