

Blaine County Board of County Commissioners
Special Meeting
Site Visit Minutes of September 21, 2015
East Fork Road – approximate location 248 East Fork Road

Attendees: Jacob Greenberg, County Commissioner, Chairman
Angenie McCleary, County Commissioner
Tom Bergin, Director
Diane Shay, LUB's Code Compliance
Tom Barber, Idaho Power
Rhonda Bruce, Idaho Power
Terry Flynn, Idaho Power

The special meeting convened at approximately 9:50 a.m. and was held in accordance with Idaho Code, Section 67-2343 (Special Meetings). The purpose of the site visit was to review 3 hillside locations in the Mountain Overlay District (MOD) where power poles have been damaged by woodpeckers. Idaho Power has submitted an Emergency Site Alteration Permit to replace the poles. An existing access road will require slight modification. The site visit was adequately noticed by the following:

- The approximate site was posted by Bob Rubel of Idaho Power on Thursday, September 17, 2015
- Mailed notice was sent to all adjoining property owners on September 16, 2015

Tom Barber described the damage to the power poles that has been done by nesting woodpeckers and the plans Idaho Power has to replace the damaged wood poles with metal poles.

An existing road accesses the sites where work will need to be done, but will need to be improved and widened to about 12 feet to support the equipment necessary to construct the pads that will support the poles. The site disturbance, including the road and any other associated work, will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. The work is scheduled to commence on or about October 6 and should be completed in two weeks.

On August 11, 2015 an Idaho Power staff biologist conducted a weed survey within the project area and did identify noxious weeds in the locations of the poles. A revegetation plan includes reseeding of all disturbed areas after the completion of the work. Additionally, a follow up noxious weed survey will be conducted next spring or early summer and the areas will be treated as needed. Idaho Power wants to insure that the vegetation gets established and the weeds are treated. Depending on the results of the first year, an additional year of treatment may be required.

The site visit moved approximately .5 miles to the west to view another location for replacement work. A third site, not visible from East Fork Road was also discussed and slated for a replacement pole.

Commissioner McCleary moved to approve the Emergency Site Alteration Permit, finding that the application met the Mountain Overlay District (MOD) criteria as set forth in Blaine County Code, Section 9-21-5(b), items 1-5 and adding two conditions:

1. Restoration of all disturbed vegetation areas shall occur;
2. A weed mitigation plan shall be submitted and conducted as stated by Idaho Power representatives.

Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

APPROVED by BLAINE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS on this _____ day of October, 2015.

Jacob Greenberg, Chair