

OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT-SCOPING
Tri-State Montrose-Nucla-Cahone Transmission Improvement Project
Southwest District Office, BLM
Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison National Forest
San Juan National Forest

The BLM as Lead Agency and the USFS as a Cooperating Agency are seeking comments regarding a proposal by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State) for upgrades to an existing transmission line crossing private, state and federal lands. The Montrose-Nucla-Cahone transmission line and 3 substations would be upgraded from the existing 115 kV to 230 kV. The existing wooden H-pole towers would be replaced with taller and wider wooden H-pole towers. The new line would follow the existing route, however the ROW width would expand from 100' to 150'. Existing access roads, and some new access roads will be used for construction, operation and maintenance of the line. The scoping letter, map and other information is available at <http://blm.gov/dvld>, or by calling the BLM SW District NEPA Coordinator at 970-882-6829.

An environmental analysis (EA) will be developed jointly. Each agency will render decisions based on the EA, and issue separate authorizations for construction, operation and maintenance of the line. The Responsible Officials for this project are Lori Armstrong, BLM District Manager and Scott Armentrout, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison Forest Supervisor.

Comments will help the BLM/FS team of resource specialists identify significant issues, refine the proposed action, develop measures to mitigate potential negative effects, and develop alternatives to the proposed action. Comments received during this scoping comment period will also be used to accommodate the USFS pre-decisional objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. In order to establish eligibility to object under the FS 218 objection regulations, specific, written comments regarding the proposal must be submitted during this or any other designated public comment period. Comments should include: 1) your name and postal address, 2) project title (Tri-State MNC), and 3) signature or other verification of identity upon request (36 CFR 218.25(a)(3)). Electronically mailed objections must be submitted in an email message, plain text (.txt), Word (.doc or .docx), Portable Document Format (.pdf), or Rich Text Format (.rtf) file formats. This opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of this legal notice. This scoping comment period begins today, May 5th and ends on June 4th.

Please be specific in describing your concerns, recommendations, or how the proposal may affect you. Written comments and questions should be sent to: BLM Southwest District, Attn: Tri-State Project, 2465 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401, by email to blm_co_tristatemnc@blm.gov, or by fax to (970)-240-5367. Comments may also be hand delivered to: BLM Southwest District between the hours of 8:00am and 4:30pm (Mountain Time) Monday through Friday excluding holidays.
