

**Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Antelope Valley Station Natural Gas Pipeline Project
Tree and Shrub Inventory**

Prepared for:

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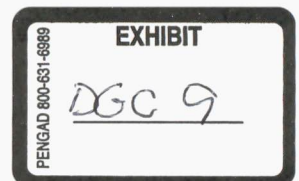


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INTRODUCTION

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) is constructing the Antelope Valley Station Natural Gas Pipeline (AVS NGP) Project near their Antelope Valley Station in Mercer County, North Dakota. The pipeline is approximately 3.5 miles long and will deliver natural gas to the Antelope Valley Station to be used in starting the coal fired powerplant.

In the course of construction, trees and shrubs may be removed, cut, grubbed or otherwise destroyed. Basin Electric contracted with Western EcoSystems Technologies (WEST) to inventory these trees and shrubs so that mitigation can occur according to the Public Service Commission's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications.

The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the tree and shrub inventory that occurred on May 17, 2013.

STUDY AREA

The AVS NGP project runs along the southern and western side of the Antelope Valley Station before entering the station on the north side (Figure 1). The area is largely within previously disturbed lands from the adjacent Coteau Coal Mine or from construction of the Antelope Valley Station.

The inventory was completed within the pipeline construction area (approximately 100 foot wide corridor), as well as additional areas associated with string-out work and additional workspace. WEST continued the mapping effort at a minimum of 100 foot corridor even in areas planned for boring.

METHODS

Trees and shrubs were inventoried by WEST botanists on foot on May 17, 2013. The area inventoried for shrubs included the entire survey corridor as described above in Study Area. Tree/shrub locations of individuals or clusters, species, and number of individuals were recorded using a sub-meter GPS unit.

RESULTS

A total of 157 individual trees and shrubs were counted within the inventory boundary (Table 1). It is recognized that this inventory area represents an area larger than will be impacted by construction (e.g., bore areas are included, wide survey corridor than construction, etc). The number of trees and shrubs to be impacted by construction should be more closely determined through an overlay of the actual construction area on the shapefile of trees and shrubs or a direct count of the project after construction.

Table 1. Results of tree and shrub inventory by common name and number of individual plants for the AVS NGP Project.

Tree or Shrub Common Name	Number of Individuals
Chokecherry	4
Snowberry	10
Wild Plum	14
Silver Buffaloberry	1
Chinese Elm	80
Green Ash	40
Skunkbush	3
Boxelder	5
Total	157

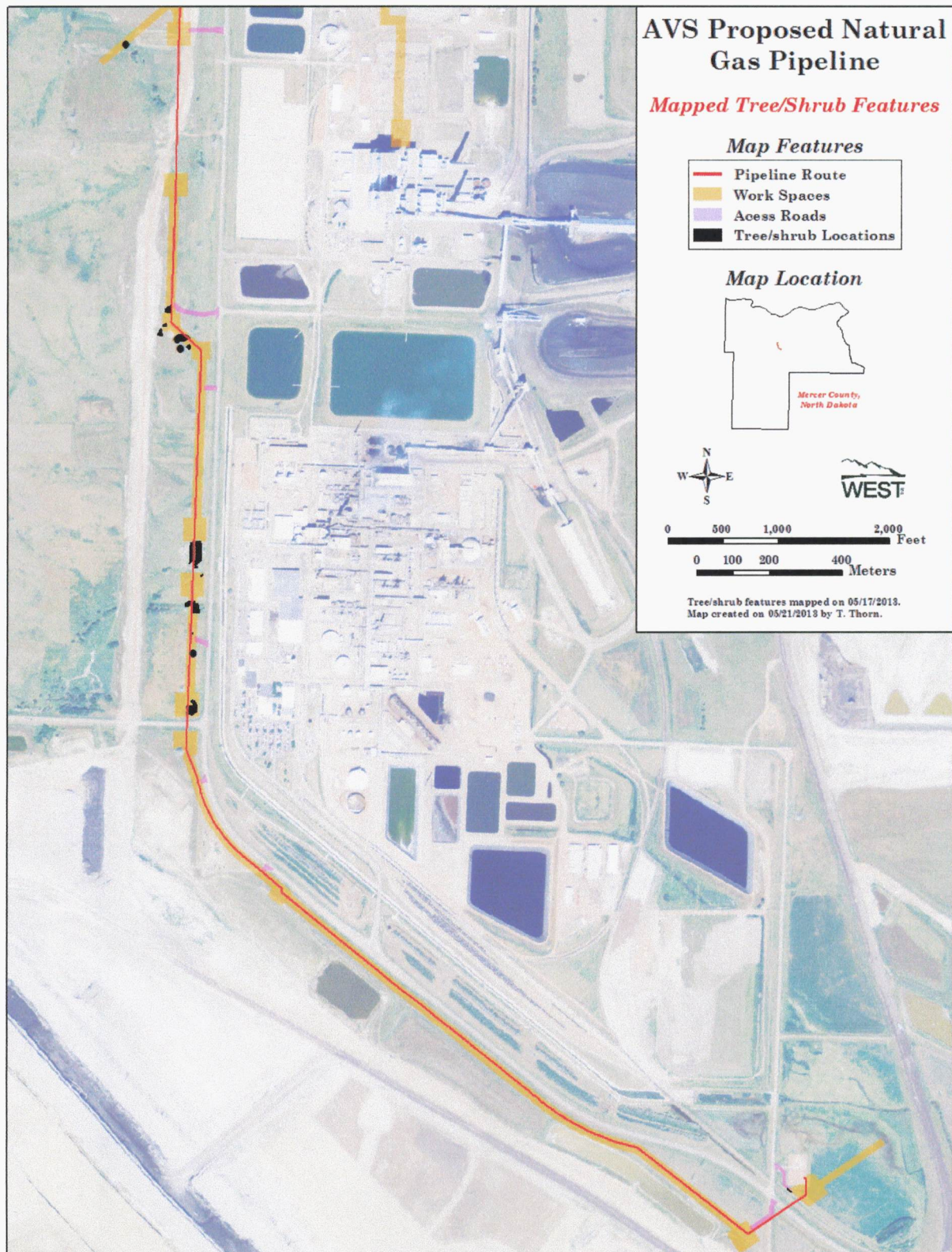


Figure 1. AVS NGP Project area and tree and shrub locations.