`

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Project Title: Consumers Power, Inc. - 2nd Amendment to Right-of-Way Grant OR060205

EA Number: DOI-BLM-OR-S040-2010-0004-EA

Type of Project: Right-of-Way Amendments

Date: October 18, 2010

Location of Proposed Action: T. 9 S., R. 3 E. section 7, SE¼; W.M. Marion County, Oregon

Name and Location of Preparing Office: USDI - Bureau of Land Management
Cascades Resource Area, Salem District, 1717 Fabry Road SE
Salem, OR 97306

Serial Number: OR060205

Applicant Name: Consumers Power, Inc.

Responsible Official: Cindy Enstrom, Field Manager at (503) 315-5969

For further information, contact: Jodi Murphy at the Salem District address or at (503) 589-6854

BLM
Salem District

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering economic use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

BLM/OR/WA/AE-11/002+1792

Table of Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION 3
1.1 Purpose of and Need for Action and Decision to be Made 3
1.1.1 Purpose of and Need for Action 3
1.1.2 Decisions to be Made 3
1.1.3 Summary of Proposed Action 3
1.2 Conformance with Land Use Plan, Statutes, Regulations, and other Plans 3
1.2.1 Survey and Manage Species Review 4
1.2.2 Relevant Statutes/Authorities 5
1.3 Scoping and Identification of Relevant Issues 5
1.3.1 Scoping 5
2.0 ALTERNATIVES 5
2.1 Alternative Development 5
2.2 Proposed Action 5
2.2.1 Project Design Features 6
2.3 No Action Alternative 6
3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS 8
3.1 Affected Environment, Direct and Indirect Effects 8
3.1 Cumulative Effects 8
3.2 Review of Elements of the Environment Based On Authorities and Management Direction 9
4.0 LIST OF PREPARERS 10
5.0 CONTACTS AND CONSULTATION 11
5.1 Consultation 11
5.1.1 US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 11
5.1.2 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) 11
5.2 Cultural Resources: Section 106 Consultation with State Historical Preservation Office 11
5.3 EA Public Comment Period 11
6.0 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT 11

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of and Need for Action and Decision to be Made

1.1.1 Purpose of and Need for Action

Purpose of Action
The purpose of this project is to continue to make BLM-administered lands available for needed rights-of-way where consistent with other plans (RMP p. 55).

Need for Action
An aerial power line, along the North Fork Road is located on BLM land. This line provides power to rural residential customers and has been experiencing power outages due to wind and snow storms and trees falling on the line. Consumers Power, Inc. (CPI) submitted an application to remove the existing aerial power line and replace it with a buried cable in order to decrease maintenance on the power line and reduce the risk of power outages. The route of the buried cable does not fall within the existing authorized right-of-way with CPI (OR60205).

CPI also has existing facilities on BLM lands in the area (aerial lines, buried cable, concrete building) that need to be authorized in accordance with BLM regulations (43 CFR 2801.9).

1.1.2 Decisions to be Made

The following decisions will be made through this analysis:

- To determine at what level, where, and how to remove an aerial power line and bury an underground cable.
- To implement or not implement the removal of the line and burial of the cable as well as authorizing the company's unauthorized facilities on public land.

1.1.3 Summary of Proposed Action

The proposed action is to authorize the removal of an aerial power line and to authorize burying an underground residential distribution (URD) cable, outside of the existing right-of-way. The work will take place in T. 9 S., R. 3 E., sec. 7, SE¼, near BLM's Canyon Creek Recreation Site. Construction will occur after authorization is granted, in the Fall of 2010. The proposed action also includes authorizing existing CPI facilities on public lands in the area (aerial lines, buried cable, concrete building) into their existing right-of-way grant OR60205.

1.2 Conformance with Land Use Plan, Statutes, Regulations, and other Plans

The proposed action is in conformance with the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*, May 1995 (RMP) pp.55: topic: Continue to make BLM-administered lands available for needed rights-of-way where consistent with local comprehensive plans, Oregon statewide planning goals and rules; *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*, April 1994 (NWFP); and *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*, January 2001.

The proposed project is within the Riparian Reserve and Matrix land use allocations as described in the RMP, p. 8.

The analysis in the CPI-2nd Amendment to Right-of-Way Grant OR060205 EA is site-specific, and supplements and tiers to analyses found in the *Salem District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement,* September 1994 (RMP/FEIS). The RMP/FEIS includes the analysis from the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl,* February 1994 (NWFP/FSEIS). The RMP/FEIS is amended by the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines,* November 2000.

The above documents are available for review in the Salem District Office. Additional information about the proposed activities is available in the EA Analysis File, also available at the Salem District Office.

1.2.1 Survey and Manage Species Review

The proposed project is consistent with court orders relating to the Survey and Manage mitigation measure of the Northwest Forest Plan, as incorporated into the Salem District Resource Management Plan. Following the Court's December 17, 2009 ruling, the Pechman exemptions are still in place. Judge Coughenour deferred issuing a remedy in his December 17, 2009 order until further proceedings, and did not enjoin the BLM from proceeding with projects. Nevertheless, I have reviewed this project in consideration of both the December 17, 2009 and October 11, 2006 order. The proposed project does not meet the Pechman exemptions. The project may proceed because the required surveys in accordance with the 2001 Survey and Manage Record of Decision (without ASRs) have been completed.

Terrestrial Wildlife

The Canyon Creek Day Use Area was surveyed for Survey and Manage mollusks in the spring of 1999. No Survey and Manage mollusk species were found. No further surveys for Survey and Mange terrestrial wildlife species are recommended due to the nature and location of the project and the lack of habitat. The project would not affect any elements of habitat which are important to terrestrial Survey and Manage wildlife species, including hardwood and conifer trees, and large course woody debris. The project is located in a highly impacted BLM picnic area next to the Little North Fork Road.

Botany

The Canyon Creek Park Day Use Area has been surveyed for Survey and Manage botanical species on numerous occasions over the past 10 years with negative results. Due to the nature and location of the proposed project, no further surveys are planned or recommended. Although habitat for some lichen and fungi species does occur within the park area, no impact as a result of this project is anticipated. This project would have no impact on any undiscovered Survey and Manage species that may occur within the Canyon Creek Park Day Use Area and would not contribute to the need to list any botanical species as Threatened or Endangered.

1.2.2 Relevant Statutes/Authorities

This section is a summary of the relevant statutes/authorities that apply to this project.

- **Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) 1976 –** Defines BLM's organization and provides the basic policy guidance for BLM's management of public lands.
- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 1969 –** Requires the preparation of EAs or EISs on federal actions. These documents describe the environmental effects of these actions and determine whether the actions have a significant effect on the human environment. .
- **Endangered Species Act (ESA) 1973 –** Directs Federal agencies to ensure their actions do not jeopardize threatened and endangered species.
- **Clean Air Act (CAA) 1990 –** Provides the principal framework for national, state, and local efforts to protect air quality.
- **Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) 1979 –** Protects archeological resources and sites on federally-administered lands.
- **Clean Water Act (CWA) 1987 –** Establishes objectives to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's water.

1.3 Scoping and Identification of Relevant Issues

1.3.1 Scoping

External scoping (seeking input from people outside of the BLM) for this project was conducted by means of a scoping letter posted on the Salem District BLM website on September 20, 2010. In addition 11 notifications of the proposed project scope were sent out on September 20, 2010 to potentially affected and/or interested individuals, groups and agencies. There were no public comments received in response to this scoping. Internal scoping was conducted by the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) through record searches, field reviews and the project planning process. Based on input from the public and the IDT plus information contained in the RMP, no issues were identified.

2.0 ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Alternative Development

Pursuant to Section 102 (2) (E) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, Federal agencies shall "…study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action in any proposal which involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources." There were no unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources, therefore, this EA will analyze the effects of the current "proposed action" and "No Action alternative" (which provides the baseline to evaluate effects).

2.2 Proposed Action

The proposed action is to authorize CPI to replace an aerial power line with a buried cable for the reasons described in EA section 1.0 and to authorize CPI existing facilities that will be added to right-of-way grant 060205. The proposed action would authorize the following activities.

The new power line installation will involve excavating a 1' wide trench, 3' deep and 100' long. The trenching will be done by backhoe, with a width footprint of less than 8'.

A backhoe has tires (not tracks), so there should be no lingering effects on the vegetation. The route of the cable will not require any trees to be removed. It is estimated that construction will occur in one day. The cable will be buried at a depth of 36" URD with 6' on each side of center line. Map A shows the proposed route.

CPI also has existing facilities on public lands in the area (aerial lines, buried cable, concrete building) that need to be authorized and will be amended into their existing right-of-way grant OR60205.

2.2.1 Project Design Features

The new power line installation will involve excavating a 1' wide trench, 3' deep and 100' long. The trenching will be done by backhoe, with a width footprint of less than 8'. A backhoe has tires (not tracks), so there should be no lingering effects on the vegetation. The route of the cable will not require any trees to be removed. It is estimated that construction will occur in one day. The cable will be buried at a depth of 36" URD with 6' on each side of center line.

Work would take place outside the open season for Canyon Creek day use recreation site.

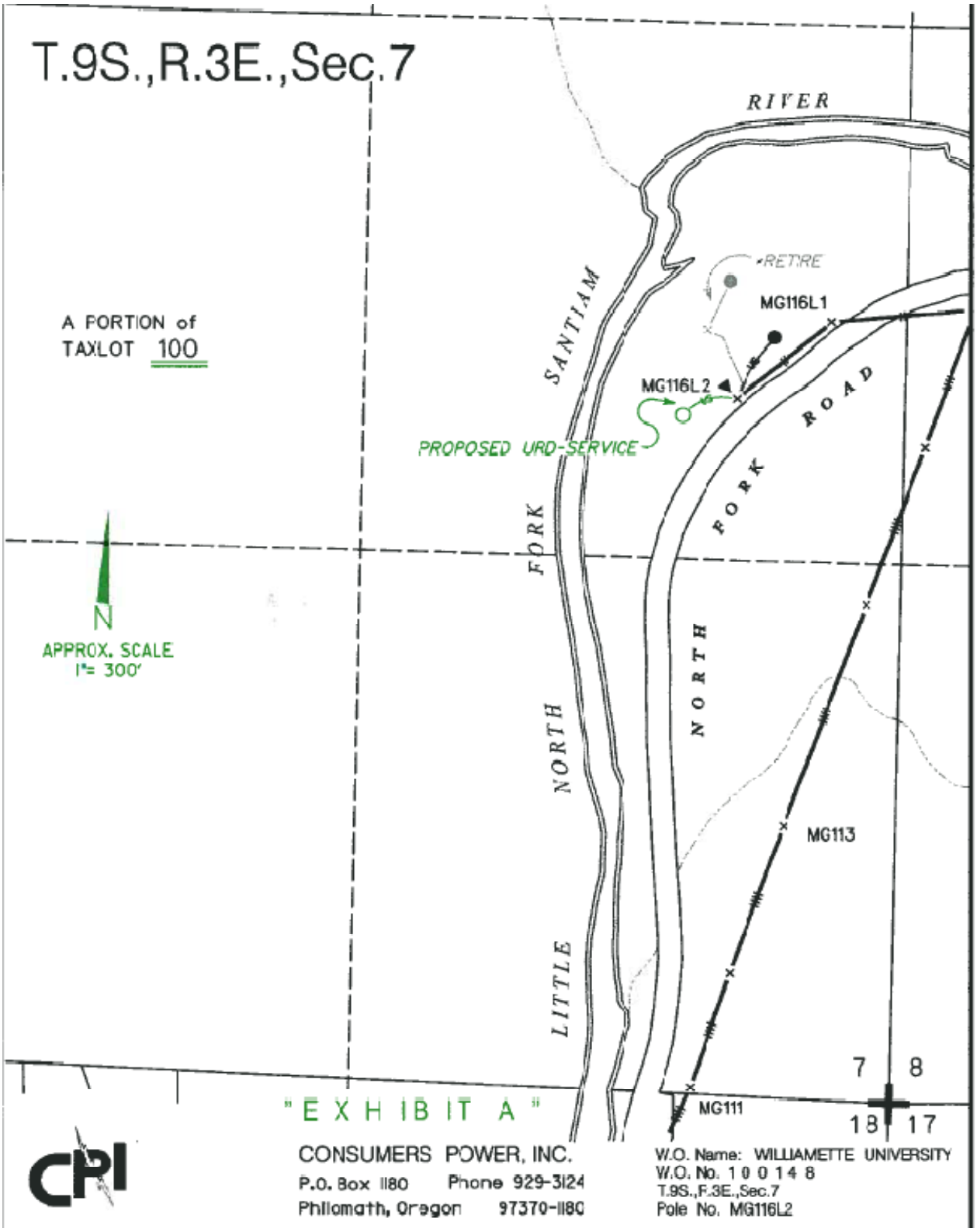
The aerial line removal will be done from the established road and driveway. Any need to traverse the right-of-way will be done on foot.

2.3 No Action Alternative

The removal of the aerial power line and the burial of the URD cable outside of the existing right-of-way would not take place. Additionally, the existing unauthorized facilities will not be added to the authorization.

Only normal administrative activities and other uses (e.g. road use, programmed road maintenance, harvest of special forest products on public land) would continue on BLM within the project area. On private lands adjacent to the project area, forest management and related activities would continue to occur. Selection of the No Action alternative would not constitute a decision to change the land use allocations of these lands. Selection of the No Action alternative would not set a precedent for consideration of future action proposals.

Map A


T.9S.,R.3E.,Sec.7
RIVER
RETIRE
MG116L1
MG116L2
A PORTION of
TAXLOT 100
SANTIAM
PROPOSED URD-SERVICE
FORK
ROAD
FORK
NORTH
NORTH
LITTLE
N
APPROX. SCALE
1"= 300'
MG113
MG111
7
8
18
17
"EXHIBIT A"
CONSUMERS POWER, INC.
P.O. Box 1180 Phone 929-3124
Philomath, Oregon 97370-1180
W.O. Name: WILLIAMETTE UNIVERSITY
W.O. No. 1 0 0 1 4 8
T.9S.,R.3E.,Sec.7
Pole No. MG116L2

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

This section of the EA describes the current condition and trend of the affected resources and the effects of the project on the affected resources. The resources potentially affected by the proposed project are: wildlife, botany, soils, and visual resources.

3.1 Affected Environment, Direct and Indirect Effects

Table 1: Affected Environment and Environmental Effects

Affected Resource	Affected Environment	Environmental Effects	
		Proposed Action	**No Action**
Wildlife / Botany	The project area is located in the Little North Santiam Watershed in the Canyon Creek Day Use area. It is in an impacted area next to the main road in a day use area where disturbance factors are already high. The project would take place in a mature stand of predominantly Douglas-fir. The ground cover and understory vegetation is composed of salal, sword fern and vine maple.	Due to the size, location and nature of the project, no long term effects to the wildlife or botanical resources are anticipated. There would be minimal short term effects to ground cover and understory vegetation, however, no trees or snags would be cut down and no large course woody debris would be disturbed.	Same as proposed action, except that there would be no disturbance of ground cover and understory vegetation and associated short term impacts.
Soils	Surface soils in the area that would be disturbed by the cable trenching are deep, well drained, silty-clay loams with <10 gradient.	Trenching will alter soil physical properties by increasing bulk density following cable placement and reburial. Local effects would likely be a short term reduction in the infiltration and drainage of precipitation along the 100 foot trenched surface and up to 3 feet deep (estimated trench depth). Some surface erosion and transport of sediment for short distances (a few feet) could occur until vegetative cover is re-established (several months). Soil physical properties would recover over a period of several years as plants grow and re-occupy the soil surface and subsurface.	Surface soils will retain current physical attributes.
Visuals	The existing aerial power line detracts from a natural setting.	Converting the aerial power line to a buried cable would have a beneficial effect to visual resources. Implementation of the project would provide a more natural setting for visitors	Existing aerial power line would continue to detract from a natural setting.

3.1.1 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects to wildlife/botany are not anticipated due to the size, location and nature of the project. Cumulative effects to soils in the area are not anticipated due to the limited scope and duration of the direct effects.

3.2 Review of Elements of the Environment Based On Authorities and Management Direction

The interdisciplinary team of resource specialists (IDT) reviewed the elements of the human environment, required by law, regulation, Executive Order and policy, to determine if they would be affected by the proposed action (BLM Handbook H-1790-1: p. 137), [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)], [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)].

Table 2: Elements of the Environment Review based on Authorities and Management Direction

Element of the Environment /Authority	Remarks/Effects
Aquatic Conservation Strategy	The proposed project is in compliance with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy because there would be no adverse effects to water resources. Effects to riparian habitat are described in Table 1.
Air Quality (Clean Air Act as amended (42 USC 7401 et seq.)	This project is in compliance with this direction because the project will have no effect on air quality.
Cultural Resources (National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 USC 470) [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)], [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)]	This project is in compliance with this direction and the project would have no effect on this element because no heritage resources were identified in an inventory of the project area completed on October 4, 2010. No impacts to cultural or paleontological resources are anticipated.
Ecologically critical areas [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)]	This project would have no effect on this element because there are no ecologically critical areas present within the project area.
Energy Policy (Executive Order 13212)	This project is in compliance with this direction because Consumers Power, Inc provides energy to their customers and this project will help promote the production and transmission of energy in a safe and environmentally sound manner. (Executive Order 13212).
Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898, "Environmental Justice" February 11, 1994)	This project is in compliance with this direction because project would have no effect on low income populations.
Fish Habitat, Essential (Magnuson-Stevens Act Provision: Essential Fish Habitat (EFH): Final Rule (50 CFR Part 600; 67 FR 2376, January 17, 2002)	This project is in compliance with this direction because no alteration of aquatic habitat would occur.
Farm Lands, Prime [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)]	The project would have no effect on this element because no prime farm lands are present on BLM land within the Cascades RA.
Floodplains (E.O. 11988, as amended, Floodplain Management, 5/24/77)	This project is in compliance with this direction because the proposed project would not change or affect floodplain functions.
Hazardous or Solid Wastes (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (43 USC 6901 et seq.) Comprehensive Environmental Repose Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (43 USC 9615)	This project would have no effect on this element because no Hazardous or Solid Waste would be stored or disposed of on BLM lands as a result of this project.
Healthy Forests Restoration Act (Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-148)	This project is in compliance with this direction because the project would not change the composition of the current forest stands.
Migratory Birds (Migratory Bird Act of 1918, as amended (16 USC 703 et seq)	This project is in compliance with this direction because the project would occur outside the spring/summer nesting season for migratory birds and no unintentional take would occur.

Element of the Environment /Authority	Remarks/Effects
Native American Religious Concerns (American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1996)	This project is in compliance with this direction because no Native American religious concerns were identified during the scoping period (EA section 1.3).
Noxious weed or non-Invasive, Species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)	This project is in compliance with this direction because there is no evidence to indicate that adverse impacts from invasive/non-native species would occur as a result of the proposed project. With design features in place, it is not anticipated that the proposed project would contribute to the cumulative effects of invasive/non-native species within or adjacent to the proposed project area.
Park lands [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)]	The project would have no effect on this element because there are no parks within or adjacent to the project area.
Public Health and Safety [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)]	The project is in compliance with this direction because it is burying the power line and removing the aerial line, removing any above-ground hazards that may occur. The No action alternative would adversely affect public health and safety by not addressing current hazards associated with the aerial line.
Threatened or Endangered Species (Endangered Species Act of 1983, as amended (16 USC 1531)	This project is in compliance with this direction because there would be no effects on Threatened or Endangered Species because no habitat for threatened or endangered species would be modified or lost, and there are no sites within disturbance range of the project.
Water Quality –Drinking, Ground (Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (43 USC 300f et seq.) Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 USC 1251 et seq.)	This project is in compliance with this direction because Oregon State water quality standards would be adhered to and the area hydrology would not be altered.
Wetlands (E.O. 11990 Protection of Wetlands 5/24/77) [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)]	This project is in compliance with this direction because no wetlands are within the project area.
Wild and Scenic Rivers (Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended (16 USC 1271) [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)]	This project is in compliance with this direction because there are no Wild and Scenic Rivers within or adjacent to the project area.
Wilderness (Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 USC 1701 et seq.); Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 USC 1131 et seq.)	This project is in compliance with this direction because there are no Wilderness Areas or areas being considered for Wilderness Area status in or adjacent to the project area.

4.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Resource	Name	Initials
Writer/Editor	Jodi Murphy	***JM***
NEPA Review	Carolyn Sands	***CDS***
Botany	Terry Fennell	***TF***
Cultural Resources	Heather Ulrich	***HU***
Fisheries	Bruce Zoellick	***BZ***
Hydrology/ Water Quality	Patrick Hawe	***WPH***
Recreation, Visual Resources Management and Rural Interface	Zach Jarrett	***ZSJ***
Soils	Patrick Hawe	***WPH***
Wildlife	Jim England	***JE***

5.0 CONTACTS AND CONSULTATION

5.1 Consultation

5.1.1 US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The only terrestrial species which could be affected is the northern spotted owl. The project would have no effects to the northern spotted owl because no spotted owl habitat would be modified or lost, and there are no sites within disturbance range of the project.

5.1.2 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Upper Willamette River (UWR) winter steelhead trout and UWR Chinook Salmon are federally listed as threatened and inhabit the Little North Fork Santiam River adjacent to the project area. The project would have no effect on these species or on listed fish habitat. No soil will move from the project site to the river channel because of the small area of disturbance, flat topography (<10% slope), and distance to the river (>250 feet to the channel). Consultation with NMFS is not required because the project would have no effect on listed fish and their habitat.

5.2 Cultural Resources: Section 106 Consultation with State Historical Preservation Office

Cultural surveys were conducted in compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the areas affected by the buried cable on October 4, 2010. No cultural resources have been found (EA Table 2); therefore consultation with SHPO is not required. If at any time during the project any cultural resources are observed, all activities must cease until a professional archaeologist can assess the significance of the discovery.

5.3 EA Public Comment Period

For the results of project scoping, see EA section 1.3. The EA and FONSI will be made available for public review from October 20 to October 27, 2010 and posted at the Salem District website at http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/plans/index.php. The notice for public comment will be published in a legal notice in the ***Stayton Mail*** newspaper. Written comments should be addressed to Cindy Enstrom, Field Manager, Cascades Resource Area, 1717 Fabry Road S., Salem, Oregon 97306. Emailed comments may be sent to OR_Salem_Mail@blm.gov. Attention: Cindy Enstrom

6.0 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon review of the Consumers Power, Inc. - 2nd Amendment to Right-of-Way Grant OR060205 EA and supporting documents, I have determined that the proposed action is not a major federal action and would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, supplemental or additional information to the analysis in the RMP/FEIS in the form of a new environmental impact statement is not needed. This finding is based on the following discussion:

Context [40 CFR 1508.27(a)]***:*** Potential effects resulting from the implementation of the proposed action have been analyzed within the context of the project area boundaries, and the following 5th field watersheds: Little North Santiam. This project would affect approximately 0.25 acre of this watershed.

Intensity: The effects of the project are described in EA Table 1. The proposed project would not have significant impacts with regard to ten considerations for evaluating intensity, as described in 40 CFR 1508.27(b) for the following reasons.

1. *[40 CFR 1508.27(b) (1)] – Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse:* The effects of authorizing the removal of aerial line and the installation of the underground cable are unlikely to have significant (beneficial and adverse) impacts *(EA section 3.0)* for the following reasons:
   - Project design features described in EA section 2.2.1 would reduce the risk of effects to affected resources to be within RMP standards and guidelines and to be within the effects described in the RMP/EIS.
   - Effects to wildlife, botany and soils are not significant because the effects are of limited scope and short duration.

2. *[40 CFR 1508.27(b) (2)] - The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety:* The proposed project would have a beneficial effect on public health or safety because burying the power line and removing the aerial line, would remove any above-ground hazards that may occur due to storms, and other types of disturbance. .

3. *[40 CFR 1508.27(b) (3)] - Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas:* The proposed project would not affect historical or cultural resources because no heritage resources were identified in an inventory of the project area completed on October 4, 2010. The Proposed project would not affect parklands, prime farmlands, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness, or ecologically critical areas because these resources are not located within the project area (*EA Section 3.2*).

4. *[40 CFR 1508.27(b) (4)] - The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial:* The proposed project is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas without highly controversial effects.

5. *[40 CFR 1508.27(b) (5)] - The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks:* The effects associated as a result of the project do not have not uncertain, unique or unknown risks because the BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas without these risks and project design features would minimize the risks associated with the project (*EA section 2.2.1*). See # 4, above.

6. *[40 CFR 1508.27(b) (6)] - The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration:* The proposed action would not establish a precedent for future actions nor would it represent a decision in principle about a further consideration for the following reasons: 1/ The project is in the scope of proposed activities document in the RMP EIS. 2/ the BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas without setting a precedent for future actions or representing a decision about a further consideration. See # 4, 5, above.

7. *[40 CFR 1508.27(b) (7)] - Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts:* The Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) evaluated the project area in context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions and determined that that there are no cumulative effects associated with this project (EA section 3.1.1).

8. *[40 CFR 1508.27(b) (8)] - The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources:* The project would not affect these resources because no cultural resources were found. (*EA section 3.2*)

9. *[40 CFR 1508.27(b) (9)] - The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973:* The proposed project is not expected to adversely affect ESA listed species or critical habitat for the following reasons:
   - *ESA Wildlife - Northern spotted owl:* Effects to the species are not significant because there would be no effects to the northern spotted owl because habitat would be modified or lost, and there are no sites within disturbance range of the project. ESA Consultation is described in EA section 5.1.1.
   - *ESA Fish – UWR Chinook salmon, UWR steelhead trout, LCR coho salmon, and LCR steelhead trout:* Effects to ESA fish are not significant because the project would not affect listed fish or their habitat. No soil would move from the project site to listed fish habitat because of the small area of disturbance, and flat topography of the project area. ESA Consultation is described in EA section 5.1.1.

10. *[40 CFR 1508.27(b) (10)] - Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment*: The proposed thinning activities have been designed to follow Federal, State, and local laws (*EA sections* 1.2, 3.2)

Approved by: Cindy Enstrom 10/19/2010
Cindy Enstrom, Cascades Resource Area Field Manager Date