



File Code: 1950

Date: December 3, 2010

Dear Reader:

The Mountain City Ranger District has received a proposal from Raft River Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. for the removal of an existing power line in Elko County. This power line runs from Jarbidge, Nevada to Mountain City, Nevada. See enclosed map.

In 2008, Raft River completed the installation of a new power line from Grasmere, Idaho to Owyhee, Nevada. This new line supplies power to the Mountain City and Owyhee area and made the Jarbidge – Mountain City line unnecessary. Removal would include removing all the wire and hardware from National Forest System (NFS) lands. Power poles would be cut off at the base and either removed from NFS lands or left on site. No roads would be constructed for this project. Existing routes or cross-country travel would be used for vehicle access.

The Forest Service will be conducting an analysis of this prior to making a decision on whether or not to approve the project. As part of this analysis we are inviting public comment on the project at this time. Soliciting public comments is required for all Forest Service proposed actions, including those that may be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement Environmental Assessment. Internal scoping indicates that this project meets the requirements under Category 3 – *Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.* (36 CFR 220.6(e) (3).

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation encourages agencies to coordinate the review of impacts to heritage resources that is required under the National Historic Preservation Act with reviews required under the National Environmental Policy Act. Regulations (36 CFR, part 800) concerning protection and preservation of historic and pre-historic properties give the public, local governments, and other entities opportunities to participate in the review and evaluation of effects to cultural sites.

This review and evaluation is referred to as the Section 106 process because it refers to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In addition to seeking comments about historic and pre-historic sites, certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking may participate as consulting parties in the Section 106 process. The Forest Service shall consider all written requests to participate as a consulting party.



Your written comments, concerns, and suggestions should be sent to Doug Clarke, Project Coordinator, at 2035 Last Chance Road, Elko, Nevada 89801. Comments can also be sent via facsimile to the following number: 775-778-6167. Electronic comments can be sent to:

comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe- mtncity@fs.fed.us

Please note "Raft River" in subject line of your e-mail message. If requested, a copy of all comments provided in response to this letter will be made available to the public. This will include names, addresses and any other information provided with the comments.

In order to be most effective, the Forest Service requests your comments on this project by **January 15, 2010**. We are also asking that you inform us of whether or not you wish to remain on the mailing list for this project. If we do not hear from you regarding your interest we may remove your name from the project mailing list.

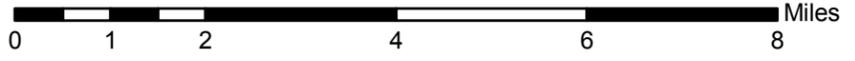
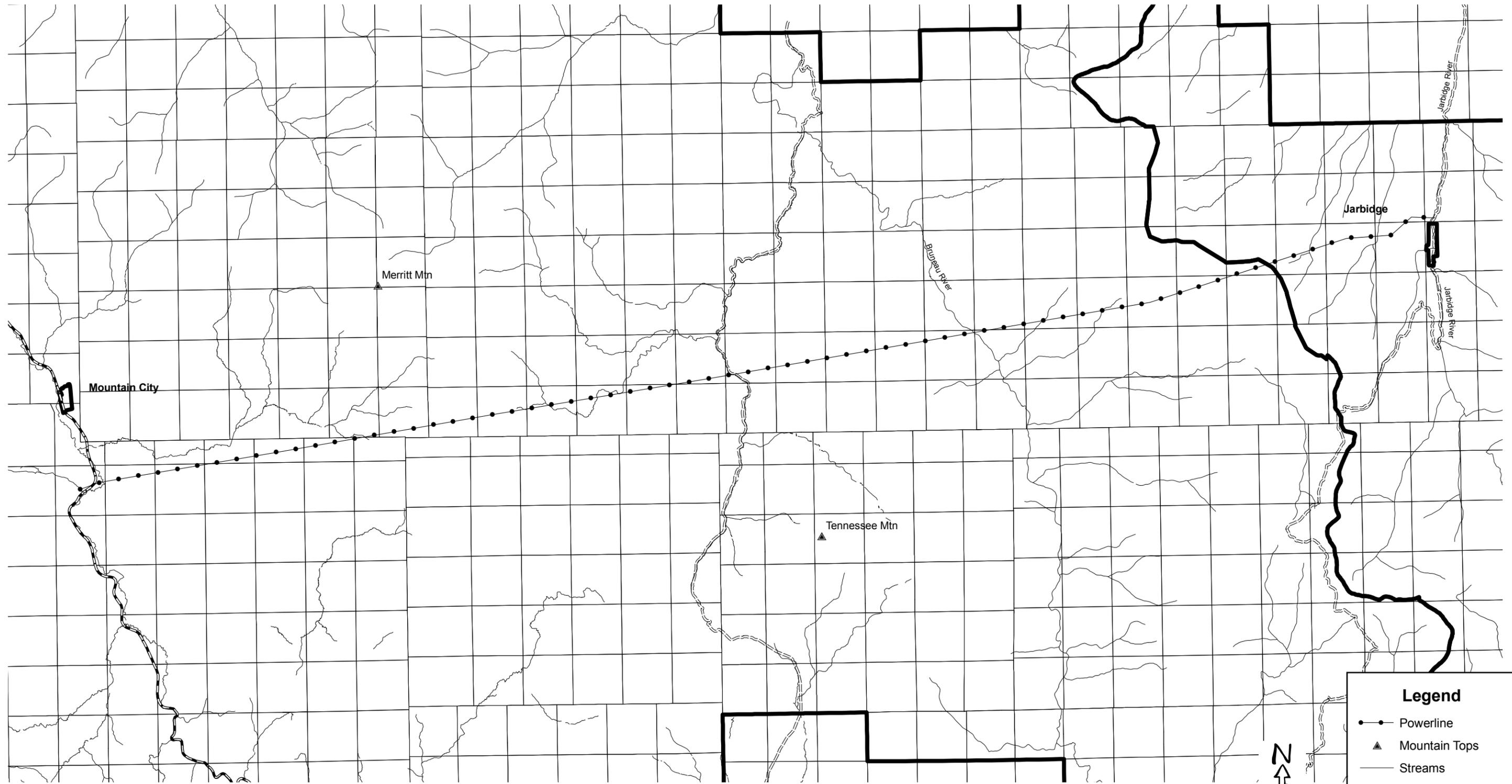
For more information on this project, please contact Doug Clarke, Planner, at (775) 778-6127. We thank you for your interest in the management of your national forests and look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

/s/Cheri Howell
CHERI HOWELL
Acting District Ranger

Enclosure

Raft River Power Line Removal Project
 Mountain City & Jarbidge Ranger Districts
 Humboldt - Toiyabe National Forest



Legend

- Powerline
- ▲ Mountain Tops
- Streams
- - - Mountain City Hwy
- ==== Roads
- Sections
- ▭ District Boundaries

This GIS product was compiled from various sources and may be corrected, updated, modified, or replaced at any time. For more information contact: Elko Zone Office, Elko, Nevada (775) 738-5171.

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J.E.M.
11/22/10