

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

for

BRIGHAM FACE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

POPULUS TO BEN LOMOND 345kV TRANSMISSION PROJECT

PREPARED FOR:



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Wildlife and Sport Fish
Restoration Program



State of Utah
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources

PREPARED BY:



MARCH 2009

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
for
BRIGHAM FACE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

POPULUS TO BEN LOMOND 345kV
TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Prepared for:



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Wildlife and Sport Fish
Restoration Program



State of Utah
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources

Prepared by:



March 23, 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1- Purpose and Need	
Introduction	1-1
Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action.....	1-1
Proposed Action.....	1-2
Decision Framework	1-2
Regulatory Requirements and Coordination	1-2
Public Involvement	1-2
Chapter 2 – Project Alternatives	
Alternatives Considered in Detail	2-1
Alternative A – Proposed Action.....	2-1
No Action Alternative	2-12
Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Analysis	2-12
System Alternatives	2-12
Alternative Routes	2-13
Alternative Transmission Technologies	2-14
Mitigation Measures	2-15
Chapter 3 – Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences	
Biological Resources.....	3-2
Earth and Water Resources.....	3-6
Geology and Soils	3-6
Floodplains, Wetlands and Municipal Watersheds.....	3-6
Air Quality and Noise	3-7
Cultural Resources.....	3-8
Land Use and Recreation Resources	3-9
Visual Resources	3-11
Socioeconomics	3-12
Environmental Justice	3-13
No Action Alternative.....	3-14
Cumulative Effects	3-14
Chapter 4 – Consultation and Coordination	4-1
Chapter 5 – List of Preparers and Reviewers	5-1
Chapter 6 – References.....	6-1
Appendices	
A – Public Communications	A-1
B – Biological Assessment.....	B-1
C – Cultural Resource Inventory	C-1
D – Visual Simulation	D-1

LIST OF FIGURES

1	Brigham Face WMA Project Overview	1-3
2	Brigham Face WMA Northern Area	1-4
3	Brigham Face WMA Southern Area	1-5
4	Typical Corridor Condition – Existing 138kV Transmission Line Segment in Brigham Face WMA	2-3
5	Typical Corridor Condition – 138kV Transmission Line Relocation Segment in Brigham Face WMA	2-4
6	Typical Details for Access Road Construction	2-8

LIST OF TABLES

2-1	Transmission Line Right-of-Way Descriptive Summary	2-5
2-2	Revegetation Seed Mixture	2-10
2-3	Potential Ground Disturbance Calculations	2-11
2-4	Mitigation Measures – Standards and Guidelines	2-15
2-5	Typical Selective Mitigation Measures	2-18
3-1	Special Status Species in Box Elder County	3-4
3-2	Vegetative Communities Crossed on BFWMA	3-5

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AC	Alternating Current
ACSR	Aluminum conductor steel reinforced
AM	Amplitude modulated
BA	Biological Assessment
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
DC	Direct Current
Db	Decibel
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EJ	Environmental Justice
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Council
FM	Frequency modulated
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
Hz	Hertz
kV	Kilovolt
m	Meter
MW	Megawatt
msl	Mean sea level
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NESC	National Electric Safety Code
NHP	Utah Natural Heritage Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPL	National Priorities List
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
OHV	Off-highway vehicle
PLPCO	Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office
ROW	Right-of-Way
SCS	Soil Conservation Service
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SWRGAP	Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project
UDWR	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WMUs	Wildlife Management Units