

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Ravalli Electric Coop – McGee Buried Powerline
Proposed
Implementation Date: September 2018
Proponent: Ravalli County Electric Cooperative / Mark & Michele McGee
Location: Sections 26 & 27, T2N R19W.
County: Ravalli

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The granting of a 10-foot wide permanent easement for the installation and maintenance of a buried electric powerline approximately 5,048 feet long across state-owned trust lands within sections 26 & 27, T2N-R19W. The easement applicant is Ravalli Electric Cooperative. The power line is intended to provide electrical service to property owned by Mark & Michele McGee.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project. List number of individuals contacted, number of responses received, and newspapers in which notices were placed and for how long. Briefly summarize issues received from the public.

The public comment period for this project occurred from July 9, 2018 through July 31, 2018 and was accomplished by:

1. Mailing of a Scoping Notice to the DNRC grazing licensee and to all (6) adjacent landowners.
2. Meeting with employees of the Bitterroot National Forest (and adjacent landowner who also has an application for this power line crossing federal property).
3. Posting a Scoping Notice on the DNRC website.

The DNRC received 2 comments in response to the Scoping Notice:

1. Ken Hayes (resident on Sawdust Gulch Rd.) inquired whether he would be able to access the utility line to provide power to his property as well. Ravalli County Electric informed him that they could tap into one of the junction boxes to run a utility line to his property. DNRC informed Mr. Hayes that, depending on the location of the junction box, an additional easement may be necessary from DNRC to bury additional cable through state-owned trust lands.
2. Paul Nelson with Shining Mountain Ranch (DNRC grazing lessee) was not opposed to the project. However, they did request that any fencing that is disturbed be repaired immediately upon completion of the project.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

Examples: cost-share agreement with U.S. Forest Service, 124 Permit, 3A Authorization, Air Quality Major Open Burning Permit.

An authorization will also be needed to cross federal property (Bitterroot National Forest) to connect to the Cameron Creek (County) road.

