

# Memo

**To:** Commissioners Wefald, Clark and Cramer  
**From:** Patrick Fahn  
**Date:** February 16, 2007  
**Re:** Basin Electric tree mitigation proposal – PU-04-109

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On February 8, 2007 the Commission received Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Final Woody Species Inventory Report [Document #117] and a proposal for a tree replacement program [Document #116].

The ENSR Table 1 in document #117 lists the species and numbers of plants that were removed during pipeline construction. Table 2 lists the species and number of plants that were removed during construction by landowner. During construction, 907 trees and 461 shrubs were removed. A two-for-one replacement plan would require planting 1,814 trees and 922 shrubs for a total of 2,736 plantings. A 75% survival rate would require 1,361 surviving trees and 692 surviving shrubs.

Basin's vegetation replacement plan proposes plantings at the North Dakota Game and Fish's (NDGFD) Harmony Lake Management Area. NDGFD has a list of preferred tree and shrub species for the project. Basin proposes to plant 1,350 trees and 4,950 shrubs for a total of 6,300 plantings.

Basin will be sending an amendment to its vegetation replacement plan to reflect 3 years of mitigation reporting as required in the order.

I recommend the Commission accept (acknowledge) Basin's proposal as amended. Basin (Cris Miller) would be glad to attend an Informal Hearing with the Commission if desired.