

Corridor EIS Archives

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 5:00 PM
To: Corridor EIS Archives
Subject: Preliminary Draft Corridor Map Comment M0113

Attachments: utility_corridor_comments_M0113.doc



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Thank you for your comment, Quinn McKew.

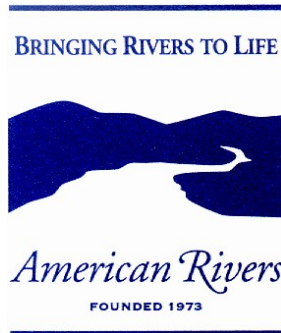
The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is M0113. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: July 10, 2006 04:59:46PM CDT

Preliminary Draft Corridor Map Comment: M0113

First Name: Quinn
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Organization: American Rivers
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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: H:\BLM\utility corridor comments.doc

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Preliminary Draft Corridor Map Webmaster at (630)252-6182.



July 10, 2006

Delivered via electronic mail

Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Room 8H-033
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

**Re: Comments on Preliminary Map of Potential Energy Corridors -
Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)**

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept these comments on behalf of American Rivers. They should be considered supplementary to those submitted by The Wilderness Society and co-signed by American Rivers.

The preliminary maps available on your website are inadequate to provide detailed and valuable public comment. We are concerned that key features, such as the boundaries of special management areas, are excluded from the map, limiting their usefulness. In order to adequately comment on the potential energy corridors, maps must be issued at a finer scale, include special management area boundaries, and delineate rivers. The maps should also indicate which rivers are National Wild and Scenic Rivers, and which ones have been determined eligible and suitable for addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System.

American Rivers also urges you to comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (the Act), which calls for an eligibility study for all rivers as part of the federal planning process, as stated in Section 5 (d) 1 of the Act:

In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all Federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic and recreational river areas, and all river basin and project plan reports submitted to the Congress shall consider and discuss any such potentials. The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall make specific studies and investigations to determine which additional wild, scenic and recreational river areas within the United States shall be evaluated in planning reports by all Federal agencies as potential alternative uses of the water and related land resources involved.

Federal agencies must evaluate all rivers which correspond to potential energy corridors for Wild and Scenic River eligibility prior to any final actions taken by the agencies.

Despite the problems with scale, American Rivers has identified a certain number of Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) that appear to run adjacent to or are crossed by proposed energy corridors. This list should not be considered comprehensive. We look forward to conducting a more detailed analysis when more thorough maps are made available.

California:

North Fork American WSR
Klamath WSR
Eel WSR

Colorado:

Dolores (suitable WSR)

Oregon:

Clackamas WSR
White WSR
Lower Deschutes WSR
Owyhee WSR
Sandy WSR
Salmon WSR
Powder WSR
John Day WSR
Wallowa WSR

Utah:

Paria (suitable WSR)

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act expressly prohibits the authorization of projects that would directly or adversely impact a designated Wild and Scenic River in Section 7(a) of the Act:

The Federal Power Commission [FERC] shall not license the construction of any dam, water conduit, reservoir, powerhouse, transmission line, or other project works under the

Federal Power Act (41 Stat. 1063), as amended (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.), on or directly affecting any river which is designated in section 3 of this Act as a component of the national wild and scenic rivers system or which is hereafter designated for inclusion in that system, and no department or agency of the United States shall assist by loan, grant, license, or otherwise in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such river was established, as determined by the Secretary charged with its administration.

Given the clear prohibition in the Act, utility corridors should be removed from our nation's greatest rivers and their surrounding environments.

Sincerely,

Quinn McKew
American Rivers
1101 14th St., NW
Washington, DC 20005