

Finding of No Significant Impact

Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (Plumas-Sierra) of Portola, California has requested approval from the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) to construct 51.2 km (32 miles) of 69 kV transmission line and associated facilities. The proposed line would extend from the Chilcoot Substation in Plumas County to the Herlong Substation in Lassen County. Associated facilities would include the removal of the existing 12.5/7.2 kV distribution line structures and underbuilding the distribution circuit on the proposed transmission line. Substation modifications would also be made to the Chilcoot and Herlong Substations.

The environmental effects of the project are discussed and evaluated in the Borrower's Environmental Report (BER) and other support documents prepared by Plumas-Sierra. The REA staff has reviewed this information and prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) which represents an independent evaluation of the environmental effects of the proposed project. A copy of the EA is attached to and incorporated as part of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

REA has determined that the proposed project will not affect wetlands, floodplains, important farmland, prime rangeland or forestland, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat, and any property listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Visual impact from construction of the proposed line would be unavoidable. However, it would be minimal. No other issues of environmental concern were identified by REA.

Alternatives examined for the proposed project include no action, rebuilding the existing 69 kV line, building a new line adjacent to the existing 69 kV transmission line and removing the existing line, constructing a new line between the Chilcoot and Herlong Substations and alternate routes. REA has concluded that the overall positive benefits of the project implementation outweigh the negative impacts associated with the project. Construction and operation of the proposed facility would not, in REA's judgment, result in any unacceptable environmental impact. In accordance with REA's Environmental Policies and Procedures, 7 CFR Part 1794, Plumas-Sierra advertised the availability of its BER in newspapers of general circulation in the project area. Comments were solicited from the public. No comments were received within 30 days of the notice.

REA has independently evaluated the proposed project and has concluded that approval of the project would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. REA reached a FONSI in accordance with 7 CFR Sections 1794.33 (a)(7) and 1794.63. The preparation of an environmental impact statement is not necessary.

CALENDAR PAGE 435
MINUTE PAGE 2783



United States Department of the Interior
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 CARSON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE
 1535 Hot Springs Rd., Ste. 300
 Carson City, NV 89703-0638

EXHIBIT "F"
 W 24517



IN REPLY REFER TO

CA-22472
 2800
 (NV-03337)

JAN 18 1990

REC'D FEB 18 1990

CERTIFIED MAIL
 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Bernie Pfile
 General Manager
 Plumas - Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative
 P.O. Box 2000
 Fortola, CA 96122-2000

Dear Mr. Pfile:

The enclosed right-of-way grant will be subject to the terms and conditions contained therein. If you concur with the stipulations, please sign and return both copies of the grant to this office. If you do not concur, submit your objections and recommendations for review and consideration.

A bill is enclosed for a one-time fee of \$100.00 for monitoring the construction, operation, maintenance and termination of the right-of-way.

An executed copy of the grant will be returned to you upon our receipt of the signed grants and fee. We wish to emphasize that only existing roadways are to be used to access the subject lands. If you have any questions, please contact Joanna Buel of this office at 882-1631.

Sincerely yours,

James W. Elliott

James W. Elliott
 District Manager

- 2 Enclosures
 1. Grant (2)
 2. Bill

cc John McGowan (original copy)
 FOR: ROWGRANT

JUST 1-22-90

PAUL SMITH

1/22/90

CALENDAR PAGE Full
 MINUTE PAGE 2984

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
RIGHT-OF-WAY GRANT/TEMPORARY USE PERMIT

Issuing Office Carson City District
1535 Hot Springs Road, Suite
Carson City, NV 89706
Serial Number CA-22472

1. A (right-of-way) (permit) is hereby granted pursuant to:

- a. Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1701);
- b. Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 185);
- c. Other (describe): _____

2. Nature of Interest:

a. By this instrument, the holder PLUMAS-SIERRA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE receives a permit to construct, operate, maintain, and terminate a 69/116 kV transmission line on public lands (or Federal land for MLA Rights-of-Way) described as follows:

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 22 N., R. 17 E.,
sec. 3, lot 1, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 4, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 5, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 6, lots 2 and 3;
sec. 10, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 23 N., R. 17 E.,
sec. 2, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 11, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 14, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 15, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 22, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 27, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 34, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 24 N., R. 17 E.,
sec. 25, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

b. The right-of-way or permit area granted herein is 75 feet wide, 36,955 feet long and contains 65.39 acres, more or less. If a size type facility, the facility contains _____ acres.

c. This instrument shall terminate on _____ 30 years from its effective date unless, prior thereto, it is relinquished, abandoned, terminated, or modified pursuant to the terms and conditions of this instrument or of any applicable Federal law or regulation.

d. This instrument may may not be renewed. If renewed, this right-of-way or permit shall be subject to the regulations existing at the time of renewal and any other terms and conditions that the authorized officer deems necessary to protect the public interest.

e. Notwithstanding the expiration of this instrument or any renewal thereof, entry relinquishment, abandonment, or termination, the provisions of this instrument, to the extent applicable, shall continue in effect and shall be binding on the holder, its successors, or assigns, until they have fully satisfied the obligations and/or liabilities accruing herein before or on account of the expiration, or prior termination, of the grant.

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MINUTE PAGE 2985

STANDARD STIPULATIONS

1. This grant is subject to all valid rights existing on the effective date of this grant.
2. The right to grant additional rights-of-way or permits for compatible use on, over, under, or adjacent to the land involved in this grant is reserved to the Authorized Officer.
3. The Holder shall conduct all activities associated with the construction, operation, and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.
4. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the Holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the Authorized Officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the Authorized Officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the Authorized Officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The Holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the Holder.
5. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Authorized Officer, powerlines shall be constructed in accordance to standards outlined in "Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Powerlines," Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., 1981. The Holder shall assume the burden and expense of proving that pole designs not shown in the above publication are "eagle safe." Such proof shall be provided by a raptor expert approved by the Authorized Officer. The BLM reserves the right to require modifications or additions to all powerline structures placed on this right-of-way, should they be necessary to ensure the safety of large perching birds. Such modifications and/or additions shall be made by the Holder without liability or expense to the United States. The Holder shall report any and all wildlife kills, including raptor electrocutions, discovered or reported on or near the project facilities to the Authorized Officer.
6. In case of change of address, the Holder shall immediately notify the Authorized Officer.
7. Prior to abandonment of any portion of the facilities authorized by this grant, the Holder shall contact the Authorized Officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. The inspection will be held to agree on an acceptable rehabilitation plan. The Authorized Officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the Holder commencing any abandonment and/or rehabilitation activities.

SPECIAL STIPULATIONS

1. The Holder shall not clear any vegetation from the right-of-way. All vehicular travel shall be overland along the right-of-way.
2. Construction of the powerline from the Diatomics Plant to State Route 70 shall not occur during the time period of November 15 through March 31 to reduce impacts to wildlife in the area.
3. During the month of November following construction, the Holder shall reseed and rake all areas disturbed as a result of construction activities. The following seed mixture and rates of application shall be used:
 - Intermediate Wheatgrass
(6 lbs. per acre - Pure Live Seed (PLS))
 - Crested Wheatgrass (highcrest var.)
(6 lbs. per acre (PLS))
 - Sainfoin
(2 lbs. per acre (PLS))
 - Alfalfa (ladak var.)
(1 lb. per acre (PLS))
4. The Holder shall use clean creosote-treated powerpoles.
5. The Holder shall repair any fence to original condition that has been damaged within the right-of-way area as a result of construction activities.
6. Trees within the right-of-way area, which are necessary for wildlife cover, shall not be removed by the Holder unless absolutely necessary.
7. Cultural resources site CA-LAS-1386 shall be spanned using two 3-pole wooden structures to be constructed in accordance with the plans marked Exhibit D.

3 Rental.

For and in consideration of the rights granted, the holder agrees to pay the Bureau of Land Management fair market value rental as determined by the authorized officer unless specifically exempted from such payment by regulation. Provided, however, that the rental may be adjusted by the authorized officer, whenever necessary, to reflect changes in the fair market rental value as determined by the application of sound business management principles, and in far as practicable and feasible, in accordance with comparable commercial practices.

4 Terms and Conditions:

- 1. This grant or permit is issued subject to the holder's compliance with all applicable regulations contained in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations 2800 and 2880.
- 2. Upon grant termination by the authorized officer, all improvements shall be removed from the public lands within 90 days, or otherwise disposed of as provided in paragraph (4)(d) or as directed by the authorized officer.
- 3. Each grant issued pursuant to the authority of paragraph (1)(a) for a term of 20 years or more shall, at a minimum, be reviewed by the authorized officer at the end of the 20th year and at regular intervals thereafter not to exceed 10 years. Provided, however, that a right-of-way or permit granted herein may be reviewed at any time deemed necessary by the authorized officer.
- 4. The stipulations, plans, maps, or designs set forth in Exhibits A, B, and C, dated December 18, 1989 attached hereto, are incorporated into and made a part of this grant instrument as fully and effectively as if they were set forth herein in their entirety.
- 5. Failure of the holder to comply with applicable law or any provision of this right-of-way grant or permit shall constitute grounds for suspension or termination thereof.
- 6. The holder shall perform all operations in a good and workmanlike manner so as to ensure protection of the environment and the health and safety of the public.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The undersigned agrees to the terms and conditions of this right-of-way grant or permit.

[Signature]
 (Signature of Holder)
PLUMMER - ERIC R. C.
CONTRACT MANAGER
 (Title)

 (Signature of Authorized Officer)
District Manager, Carson City District
 (Title)

1-19-90
 (Date)

 (Effective Date of Grant)

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 PRIOR TO PAGE 2788

RECEIVED APR 23 1990

III. DECISION RECORD/FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The Environmental Assessment prepared by Power Engineers, Inc., reveals the lack of significant impacts resulting from the proposed action as mitigated; therefore, no environmental impact statement is required. The proposal has been found to be in the public interest and therefore approved as recommended.


James M. Phillips
Area Manager
Lahontan Resource Area

Date: 4/5/89

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MINUTE PAGE	2989

PROJECT MONITORING PROGRAM
PLUMAS-SIERRA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
PROPOSED 69KV TRANSMISSION LINE
CHILCOCT, PLUMAS COUNTY TO HERLONG, LASSEN COUNTY
W 24517

Impact: During construction of the transmission line, 2' x 2' x 8' holes will be drilled in the soil for placement of the transmission poles. A total of .025 acres will be disturbed during the route construction. The majority of the soil disturbance will occur on grasslands.

Project Modification:
The soil will be backfilled with the excavated material. Any remaining material will be spread about the immediate area. Reseeding and raking will be done in accordance with specifications already stipulated by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and agreed to by Plumas Sierra. For example, the following seed mixture and rates of application will be followed:

Intermediate Wheatgrass
(6 lbs. per cre - Pure Live Seed (PLS))

Crested Wheatgrass (highcrest var.)
(6 lbs. per acre (PLS))

Sainfoin
(2 lbs. per acre (PLS))

Alfalfa (ladak var.)
(1 lb. per acre (PLS)).

Monitoring:

Plumas Sierra will contract with a qualified biologist who will inspect sites which have been backfilled and reseeded to ensure that proper application rates and seed mixtures have been followed. The biologist will file a compliance verification report with the State Lands Commission staff upon completion of such inspections.

Project Monitoring Program
Page Two
W 34517

Impact: During the construction and placement of the transmission line, some grassland areas will be disturbed.

Project Modification:

The soil will be backfilled with the excavated material. Any remaining material will be spread about the immediate area. Reseeding and raking will be done in accordance with specifications already stipulated by the Bureau of Lan Management (BLM) and agreed to by Plumas Sierra. For example, the following seed mixture and rates of application will be followed:

Intermediate Wheatgrass
(6 lbs. per acre - Pure Live Seed (PLS))

Crested Wheatgrass (highcrest var.)
(6 lbs. per acre (PLS))

Sainfoin
(2 lbs. per acre (PLS))

Alfalfa (ladak var.)
(1 lb. per acre (PLS)).

Monitoring:

Plumas Sierra will contract with a qualified biologist who will inspect sites which have been backfilled and reseeded to ensure that proper application rates and seed mixtures have been followed. The biologist will file a compliance verification report with the State Lands Commission staff upon completion of such inspections.

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Project Monitoring Program
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Impact: The proposed route of the transmission line will cross through a portion of the key deer and antelope wintering range.

Project Modification:

The Bureau of Land Management has requested that construction activities not occur from November 15 through March 31 to reduce impacts to this area. Any deviation from this requirement must be approved by the Bureau of Land Management.

Monitoring:

Spot checks will be made during this period to verify that no construction has occurred. Person(s) designated by State Lands Commission staff will perform the checks.

Impact: During the drilling of the holes for the transmission line, an increase in the ambient noise level will increase.

Project Modification:

Applicant has agreed to limit the hours of construction activities to weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. when construction activities occur in and around the town of Doyle.

Monitoring:

Any complaint of construction noise between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. will be investigated by designated staff of the State Lands Commission.

Impact: The construction corridor of the transmission line between Chilcoot and Herlong will occur through rural areas of Plumas and Lassen Counties, mostly within the Long Valley area.

Project Modification:

The transmission line has been routed to utilize existing contour features for concealment where possible, particularly in the area of Highway 395 south of Red Rock. Both Plumas and Lassen County Planning Commissions have found that the proposed transmission route is consistent with their General Plans.

Amended 9/27/90

(REVISED 9/27/90)

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ABSOLUTE PAGE	2392

Project Monitoring Program
Page Four
W 24517

Monitoring:

A post-construction as-built survey will be submitted to staff of the State Lands Commission which will confirm proper line placement.

Impact: Cultural resource site CA-LAS-1386 has been identified within the construction corridor, and may be impacted.

Project Modification:

The cultural resources site will be avoided utilizing two, 3-pole wooden structures to avoid damaging the site. The California Office of Historic Preservation has agreed that the proposed pole placement will have no effect on historic properties. Applicant will provide an archaeological monitor to be present during pole siting and excavation in the vicinity of CA-LAS-1386, pursuant to a November 28, 1989 recommendation from the California Office of Historic Preservation.

Applicant will suspend all operations in the immediate construction area if any cultural and/or paleontological resources are discovered. Upon discovery of a potentially significant resource, REA and SHPO will be contacted. Construction activities will not resume until approval from SHPO and REA have been received.

Monitoring:

See Project Modification. Archaeological monitor will file report with the State Lands Commission staff to verify avoidance of site.

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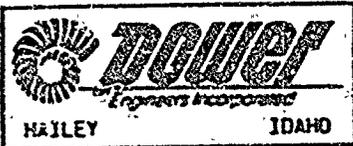


EXHIBIT "H"
W 24517

PLUMAS-SIERRA REA

LONG VALLEY PROJECT 69KV TRANSMISSION LINE

REPORT ON FIELD INVESTIGATION FOR POTENTIAL BANK SWALLOW HABITAT

PREPARED BY
SEA CONSULTING ENGINEERS
SPARKS NEVADA

AUGUST 1990

Reno/Sparks, Nevada
Las Vegas, Nevada
Phoenix, Arizona

(ADDED 509.1-509.19)

SEA
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

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Consulting Engineers

950 INDUSTRIAL WAY
SPARKS, NEVADA 89431-6092
(702) 358-6931
FAX: 358-6954

August 29, 1990
Project No. 2093-01-1

POWER ENGINEERS INCORPORATED
P.O. Box 1066
Hailey, Idaho 83333

Attn: Mr. Frank Rowland
Project Manager

Re: Plumas-Sierra REA Long Valley Project
Bank Swallow Habitat Investigation

Dear Mr. Rowland:

This letter transmits our attached report addressing the field investigation conducted by our subconsultant, ornithologist Dr. Owen A. Knorr. Dr. Knorr's credentials are included in the appendix of this report. He is clearly an eminent ornithologist with experience in this area and with the target species.

The report concludes that there is no evidence of the threatened bird species Bank Swallow within or immediately adjacent to the planned alignment of the Chilcoot-Herlong Long Valley project power line.

This investigation and report was prepared in response to Power Engineer's request and addressed Environmental Analysis document review comments made by California Fish and Game representatives. Fish and Game comments were directed toward concerns as to project impacts on potential Bank Swallow populations in the proposed right-of-way.

Dr. Knorr and SEA representatives, Jack Sorensen, P.E., and Rich Shock, planner, participated in a conference call with Mr. Tom Stone, California Regional Fish and Game, Redding, California. The conference provided scope and direction for the field investigation.

Sincerely,

SEA, INCORPORATED
Consulting Engineers

Jack Sorensen
Jack D. Sorensen, P.E.

RICHARD W. ARDEN, P.E.
President

RONALD D. BYRD, P.E.
Executive Vice President

JOE W. HOWARD, P.E.
Senior Vice President

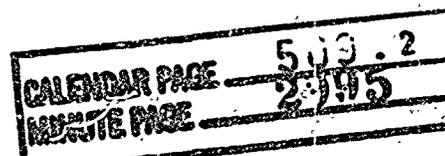
HARRY R. ERICSON, P.L.S.
Senior Vice President

LARRY J. JOHNSON
Vice President

JDS:jk

Enclosures

Reno/Sports
Las Vegas
Phoenix





UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA-RENO

Department of Biology
College of Arts and Science
University of Nevada-Reno
Reno, Nevada 89557-0015
(702) 784-6188

28 August 80

SEA Engineers, Inc.
950 Industrial Way
Sparks, Nevada

ATTN: Jack Sorensen
Rich Shock

Gentlemen:

In accordance with our agreement, I have investigated the right-of-way of the Chilcoot/Herlong REA power line project for evidences of Bank Swallow habitat and breeding season residence.

My report including characteristics of the species, investigation procedures, findings, and conclusions is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Owen A. Knorr

Dr. Owen A. Knorr
Professor Emeritus of Biology
Director, Institute of Alpine Ecology

Encl

CALENDAR PAGE	509.3
MINUTE PAGE	296

REPORT ON FIELD INVESTIGATIONS
REGARDING POTENTIAL BANK SWALLOW HABITAT
FLUMAS-SIERRA REA LONG VALLEY PROJECT
CHILCOOT/NERLONG

THE ASSIGNMENT

To determine the presence or absence of a threatened California species of bird, the Bank Swallow, in the right-of-way of said power line and, if present, to suggest construction mitigation measures as needed to avoid impacting the species.

THE SPECIES

The Bank Swallow (Riparia riparia) is widely distributed in North America, Europe, Eurasia, and northern Africa. However, due to habitat destruction of human activity, the species has recently (1989) been designated as threatened in the state of California.

As its scientific name implies, the species nests in riparian (streamside) situations where the surrounding countryside is sufficiently mesic (moist) to provide the necessary volume of airborne insects on which they feed. The birds excavate burrows two or three inches in diameter in vertical stream banks, occasionally in highway cuts, and less often in borrow pits. The nesting burrows extend a foot or more into the bank and are usually placed near the top of the embankment. Although they nest individually, they are colonial birds and up to a half dozen or more burrows are usually found in the immediate vicinity. They will not nest in a bank that is not sheer since ledges of any sort would permit terrestrial marauders to plunder the nests. Also, the banks chosen are usually seven or eight feet or more in height.

