

BRIDGER PIPELINE LLC

Environmental Division

Bob Dundas, P.G., Environmental Coordinator
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Reply to:

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December 3, 2012

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Patrick Fahn
Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: Case No. PU-09-750 – Four Bears Pipeline Tree/Shrub Mitigation Update

Dear Mr. Fahn:

As an update to the subject corridor number 115 and route permit number 125, Bridger Pipeline LLC Bridger Pipeline LLC is providing the 2012 annual report prepared by the North Dakota Forest Service to satisfy the requirements of the PSC tree and shrub mitigation related permit conditions.

Bridger Pipeline LLC continues to be excited about this partnership with the NDFS and is pleased to report that a total of 37,755 trees and shrubs were planted during the 2012 season. Continued success oriented results are anticipated in 2013 as the planting activity continues. Please call me at (307) 266-0411 or email at bob.dundas@truecos.com should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Bob Dundas, P.G.
Environmental Coordinator

Attachments

File: BPLLC Four Bears Pipeline

Four Bears Pipeline Tree Mitigation

2012 Project Status Update



Prepared for:
Bob Dundas
Bridger Pipeline, LLC
PO Drawer 2360
Casper, WY 82602



Larry Kotchman, State Forester
NDSU- North Dakota Forest Service
307 First Street East
Bottineau ND 58318

December 1, 2012

Overview

Mitigation criteria established by the Public Service Commission (PSC) ensures that trees and shrubs lost or destroyed during construction projects are replaced at a 2:1 ratio. As a result of the Four Bears Pipeline (a Bridger Pipeline, LLC Project,) up to a maximum number of 97,278 trees and shrubs must be planted to satisfy the mitigation requirements for this project. An additional number of trees and shrubs will be planted to offset unanticipated mortality. If at the end of three growing seasons it is determined that 75% of the replacement trees and shrubs planted are not living, the North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) will replant an adequate number of trees to satisfy the offset mortality and reach 75% or greater success rate. Landowners impacted by the project have been offered a choice of having replacement trees and shrubs planted on their property or planted elsewhere at alternative locations. The remaining number of trees and shrubs will be planted at alternative locations through cooperative projects with tree planting entities and private landowners.

The NDFS is administering a mitigation tree planting program in cooperation with local soil conservation districts and private tree planting vendors. Interested landowners desiring to establish appropriate conservation tree plantings may apply with the NDFS for assistance. Eligible landowners will be encouraged to work directly with local soil conservation district partners and private tree planting vendors to secure professional tree planting design assistance and tree planting services. Mitigation project funding will be made available for a variety of conservation tree planting practices that are not otherwise eligible for cost-share. These practices will be designed using the standard USDA conservation tree planting plan (CONS-4). Conservation practice specifications will be influenced by species suitability, soil characteristics, topography, land-use and the landowner's objectives. Eligible conservation tree planting practices include, but are not limited to, living snow fences, windbreaks, wildlife plantings, riparian restoration and buffers, and vegetative fuel breaks.

2012 Update

Excellent progress has been made in the implementation of the mitigation plan. 37,755 trees and shrubs were planted in 2012 (over one-third of the overall project goal.) Detailed planting information can be found in Appendix A attached. The NDFS has received 154 individual landowner applications to plant 51,300 trees and shrubs in 2013. The NDFS will be selecting successful planting projects from these applications, and at least an additional one-third or 32,500 trees and shrubs will be planted in 2013. Additional awards will be granted in 2014 to meet the overall mitigation goal. The following table describes the activities to be undertaken and the status of each as of December 2012.

Activity	Status December 2012
North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) develops tree planting summary sheet for Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs) and vendors outlining Mitigation Tree Planting Partnership procedures.	Completed.
Contact county SCD offices to explain the Mitigation Tree Planting Partnership framework. Application materials are made available.	Completed.
NDFS provides contact information for impacted landowners and tree/shrub needs to vendors.	Completed.
Prepare a tree/shrub spreadsheet to track accomplishments and survival by county, landowner and site.	Completed.
SCD or vendor meets with landowner on site to design tree planting. All plantings will follow conservation practice specifications and ND CONS-4 (tree planting planning worksheets) are completed.	Ongoing.
Plans are reviewed by NDFS. NDFS develops award letters and agreements. Agreements are signed with landowners.	37,755 Conservation trees and shrubs were planted on 62 sites in 2012.
Class I & III Cultural Resource Surveys are completed by qualified contractor.	Ongoing.
Sites are prepared for tree planting by mechanical or chemical means. Trees are ordered from nurseries. Trees are delivered from nurseries and stored in coolers. Site is inspected and staked for planting. Trees are planted. Fabric weed barrier is installed.	April-November 2012, 2013, 2014.
Invoice sent to NDFS. Reimbursements made through NDSU Business Office.	Ongoing
Landowners maintain projects as per agreement.	Ten year agreements initiated in 2012, 2013, 2014.

Appendix A- Planting Information

2012- Conservation Trees						
<u>County</u>	<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Trees Planted</u>	
Adams	NE	20	130	91	562	
Adams	NE	8	130	91	233	
Billings	NE	3	141	100	263	
Burke	SE	21	160	94	181	
Burleigh	SE	22	142	75	1,007	
Burleigh	SW	33	139	75	276	
Burleigh		22, 27 & 28, 26	137	76 & 77	1,050	
Burleigh	NE	22	139	79	892	
Burleigh	NWNW	13	137	78	443	
Burleigh	NE	13	137	78	933	
Burleigh	SW	17	141	79	1,480	
Burleigh	SW	28	141	79	275	
Burleigh	NE	29	137	78	657	
Burleigh	SE	26	144	78	549	
Burleigh	NE	27	144	77	973	
Burleigh	SW	29	139	76	323	
Burleigh	NW	4	140	79	665	
Burleigh	SW	20	140	80	1,537	
Burleigh	SW	12	138	79	291	
Burleigh	NE	17	139	75	514	
Burleigh	NW & SW	18	141	77	347	
Burleigh	NW & SE	18	139	79	634	
Burleigh	NE	7	141	77	295	
Burleigh	SW	32	137	75	385	
Burleigh	NW	32	140	79	741	
Burleigh	SE	1	140	80	735	
Burleigh	NE & SE	24	137	79	700	
Divide	NE	23	163	99	737	
Divide	S	5	163	96	664	
Divide	SE	2	161	95	256	
Divide	NW	25	162	97	603	
Divide	SE	34	164	95	1,466	
Divide	NW	3	163	95	1,521	
Grant	NW&NE	24	135	90	437	
McKenzie	NW & SE	3 & 34	151 & 152	58	1,516	
McKenzie	SE/NE	6 & 31	150 & 151	98	3,194	
McLean	NW	34	143	80	265	
McLean	SE	17	146	84	1,575	
McLean	SE	24	143	80	265	
McLean	SW	19	144	81	403	
McLean	NE	21	148	81	634	
McLean	SE	10	144	82	87	
McLean	NE	4	143	81	149	

McLean	NW	10	145	79	48
McLean	SW	4	143	80	382
McLean	SE & SW	11	147	80	457
McLean	SE	3	147	79	654
Mercer	SW	26	145	86	152
Mercer	NE	26	146	86	390
Mercer	NW	7	144	86	284
Mercer	SE	3	145	85	171
Morton	SW	3	139	83	892
Morton	SE	4	139	81	200
Morton	SE	8	140	86	330
Morton	NE	19	140	81	397
Morton	NW	13	140	18	420
Oliver	SW/SE	14	142	84	524
Sioux	NW	3	130	80	355
Stark	SW	2	140	98	83
Ward	SE	7	160	88	196
Williams	SW	8	159	102	894
Williams	NW	15	156	101	213
2012 TOTAL					37,755