

## DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: The Public Utility District #1 of Benton County (PUD), Kennewick is constructing a new 115,000 volt transmission line in the Horse Heaven Hills south of Prosser, Washington. The purpose of the new line is to improve the reliability of the PUD transmission systems by connecting two separate transmission lines and thereby creating a looped transmission system. The new line will traverse agricultural farm land starting at the intersection of State Route 221 and Horrigan Road, and extending east 8.5 miles to the PUD's Prior #4 Substation. The location and routing of the existing and new lines are shown on the attached Google Map titled "Proposed Sunheaven Substation to Prior #4 Substation Line Route". The westerly seven miles of the new line follows the same alignment as an existing Benton Rural Electric Association (BREA) 12,470 volt distribution line. The poles of the existing BREA line will be replaced with the new taller transmission poles of adequate strength to carry BREA distribution line, the PUD power lines and a future communication line. Where the existing spans between BREA poles are greater than allowed by the design criteria of the new transmission line additional transmission poles will be placed between the existing BREA poles. The height of the existing BREA distribution poles are generally 40 to 45 feet above grade. The height of the new transmission poles are generally 60 to 70 feet above grade. The remaining 1.5 miles of line in the east section of the new transmission line requires the installation of new transmission poles which are generally of a height of 60 to 70 feet above grade.

Proponent: Public Utility District #1 of Benton County  
ATTN: Blake Scherer  
P O Box 6270  
2721 W 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Kennewick, WA 99336

File No. **EA 2015-029**

Location of proposal: The location and route of the new transmission line is shown on the attached Benton County Assessor's Map (4 sheets) dated 9/21/15 and titled "Sunheaven Sub #2 to Prior #4". The west end of the new line connects to an existing transmission line in Section 32, Township 7 North, Range 26 East, W.M. The new line crosses into Section 5, Township 6 North, Range 26 East, W.M. and continues east through Sections 4, 3, 2 and 1 of Township 6 North, Range 26 East, W.M. and Sections 6 and 5 of Township 7 North, Range 27 East, W.M. The line continues on through Sections 4 and 5 of Township 6 North, Range 27 East, W.M. and Sections 33 and 34 of Township 7 North, Range 27 East, W.M. where the new line connects into an existing transmission line. The poles of the new transmission line are located in the section identified above, however, the new transmission line conductors hang over into Sections 32, 33, 34, and 35 of Township 7 North, Range 26 East, W.M. and Sections 31 and 32 of Township 7 North, Range 27 East, W.M. Additional easements are required for the lines that overhand into these sections.

Lead agency **BENTON COUNTY**

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

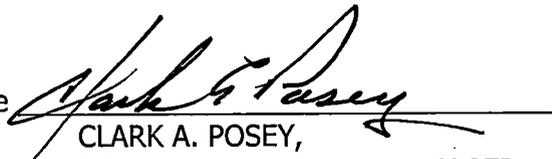
This DNS is issued under WAC197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by November 9, 2015.

Responsible Official

**Michael Shuttleworth, Planning Manager**  
**Benton County Planning Dept.**  
**Post Office Box 910      PHONE: (509) 786-5612**  
**Prosser, WA 99350-0910      (509) 736-3086**

Date October 27, 2015

Signature



CLARK A. POSEY,  
ASSOCIATE PLANNING MANAGER

You may appeal this determination to Michael Shuttleworth at the address above no later than November 9, 2015 by **written notice**. You should be prepared to make specific factual objections. Contact the Planning Department to read or ask about the procedures for SEPA Appeals.

X THERE IS NO AGENCY APPEAL.

DISTRIBUTION:

- Applicant
- News Media
- Benton County Building Office
- Dept. of Natural Resources-Olympia
- Dept. of Natural Resources -Ellensburg
- Benton Clean Air Authority
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Benton County Public Works
- Benton Franklin Dist. Health Dept.
- Department of Transportation
- Washington State Department of Health
- Department of Ecology - Olympia
- Department of Ecology - Yakima
- Corps of Engineers
- Fire District
- Fire Marshal
- Prosser School District No. 116
- Bureau of Land Management
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Office of Arch. & Historic Preservation
- Futurewise

EA  
2015-029

OCT 19 2015

**A. background** [help]

Benton County  
Planning Department

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Sunheaven #2 Substation to Prior #4 Substation-115,000 Volt Transmission Line

2. Name of applicant: [help]

Public Utility District #1 of Benton County

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [help]

P.O. Box 6270

2721 W. 10th Avenue

Kennewick, WA 99336,

509-582-2175

Contact Person: Blake Scherer, schererb@bentonpud.org

4. Date checklist prepared: October 5, 2015 *Received 10/19/15* [help]

5. Agency requesting checklist: [help]

Public Utility District #1 of Benton County

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [help]

Winter 2016.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [help]

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [help]

None.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. [help]

No other governmental approvals of other proposals are pending.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.  
[help]

Washington State Department of Natural Resource (DNR) – Easement for transmission lines on DNR controlled properties.

Benton Rural Electric Association (BREA) - Joint-Use Pole Agreement between BREA and Benton PUD

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11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)  
[help]

The Public Utility District #1 of Benton County (PUD), Kennewick, WA, is constructing a new 115,000 volt transmission line in the Horse Heaven Hills south of Prosser, Washington. The purpose of the new line is to improve the reliability of the PUD transmission systems by connecting two separate transmission lines and thereby creating a looped transmission system. The new line will traverse agricultural farm land starting near the intersection of State Route 221 and Horrigan Road, and extending east 8.5 mile to the PUD's Prior #4 Substation. The location and routing of the existing and new lines are shown on the attached Google Map titled "Proposed Sunheaven Substation to Prior #4 Substation Line Route". The westerly seven miles of the new line follows the same alignment as an existing Benton Rural Electric Association (BREA) 12,470 volt distribution line. The poles of the existing BREA line will be replaced with new taller transmission poles of adequate strength to carry the BREA distribution line, the PUD power lines and a future communication line. Where the existing spans between BREA poles are greater than allowed by the design criteria of the new transmission line additional transmission poles will be placed between the existing BREA poles. The height of the existing BREA distribution poles are generally 40 to 45 feet above grade. The height of the new transmission poles are generally 60 to 70 feet above grade.

The remaining 1.5 mile of line in the east section of the new transmission line requires the installation of new transmission poles which are generally of a height of 60 to 70 feet above grade.

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12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.  
[help]

The location and route of the new transmission line is shown on the attached Benton County Assessor maps (4 sheets) dated 9-21-15 and titled "Sunheaven Sub #2 to Prior #4". The west end of the new line connects to an existing transmission line in Section 32, T7N, R26E. The new line crosses into Section 5, T6N, R26E, and continues east through Sections 4, 3, 2, and 1 of T6N, R26E, and Sections 6 and 5 of T7N, R27E. The line continues on through Sections 4 and 5 of T6N, R27E

and Sections 33 and 34 of T7N, R27E where the new line connects into an existing transmission line.

The poles of the new transmission line are located in the section identified above, however, the new transmission conductors hang over into Sections 32, 33, 34, 35 and 35 of T7N, R26E, and Sections 31 and 32 of T7N, R27E. Additional easement are required for the lines that overhang into these sections.

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## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS** [help]

### **1. Earth**

a. General description of the site [help]

(circle one): **Flat**, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other

The project site is generally flat. The surrounding area is in irrigated agricultural crops or in Conservation Reserve. There are several gullies or draws along the project route and surrounding area. The installation of poles and stringing of overhead utility lines will occur adjacent to and off the agricultural crops.

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b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [help]

The project route is generally flat with a slope from beginning to end of 0.6%. There are three gullies or draws along the project route less than 1,000 feet across and slope ranging from 15% to 20%.

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c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. [help]

The general type of soils along the project route are Warden Silt loam and Shano Silt loam. Data was obtained from US Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service's Web Soil Survey.

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d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [help]

None observed.

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e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. [help]

Construction of the line will not require grading or filling. Excavation of transmission poles to depth of 10 feet at pole locations only. Native material or imported ¾" minus crushed rock is used to backfill poles.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [help]

Construction equipment will access pole locations using existing farming roads and primitive access roads along the existing BREDA distribution line route. Where primitive access roads have not been maintained access roads will be mowed when potential of fire hazards is high. Grubbing or remove of bush will not be required. After construction, vehicle travel to the poles along the project will be infrequent for the purpose of inspection, repair or modification of the powerlines and associated equipment.

Digging pole holes in slope of gully or draws may cause temporary erosion of the native soil around the pole site. If erosion does occur as a result of construction the surface of the slope will be returned to pre-construction slope and a 3" layer of ¾" crushed rock will be placed in a 5 foot radius around pole to help hold the sloped surface.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? [help]

No impervious surfaces proposed under this project,

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [help]

Proposed measure to control erosion includes minimizing removal of vegetation or area of disturbance, especially in areas of steep slopes.

## **2. Air**

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. [help]

Movement of vehicles and equipment across access roads will generate some dust during the construction. Vehicles and equipment will generate emission during construction. No emission will result for the project following construction, other than from vehicles used for maintenance and operations of the transmission and distribution lines. Dust is expected when power line construction and maintenance equipment travel the dry primitive farm roads to gain access to the pole locations. Duration of construction is estimated at 3-6 months. Access to the project site by Utility crews for maintenance and operation of the power lines is expected to be infrequent; possible 4 times a year

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [help]

There are no off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect this project.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Minimize removal of vegetation along access roads and at pole locations.

### 3. Water

a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. [\[help\]](#)

There are three natural draws or gullies along the length of the project. There are no known creeks, wetlands, or ponds within 300 feet of the project area.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. [\[help\]](#)

Does not apply.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. [\[help\]](#)

Does not apply.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

Does not apply.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. [\[help\]](#)

Does not apply.

b. Ground Water:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [help]

Water is needed for the purpose of adding moisture to backfill materials at the site of new transmission poles. Usage will be approximately 2,000 gallons per day during an estimated 90 day construction period. The water will be brought in from off-site from the nearest available water source. Source of water is unknown at this time

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- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. [help]

No waste materials will be discharged into the groundwater due to the construction, maintenance or operation of the power lines.

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c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. [help]

Rain water entering the project site will likely percolate into the ground and remain on site. Irrigation water systems exist within the project site and support the agricultural crops. Run off from the irrigation is unknown.

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- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [help]

Treated wooden utility poles and crossarms that are removed from the existing BREA distribution line will be returned to the BREA for classification and either reused or disposed of by Washington State regulations. The removed materials will not remain on the project site

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- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

The proposal does not affect drainage patterns.

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- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

No measures are anticipated.

#### 4. Plants [\[help\]](#)

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [\[help\]](#)

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

shrubs

grass

pasture

crop or grain

Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.

wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

other types of vegetation

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? [\[help\]](#)

There are native plants, shrubs, and agricultural crops along the project. Native vegetation will be removed where new poles and new anchors are installed. Vegetation will be removed within a radius of five feet for a fire protect zone.

- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

There are no known threatened or endanger species within the project site.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [\[help\]](#)

There is no landscaping or re-vegetation proposed within the project site

- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

There are no known noxious weeds or invasive species within the project site

#### 5. Animals

- a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include: [\[help\]](#)

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: Unknown

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: Unknown\_\_\_\_\_

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other None\_\_\_\_\_

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [help]

Unknown.\_\_\_\_\_

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [help]

Unknown.\_\_\_\_\_

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [help]

If necessary, best management practices will be used to limit or eliminate any adverse effects on birds or other wildlife.

- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

There are no known invasive animal species on or near the project site.

## 6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. [help]

This project involves replacing an existing BREA overhead power line and construction of a new overhead transmission/distribution power lines. The only energy consumed during construction is transportation energy use estimated to be 1,000 to 1,500 gallons of transportation fuel during the term of the project.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. [help]

This project will not affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: [help]

Does not apply.

## 7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. [help]

Power companies (BREA or the PUD) use treated wooden materials in construction of power lines. The existing BREA pole line hardware likely use lead material for the threads of the insulator pins. Treated wood poles, crossarms or insulator pins removed from the existing BREA power line during construction of the project will be reused or disposed of per the BREA procedures. Existing BREA transformers within the project site contain transformer mineral oil as a coolant. The transformers will remain on site. If a spill occurs utility personal at BREA follow applicable written Spill Prevention, Control, and Containment (SPCC) procedures. These procedures include training of Utility personnel in response to, clean-up of and reporting of spills.

There is a risk of fire in dry grasses and weeds from Utility vehicles and equipment travelling along access roads that have not been maintained.

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

Active agricultural crop operations likely use fertilizers or pesticides. It is unknown if parcels in Conservation Reserve used fertilizers or pesticides.

The BREA poles and crossarms are treated wood products. Where treated poles come in contact with soils there is likely leaching of the preservative into soils.

BREA overhead transformers that exist on the BREA poles are filled with transformer mineral oil. There is no known spills associated with the existing transformers.

- 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

Northwest Pipeline LLC operates a natural gas pipeline that crosses (from southeast to northwest) through the project site approximately 1.25 mile east of the intersection of State Route 221 and Horrigan Road.

Pressurized underground irrigation water lines and above ground irrigation circles run adjacent to or through the projects site.

- 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Benton Co PUD (PUD) may install overhead transformers on the transmission pole in the future. The transformers will likely contain transformer mineral oil.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

When working with pole line hardware containing hazardous substances such as lead, mineral oil or wood preservative, there are establish handling practices to limit exposure to the workers. The volume of transformer oil of the size of transformers that are installed or could be installed in the future are small and any release of transformer oil will not likely reach ground water. However, in the event of an oil spill from a utility transformers, utility personal at BREA and the PUD follow established written Spill Prevention, Control, and Containment (SPCC) procedures, as applicable, and the Utility personnel have been

trained to respond to oil spills, clean-up measures and reporting of spills.

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- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

48 hours prior to planned excavation the excavation contractor will call for locates of underground line in the work site.

By design, no excavation of transmission poles will be occur within fifty feet of the Northwest Pipeline's natural gas pipeline.

Any construction contractor working for the PUD will be required by contract to have Spill Prevention Containment Countermeasures (SPCC) plan approved by the PUD prior to handling any oil filled transformer.

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**b. Noise**

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? [\[help\]](#)

Ambient noise in the area of the project site include vehicle traffic on State Route 221, and operation agriculture farming equipment adjacent to the project site. On-site noise of power line construction comes from trucks, backhoes, manlifts and boom trucks.

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- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. [\[help\]](#)

Noise from construction vehicles and equipment will occur during the construction of the transmission line project. This noise will occur from 6:00 am to 6:00 PM, five days a week.

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- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Where on-site noise levels from construction equipment or machinery exceed the noise limits as described by WISHA, appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shall be worn by the on-site construction personnel.

No other measures will be taken to reduce or control on-site or ambient noise impacts

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**8. Land and shoreline use**

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

The past, present and foreseeable future land use is agricultural crop farming.

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- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? [help]

The new transmission line will enhance the likelihood that the farming will continue as agricultural farming.

Some of the properties adjacent to the project are in Conservation Reserve. It is unknown if these parcel will remain in Conservation Reserve, however, once no longer held in reserve the land use will likely be agricultural farming.

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- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

There should be no changes to the business operation of the farm land. The new transmission line will improve the reliability of the electrical transmission system serving the farming operation's electrical power supplies

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- c. Describe any structures on the site. [help]

The structures on the project site include the existing BREA overhead and underground distribution power lines, and agricultural farming irrigation circles and associated irrigation equipment

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- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [help]

The BREA distribution pole line will be replaced with new transmission /distribution pole line.

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- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [help]

Growth Management Act Agriculture Zone

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- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [help]

Growth Management Act Agricultural District

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- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [help]

Not Applicable

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h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [\[help\]](#)

Unknown.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [\[help\]](#)

None.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [\[help\]](#)

None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Does not apply.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The proposed project enhances the electrical supply that serves the current agricultural farming operation by creating a looped electrical transmission system to existing BREa and PUD distribution substations.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

The farming property owners are supportive of the project. They demonstrate their support by granting new easements on their properties for the new transmission line. The property owners recognize the long-term benefit to their farming operations of an improved transmission systems.

## 9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)

There is no change in housing as a result of the new transmission line project.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)

Does not apply.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Does not apply.

**10. Aesthetics**

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? [\[help\]](#)

The height of the new transmission poles are generally 60 to 70 feet above grade. The poles are largely treated wooden poles. Select poles that require added strength due to the attached equipment will likely be galvanized steel poles.

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- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [\[help\]](#)

Along westerly 7 mile of the project the height of the existing BREA distribution poles are generally 40 to 45 feet above grade. The new transmission poles that replace the BREA poles are generally 60 to 70 feet above grade and are spaced 300 to 350 feet apart. There will be three new transmission conductors added to the BREA's four existing distribution conductors. The new transmission pole line is being design with adequate strength and height to accommodate a future communication conductor.

The remaining 1.5 mile of line in the east section of the new transmission line requires the installation of new transmission poles which are generally of a height of 60 to 70 feet above grade. This section of line is designed for three new transmission conductors, four future distribution conductors and a future communication conductor.

Spacing between the new transmission poles in the easterly section of the project range between 250 to 350 feet.

The views obstructed in the immediate vicinity by the project is agricultural farm lands.

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- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The new transmission line project preserves the character of the area.

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**11. Light and glare**

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [\[help\]](#)

None.

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- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [\[help\]](#)

No,

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- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [\[help\]](#)

None.

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- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [help]

Not applicable.

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## 12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [help]

There are no known recreational areas in the immediate vicinity

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- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [help]

Does not apply.

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- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [help]

Does not apply.

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## 13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe. [help]

A search of the Washington State Department of Archeology & Historical Preservation searchable cultural database did not reveal any historical or cultural building, structures, or sites in or adjacent to the project site.

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- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. [help]

A search of the Washington State Department of Archeology & Historical Preservation searchable cultural database did not reveal any landmarks, features or evidence of Indian use or occupation in or adjacent to the project site. A site specific cultural resources survey has not been conducted of the project site.

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- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc. [help]

A search of the Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD) was used to assess historical and cultural sites in or adjacent to the project site.

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- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

No measures are proposed

#### **14. Transportation**

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. [help]

The new line will traverse agricultural farm land starting near the intersection of State Route 221 (SR 221) and Horrigan Road, and extending east 8.5 mile to the PUD's Prior #4 Substation. Access roads to the new line is shown on the attached Google Map titled "Proposed Sunheaven Substation to Prior #4 Substation Line Route".

Access to project on the west end is from (SR 221). The access road off of SR 221 to the project is a private gravel road. Access to the east end of the project is from State Route 14 (SR 14). The access road to the east end of the project is also a private gravel road.

Access to the midpoint of the project is County road S. Travis Road. S.Travis Road is paved except the last half mile is gravel road.

Construction equipment will access pole locations using existing farming roads and primitive access roads.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? [help]

Transit is not available at the site. Nearest transit stop is approximately 20 miles in Prosser, WA.

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [help]

Does not apply.

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). [help]

There are not planned improvements to existing roads, street, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities.

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. [help]

No.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? [\[help\]](#)

The only visits to the project site will be for maintenance and operation of the BREA or PUD power lines. Visits to the site maybe on the order of four times per year.

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

The project will not interfere with movement of agricultural products on roads or streets in the area.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

None.

### **15. Public services**

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

Project will not impact public services.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [\[help\]](#)

None.

### **16. Utilities**

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [\[help\]](#)  
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other

No service are available on the project site. The service needed during construction of the project are temporary only. No utilities are need beyond the completion of the project.

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. [\[help\]](#)

During construction the Contractor is required to provide temporary or potable sanitary facilities, water, electricity if needed, telephone, and refuse. It has not been determined how the Contractor will provide these utilities

No service are available on the project site. The service needed during construction of the project are temporary only. No utilities are need beyond the completion of the project.

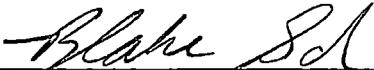
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

[help]

During construction the Contractor is required to provide temporary or potable sanitary facilities, water, electricity if needed, telephone, and refuse. It has not been determined how the Contractor will provide these utilities

### C. Signature [HELP]

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Name of signee Blake Scherer

Position and Agency/Organization Public Utility District #1 of Benton County

Date Submitted: 10/13/15

## D. supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [\[help\]](#)

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

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Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

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2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

---

---

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

---

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3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

---

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Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

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4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness,

wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

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Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

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5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

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---

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

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---

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

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Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

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7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

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## ESA LISTED SALMONIDS CHECKLIST

The Listed Salmonids Checklist is provided in order that the county may initially identify a project's potential impacts (if any) on salmonids that have been listed as "threatened" or "endangered" under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). A salmonid is any fish species that spends part of its life cycle in the ocean and returns to fresh water. Potential project impacts that may result in a "taking" of listed salmonids must be avoided, or mitigated to insignificant levels. Generally, under ESA, a "taking" is broadly defined as any action that causes the death of, or harm to, the listed species. Such actions include those that affect the environment in ways that interfere with or reduce the level of reproduction of the species.

If ESA listed species are present or ever were present in the watershed where your project will be located, your project has the potential for affecting them, and you need to comply with the ESA. The questions in this section will help determine if the ESA listing will impact your project. The Fish Program Manager at the appropriate Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) regional office can provide information for the following two questions. Please contact the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife at 1701 S. 24th, Yakima WA 98902-5720, Phone No. 509-575-2740.

1. Are ESA listed salmonids currently present in the watershed in which your project will be?  
YES \_\_\_ NO X  
Please Describe.

Not applicable.

2. Has there ever been an ESA listed salmonid stock present in this watershed?  
YES \_\_\_ NO X  
Please Describe.

Not Applicable.

If you answered "yes" to either of the above questions, you should complete the remainder of this checklist.

**PROJECT SPECIFIC:** The questions in this section are specific to the project and vicinity.

A1. Name of watershed \_\_\_\_\_

A2. Name of nearest waterbody \_\_\_\_\_

A3. What is the distance from this project to the nearest body of water?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Often a buffer between the project and a stream can reduce the chance of a negative impact to fish.

A4. What is the current land use between the project and the potentially affected water body (parking lots, farmland, etc.)

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A5. Is the project above a:  
Natural permanent barrier (waterfall) YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
Natural temporary barrier (beaver pond) YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
Man-made barrier (culvert, dam) YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (explain)

A6. If yes, are there any resident salmonid populations above the blockage?  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Don't Know \_\_\_\_\_

A7. What percentage of the project will be impervious surface (including pavement & roof area)?

---

**FISH MIGRATION:** The following questions will help determine if this project could interfere with migration of adult and juvenile fish. Both increases and decreases in water flows can affect fish migration.

B1. Does the project require the withdrawal of  
a. Surface water? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of surface water body \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Ground water? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
From Where \_\_\_\_\_  
Depth of well \_\_\_\_\_

B2. Will any water be rerouted? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, will this require a channel change?

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B3. Will there be retention ponds? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, will this be an infiltration pond or a surface discharge to either a municipal storm water system or a surface water body?

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If to a surface water discharge, please give the name of the waterbody.

---

B4. Will this project require the building of new roads? Increased road mileage may affect the timing of water reaching a stream and may, thus, impact fish habitat.

---

B5. Are culverts proposed as part of this project? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

B6. Will topography changes affect the duration/direction of runoff flows?  
Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes describe the changes.

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---

B7. Will the project involve any reduction of the floodway or floodplain by filling or other partial blockage of flows? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

---

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If yes, how will the loss of flood storage be mitigated by your project?

---

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**WATER QUALITY:** The following questions will help determine if this project could adversely impact water quality. Such impacts can cause problems for listed species. Water quality can be made worse by runoff from impervious surfaces, altering water temperature, discharging contaminants, etc.

C1. Do you know of any problems with water quality in any of the streams within this watershed?  
YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

If yes please describe.

---

---

C2. Will your project either reduce or increase shade along or over a waterbody?  
YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_ Removal of shading vegetation or the building of structures such as docks or floats often result in a change in shade.

C3. Will the project increase nutrient loading or have the potential to increase nutrient loading or contaminants (fertilizers, other waste discharges, or runoff) to the waterbody?  
YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

C4. Will turbidity be increased because of construction of the project or during operation of the project? In-water or near water work will often increase turbidity. YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

C5. Will your project require long term maintenance, i.e., bridge cleaning, highway salting, chemical sprays for vegetation management, clearing of parking lots?  
YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_  
Please Describe.

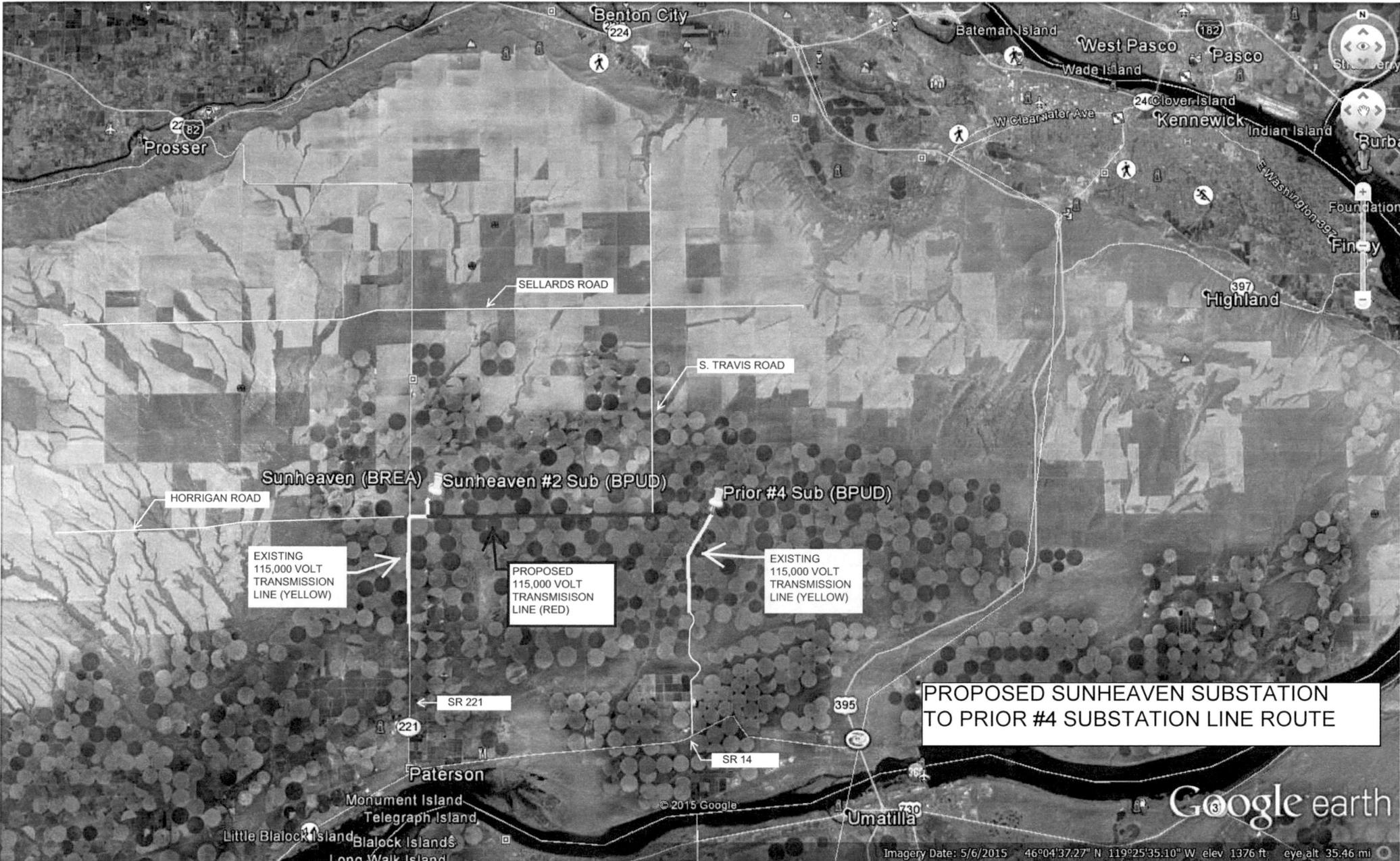
**Vegetation:** The following questions are designed to determine if the project will affect riparian vegetation, thereby, adversely impacting salmon.

D1. Will the project involve the removal of any vegetation from the stream banks?  
YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

If yes, please describe the existing conditions and the amount and type of vegetation to be removed.

D2. If any vegetation is removed, do you plan to re-plant? YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_  
If yes, what types of plants will you use?

<p><b>FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:</b> Critical Area Review Completed by <u>Frank Passey</u> on <u>10/21/2015</u> Application approved for processing by <u>Frank Passey</u> on <u>10/21/2015</u> Zoning and Comp Plan Designation <u>GMA AG</u></p>
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Sunheaven (BREA)

Sunheaven #2 Sub (BPUD)

Prior #4 Sub (BPUD)

EXISTING  
115,000 VOLT  
TRANSMISSION  
LINE (YELLOW)

PROPOSED  
115,000 VOLT  
TRANSMISSION  
LINE (RED)

EXISTING  
115,000 VOLT  
TRANSMISSION  
LINE (YELLOW)

PROPOSED SUNHEAVEN SUBSTATION  
TO PRIOR #4 SUBSTATION LINE ROUTE



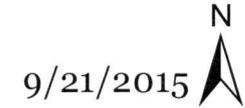
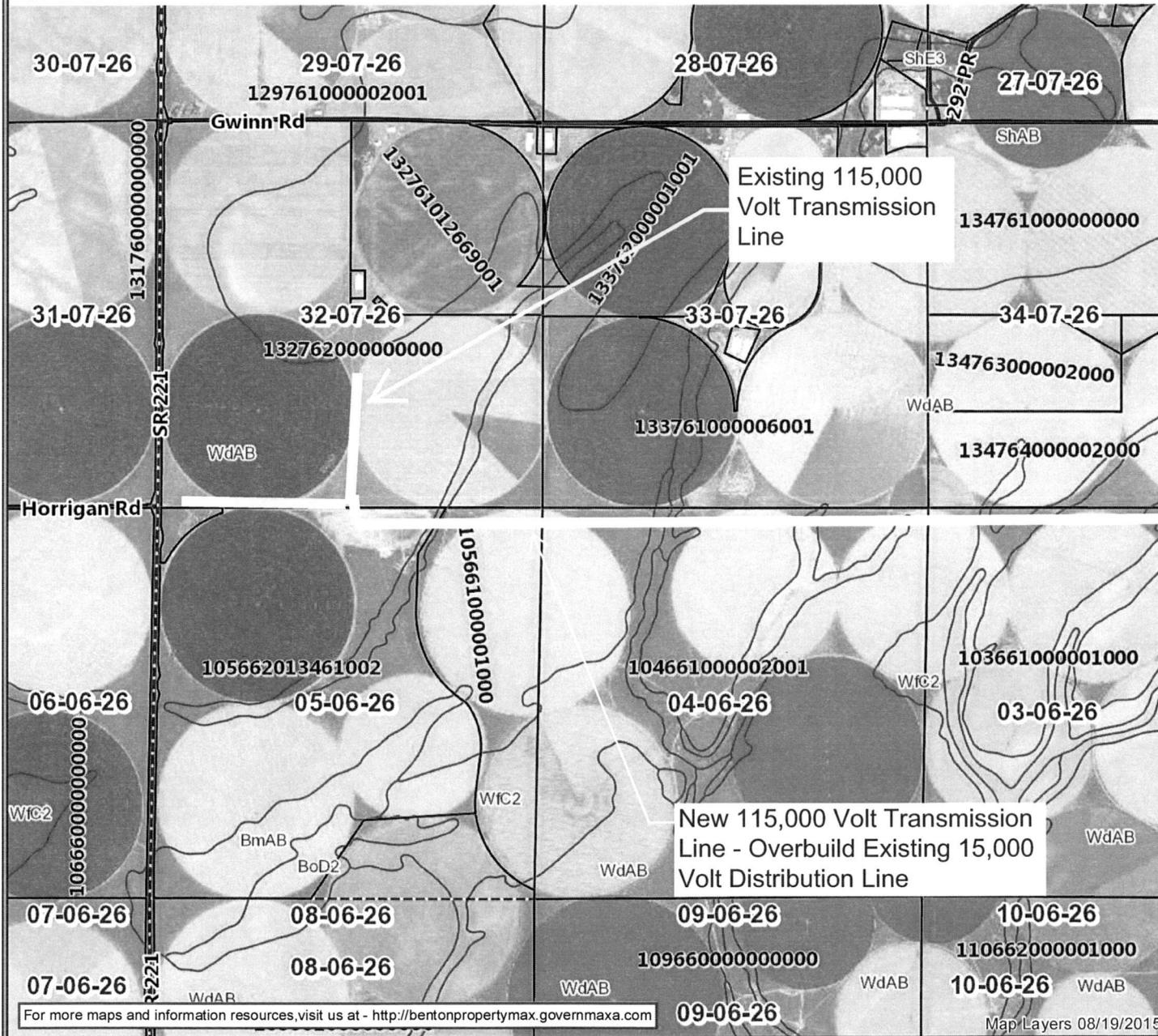
ASSESSOR

# Benton County WASHINGTON

## Sunheaven #2 Sub to Prior #4 (1)



- Property Parcels
- Sections
- Roads
- Soils
- County Boundary



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Note: Acreage and Square Footage data shown are approximate and may not be consistent with records maintained for appraisal purposes.

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Map Layers 08/19/2015

Data source(s) Benton County, Washington Government

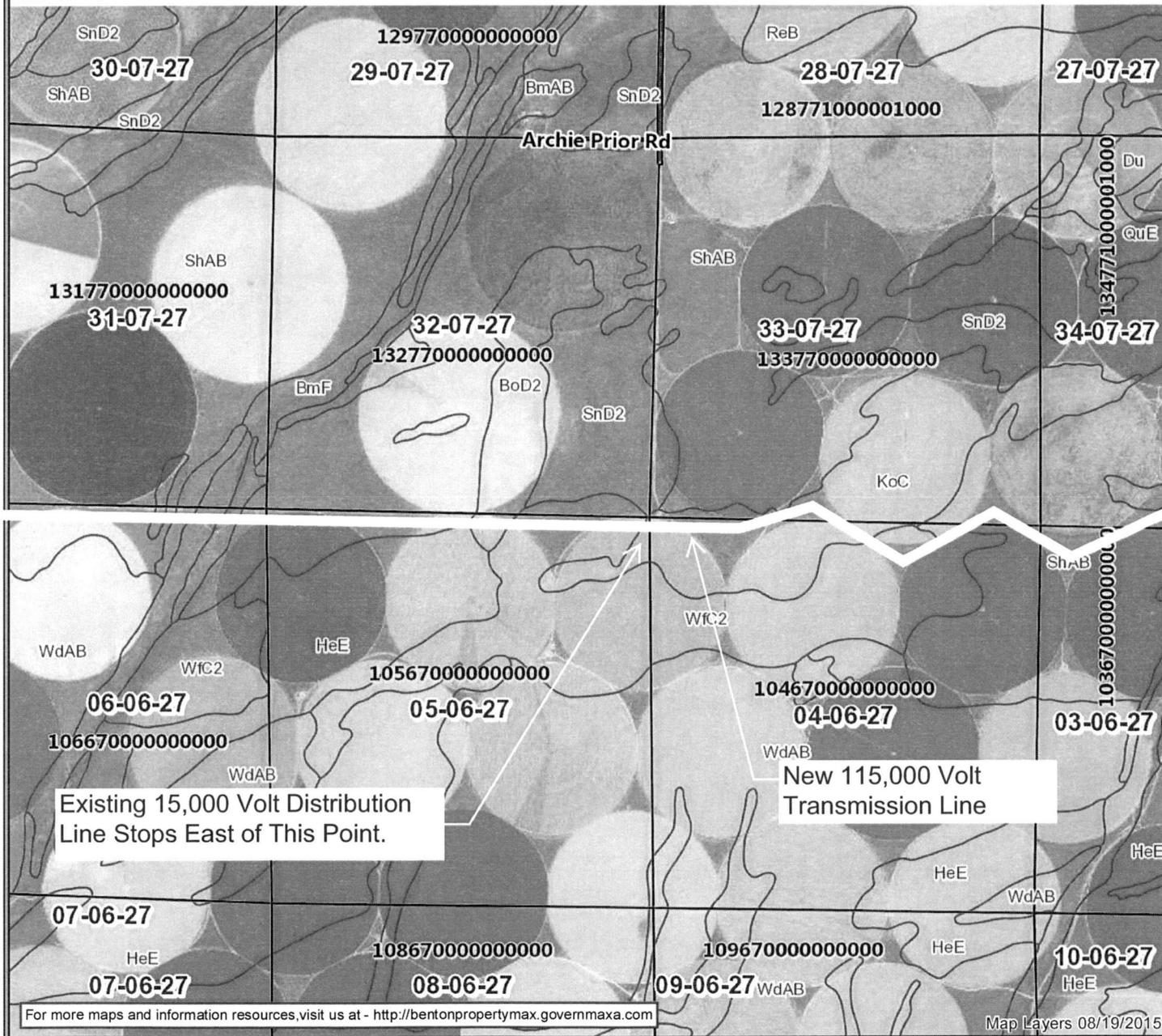




ASSESSOR

# Benton County WASHINGTON

## Sunheaven #2 Sub to Prior #4 (3)



- Property Parcels
- Sections
- Roads
- Soils
- County Boundary



9/21/2015

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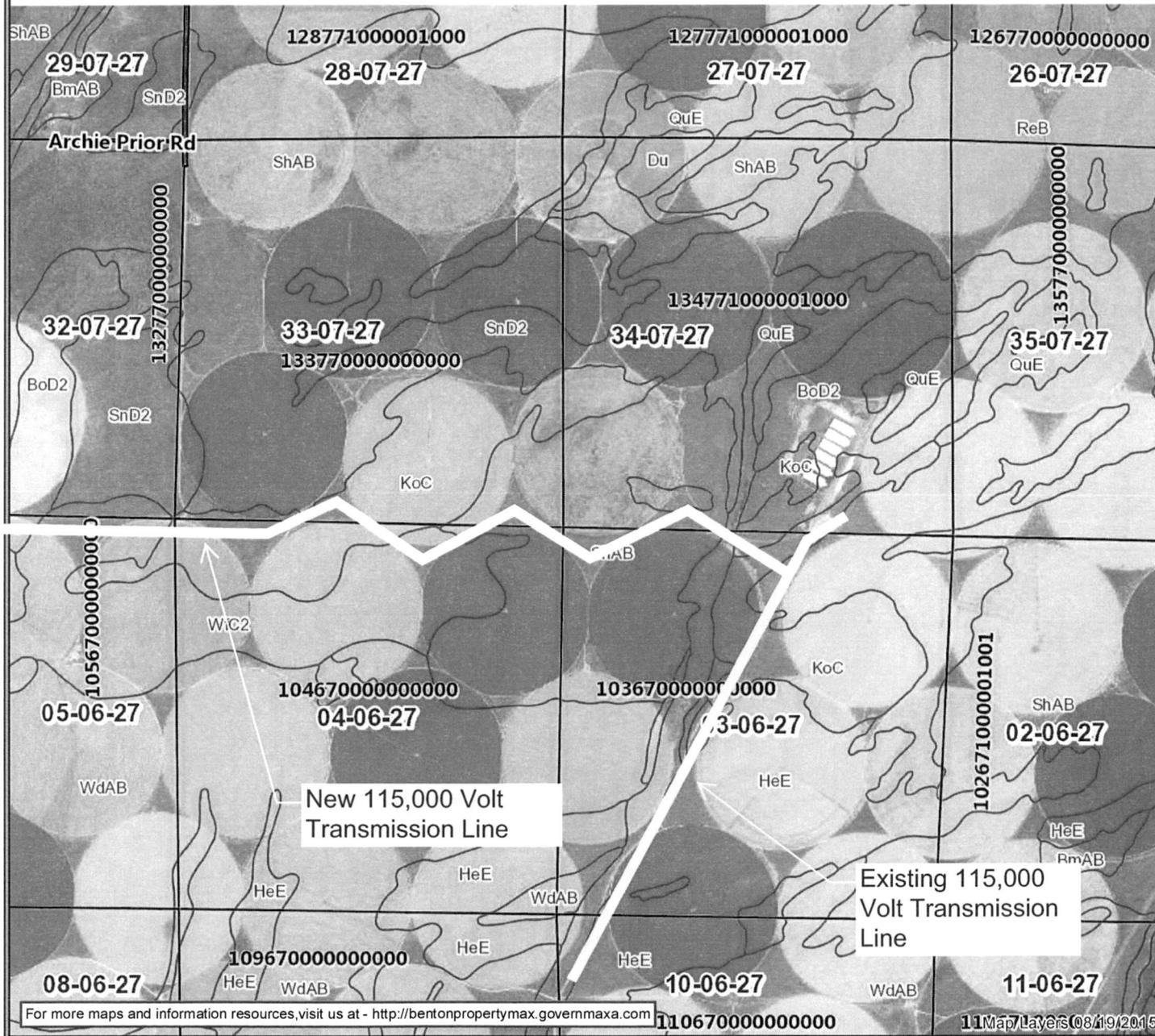
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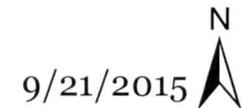
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# Benton County WASHINGTON

## Sunheaven #2 Sub to Prior #4 (4)



- Property Parcels
- Sections
- Roads
- Soils
- County Boundary



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