

McKenzie – Beverly Permit

ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE PERMIT, U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Steve Wickel, Transmission Engineering

November 2, 2020

No Board Action is Requested Today



Why we're here today

- District has been working with the U.S. Forest Service to re-issue the Special Use Permit for the McKenzie – Beverly, 115kV line.
- Permit requires compensatory mitigation

Background

- Permit covers two transmission lines in the same corridor
 - McKenzie – Beverly 115 kV (Sunnyslope to Summit)
 - McKenzie – Leavenworth 115 kV (Sunnyslope to Peshastin)
 - 20 miles cross Forest Service ownership
 - 6 miles on easement that predates Forest Service ownership
 - 14 miles are applicable to this permit
- Working in earnest since 2013 to get a new permit

Chelan County PUD McKenzie Beverly Transmission Line PUD Access on USFS Lands

Revised: 12/1/2017



Legend

- Substation (Yellow circle)
- Transmission Line (Purple line)
- PUD Easement (Blue outline)

Access Status

- Existing (Black dot)
- New (Yellow dot)

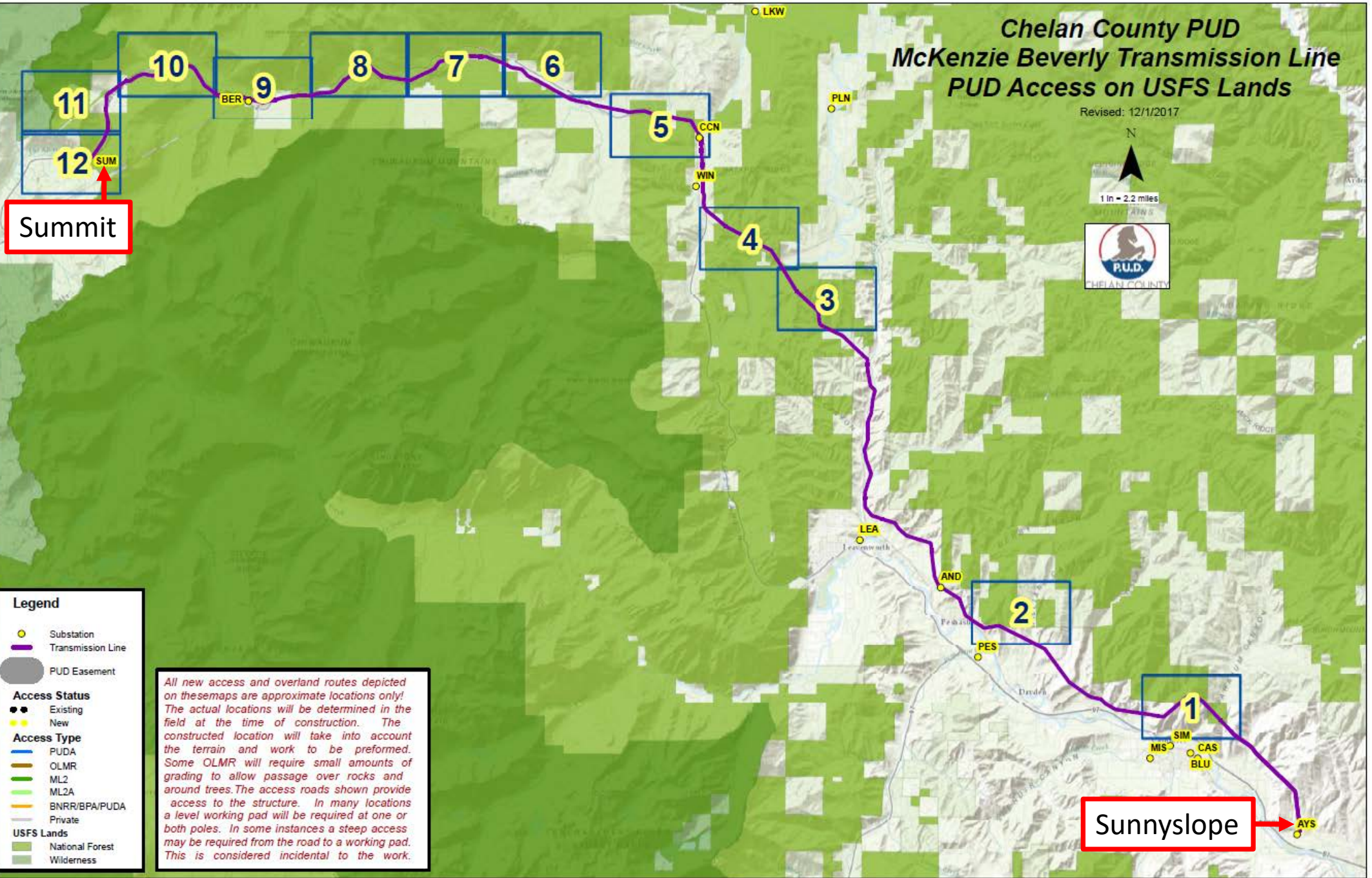
Access Type

- PUDA (Blue line)
- OLMR (Orange line)
- ML2 (Green line)
- ML2A (Light green line)
- BNRR/BPA/PUDA (Yellow line)
- Private (Grey line)

USFS Lands

- National Forest (Light green)
- Wilderness (Dark green)

All new access and overland routes depicted on these maps are approximate locations only! The actual locations will be determined in the field at the time of construction. The constructed location will take into account the terrain and work to be performed. Some OLMR will require small amounts of grading to allow passage over rocks and around trees. The access roads shown provide access to the structure. In many locations a level working pad will be required at one or both poles. In some instances a steep access may be required from the road to a working pad. This is considered incidental to the work.



Summit

Sunnyslope

Inside the Permit

The permit authorizes:

- Transmission line inspection
- Transmission line maintenance and repair
- Vegetation management in the right-of-way
 - To include danger tree removal adjacent to the right-of-way
- Use and maintenance of access roads
- Implementation of a negotiated operating plan

Programmatic Approach

- Operating plan and best management practices (BMPs) provide a streamlined approach to implementing maintenance by eliminating environmental permitting for each activity
- Annual meeting with FS to discuss upcoming plan of work
- Protects ESA* species in the permit area (fish and owl)
- BMPs avoid or minimize environmental impacts when performing work

* *Endangered Species Act, 1973*

Compensatory Mitigation*

- Unavoidable effects to ESA-listed fish and their habitat
 - Road-related sediment
 - Reduced stream shade from vegetation management
- Worked collaboratively to establish actions to offset the unavoidable effects

* **Compensatory mitigation** refers to the restoration, establishment, enhancement, or in certain circumstances preservation of wetlands, streams or other aquatic resources for the purpose of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts.

US Environmental Protection Agency, Section 404 of Clean Water Act

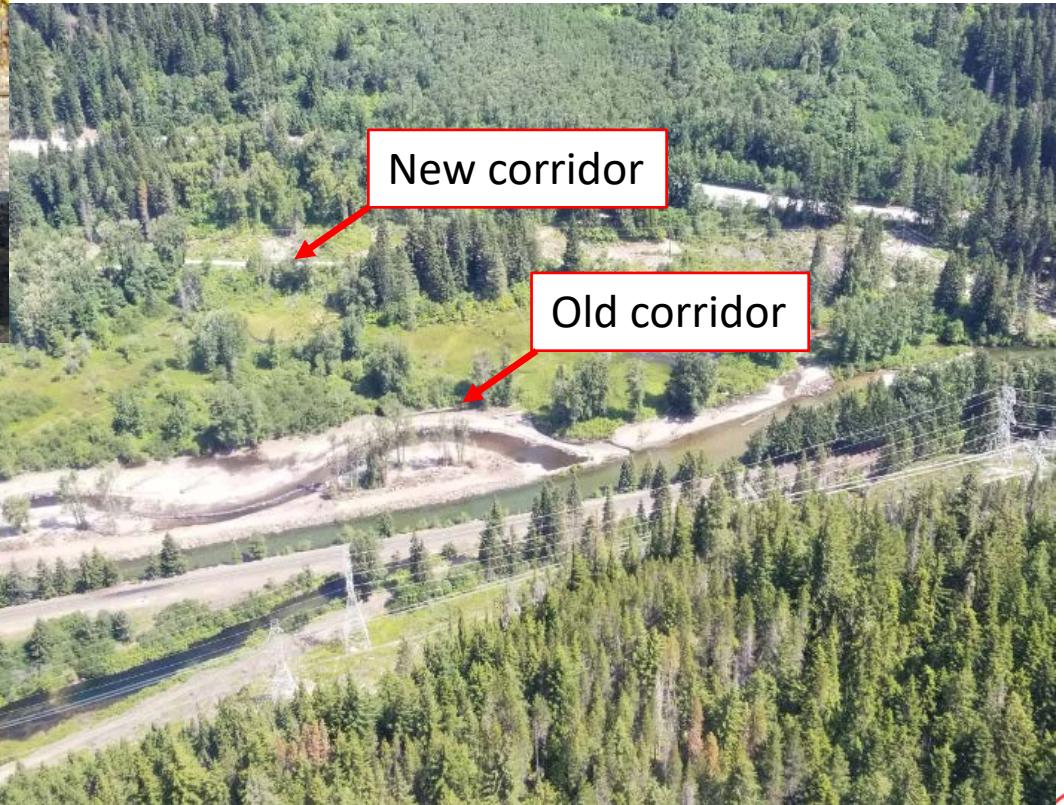
Compensatory Mitigation

1. Decommission 9.2 miles of road in Nason Creek watershed
 - Interlocal agreement with Chelan County Natural Resources Department
 - Estimated cost: \$505,000
 2. Dispersed recreation site decommissioning
 - Block access to unauthorized recreation area and replant 0.34 acres with native trees and shrubs
 - Estimated cost: \$50,000
 3. Upper White Pine Riparian Restoration
 - Plant native vegetation along 3 acres of unused transmission corridor
 - Completed in 2018
- Expect to complete mitigation actions over the next 2 to 3 years (allowed up to 8 years)
 - Funds included in Transmission Department 2021 O&M Budget

Upper White Pine Transmission Corridor Replanting



Shrubs and vegetation to be planted



Summary

- 30-year permit is ready for signature
 - Years of collaboration with USFS, USFWS, NMFS
 - Programmatic approach
 - In-depth legal review of terms
- Environmental analysis indicates unavoidable effects to ESA-listed fish and their habitat
- Compensatory mitigation has been agreed upon to offset unavoidable effects to fish and fish habitat
- Estimated mitigation cost: \$555,000

Next Steps

- Return to the next board meeting to answer questions.
- At the next board meeting, request approval of two resolutions
 - Authorize GM to execute Special Use Permit
 - Authorize GM to execute Interlocal Agreement with CCNRD for road decommissioning