

Reply Refer To: 2720 (FS) / 1736/2880 (BLM) (OR-931/936) P **Date:** May 12, 2006

EMS TRANSMISSION 05/18/2006

FS-Memorandum

BLM-Information Bulletin No. OR-2006-113

To: Forest Supervisors: Colville NF, Fremont-Winema NFs, Rogue River-Siskiyou NF and Umpqua NF

District Managers: Coos Bay, Roseburg, Medford and Lakeview

Subject: Survey and Manage (S&M) Exemption for Phase 1 Activities

On April 17, 2006, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Oregon State Office received a right-of-way application from Williams Pacific Connector Gas Operator, L.L.C., on behalf of Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline, L.P., under Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 185(l), as amended, and regulations at 43 CFR 2880, for the construction, operation, maintenance and termination of a 36 inch natural gas pipeline, known as the Pacific Gas Connector Pipeline. The proposed pipeline would be the delivery mechanism for Liquefied Natural Gas imported into the proposed Jordon Cove facility at Coos Bay, Oregon, and transported easterly to Malin, Oregon, to tie in with existing pipelines serving the Pacific Northwest, California, and Nevada markets. The proposed right-of-way is approximately 225 miles long with an estimated 40 miles over federal lands administered by the BLM and approximately 30 miles over federal lands administered by the United States Forest Service.

The applicant has requested to begin initial surveys of the proposed right-of-way (Phase 1). Surveys will include route development and civil, environmental, cultural resource and geotechnical surveys. The types of activities associated with Phase 1 work include:

1. A traverse of the centerline for the proposed route using conventional land surveying equipment. This work is comparable to an administrative property line survey conducted by BLM cadastral survey staff.
2. Field reconnaissance and resource investigations required prior to ground-disturbing activities. This work is comparable to on-the-ground environmental reviews required for preparation of timber sales and other project work on federal lands within the Northwest Forest Plan area.

This information is needed to prepare and submit the 13 Resource Reports for preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement required for a filing with the Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission (FERC). It is the intent to consider issuance of the right-of-way grant/temporary use permit concurrently with the FERC process.

Based on our review of the types of activities noted above under Phase 1, this action is not considered a habitat-disturbing activity under Survey and Manage Standards and Guidelines as described on page 22 of the Survey and Manage Standards and Guidelines, 2001 Survey and Manage Record of Decision. No S&M surveys are required.

/s/ Mike Ash (fax)

LINDA GOODMAN

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