To: Parties interested in Spar Canyon-Round Valley Access Road System Improvements

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to improve the access road system for its existing Spar Canyon–Round Valley transmission line located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in Custer County, Idaho (map enclosed). BPA and BLM plan to jointly prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposal. This letter provides an overview of BPA’s proposal, outlines the environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to comment.

Proposal – BPA’s system improvements would involve constructing 4 to 6 miles of new road, reinforcing road crossings at drainages with rock, and acquiring access rights from BLM for new road use. These improvements are needed because existing roads are in poor condition or lack a defined route of travel. Access roads are critical for continued safe and reliable operation and maintenance of the power transmission system.

BPA submitted an application to the BLM Challis Field Office on September 18, 2013 to amend the existing BLM right-of-way, serial number IDI-22582, for the proposed access road system improvements. BPA and BLM will prepare an EA to understand the potential impacts of the proposal and identify ways to avoid, minimize, and mitigate those impacts.

The following preliminary issues and potential impacts were identified through internal scoping: priority Sage Grouse habitat, visual resource management, and inclusion of the proposed access roads in the Challis travel management plan.

Public involvement – Please let us know if you have concerns about particular resources or questions about the project. Our agencies will consider information we receive to help develop the EA. Please send your comments by September 2, 2014. Comments received during the scoping comment period will be posted on the project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/SparCanyon. Please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether or how you would like to receive the EA. Choose the way you would like to comment:

Mail: Bonneville Power Administration Public Affairs – DKC-7 P.O. Box 14428 Portland, OR 97293-4428

FAX: 503-230-4019

On-Line: www.bpa.gov/comment

E-mail: comment@bpa.gov
Process and schedule – The proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

- Draft EA available for public comment: Spring 2015
- Final EA: Late Spring 2015
- Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted): Summer 2015
- If decision to implement, construction start: Late Summer 2015

For more information – Please visit the BPA project website at www.bpa.gov/goto/SparCanyon to learn more about the project. Information is also available on the Idaho BLM website at https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do.

If you would like further BPA project information, please call Jim Semrau at 360-619-6629, or jesemrau@bpa.gov, or toll free at 800-282-3713. If you have questions regarding environmental review, please contact Jeff Maslow, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 503-230-3928, or jjmaslow@bpa.gov.

If you have questions about the BLM right-of-way amendment or the environmental review, please contact Becky Lazdauskas, Realty Specialist, at 208-524-7521, or rlazdauskas@blm.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Todd Kuck
Todd Kuck
BLM Field Manager

/s/ James E. Semrau
James E. Semrau
BPA Project Manager

Enclosures:
- Project Map
- Comment Form
- Reply Card
- Return Envelope