

## Corridor EIS Archives

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**From:** corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2006 1:52 PM  
**To:** corridoreisarchives,  
**Subject:** Preliminary Draft Corridor Map Comment M0029

**Attachments:** Energy\_Cooridor\_062706\_M0029.doc



Energy\_Cooridor\_06  
2706\_M0029.d...

Thank you for your comment, Heather Murphy.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is M0029. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: June 28, 2006 01:52:07PM CDT

Preliminary Draft Corridor Map Comment: M0029

First Name: Heather

Last Name: Murphy

Organization: Private Citizen

Address:

City:

State: WA

Zip:

Country: USA

Email:

Privacy Preference: Withhold address only from public record

Attachment: C:\Documents and Settings\Heather\HeatherBioWork\HeatherConsulting\Energy  
Cooridor\_062706.doc

Comment Submitted:

Dear Dept of Energy,

Please do not publish my address or my email address.

I'm attaching a 2 page letter regarding my comments and concerns for the Energy Corridor proposed going over Stevens Pass in Washington State.

Thank you for this opportunity to respond.

H.Murphy,

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.



Heather A. Murphy  
Wildlife Biologist

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June 27, 2006

U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
1000 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585  
[corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov](mailto:corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov)

**RE: West-wide Energy Corridor, Stevens Pass Segment.  
Preliminary Draft Corridor Map; Notice of Intent to Prepare a Programmatic EIS; Amend  
Relevant Agency Land Use Plans; Conduct Public Scoping Meetings; and Notice of Floodplain  
and Wetlands Involvement**

Dear Corridor EIS Team,

I have recently become aware of the proposal to provide a long term energy corridor over Stevens Pass connecting the Columbia River to the Seattle/Everett area. The online map roughly shows the route going from the Entiat area to Plain, up Nason Creek, over Stevens Pass, to Skykomish and on to Puget Sound. [http://corridoreis.anl.gov/documents/docs/WWEC\\_Preliminary\\_Draft\\_Corridor\\_Map\\_HB.pdf](http://corridoreis.anl.gov/documents/docs/WWEC_Preliminary_Draft_Corridor_Map_HB.pdf) Please consider the following concerns and comments regarding this 3,500' wide energy corridor.

#1 – Fragmenting the North Cascades forests and terrestrial wildlife habitat:

The Little Wenatchee Late Successional Reserve (LSR) would be more heavily cut over. This LSR adjoins the Alpine Lakes, Henry M. Jackson and Glacier Peak Wilderness areas. Combined, these areas provide contiguous forested habitats; connecting the eastside to the westside forest systems. To the north is rock and ice for 30+ miles. Fragmenting Stevens Pass area would add further disruption of habitat. Other LSRs affected would be the Deadhorse/Natapoc LSR/MLSA and the Chiwawa LSR.

#2 - Losses of unique habitats through the necessary blasting and leveling of lands:

There are wetlands, riparian habitats, and talus/rock/cliff habitats. These are all limited in the Eastern Washington Cascades with many animal and plant populations heading towards a decline due to lack of these unique habitats. There is a potential Research Natural Area on Big Chief Mountain for the forested wetlands, sedges and fescue meadows.

#3 - Effects to Threatened Endangered and Sensitive species:

The route goes through several Northern spotted owl home ranges, forested habitat would be further fragmented, the spotted owl is in a decline. Wide ranging carnivores (grizzly bear, gray wolf and

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Canada lynx) are in low numbers in the North Cascades, they would be affected by further disruption to wildlife corridors, habitat losses, and disturbance from construction and maintenance programs. Listed fish species in Nason Creek shows a bull trout spawning area which may be impacted. A 3,500 foot corridor would remove most of the riparian habitat along any streams the lines go through. Sensitive plants occur in micro habitats on Entiat Ridge, Natapoc Ridge and Mill Creek/Nason Creek.

#### #4 - Public safety:

What will the effects be to people living under or near this huge power line? What does research show for the effects to body and brain function of people living under/near a high emission line? What is the threat of gas pipeline explosions, such as what happened in Bellingham area a few years back? What is the threat from terrorist targets to communities along these corridors?

#### #5 - Scenic conditions of Stevens Pass Highway and tourism:

U.S. Highway 2, Stevens Pass, is a "Scenic Byway". The 3,500' energy corridor is sure to change the looks of this pretty mountain pass. How will it affect visuals to the Stevens Pass Ski Area recreation visitors? And how will it affect the tourism based economy of the town of Leavenworth?

#### #6 - Cultural and Historic resources:

The Stevens Pass Historic District will be greatly affected by this proposal, in that all of the historic sites are within 3,500' corridor width. It is also situated along an American Indian cross-Cascade travel route.

#### #7 - Private Lands:

The proposal and EIS only deals with federal lands, what will be the effect on private lands? How are private land owners being contacted and compensated?

#### #8 - Energy Conservation Education:

I urge the agencies proposing this West-wide Energy Corridor to lessen the need for energy consumption through public conservation education and incentives. We Americans need to catch up to other developed nations, we need to be taught and complimented for the "wise use" of non renewable and natural resources, we need incentives to conserve energy. It should be a large role of the EIS Team to provide a public education program as a part of this West-wide Energy Corridor. Congress and the agencies need to show, by example, how to reduce needs for energy.

#### #9 - Process:

- a. The proposal and site specific maps are difficult to understand. It is hard to figure out what is going where and if there will be large energy facilities springing up along the route.
- b. A description of the footprint would be helpful; I could only find photos of various energy sources.
- c. Public meetings need to be in the communities that would be affected.
- d. Can other sites be selected with less ecological/safety/socio/economic/recreational/tourism effects?

Thank you for this time to comment.  
Sincerely,

*Heather A. Murphy*

Heather A. Murphy  
Private Citizen  
Wildlife Biologist,  
Retired U.S. Forest Service (1975-2005)

