



April 15, 2025

Mr. Chris Hanson
Utility Financial Analyst
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard; Department 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Pioneer to Judson 345-kV Transmission Line Project – Williams County
Case No. PU-23-338 Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan

Dear Mr. Hanson:

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) recently completed construction on the Pioneer to Judson 345-kV transmission line project (Project). During the construction process and to operate the transmission line safely, trees were needed to be removed. This Plan outlines the multiple tree and shrub inventories that took place and Basin Electric's proposed replacement plan and requests ND Public Service Commission approval of this Plan.

Tree and Shrub Inventory

Prior to construction activities, Basin Electric, through its consultant Western EcoSystems Technologies (WEST), conducted a tree and shrub inventory of areas within the construction right-of-way and access routes that may be potentially cleared, grubbed, cut, or otherwise removed during construction. WEST's inventory documented 224 trees that were to be removed.

Replacement Plan

The Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications for Case No. PU-23-338 states that both trees and shrubs must be replaced on a minimum two-to-one basis. Construction activities did not grub or otherwise remove shrub roots; therefore, are anticipated to regenerate naturally. 448 tree replacements are needed for the Project; Basin Electric has committed to replant 742 trees, 165% of the total required.

Basin Electric contacted the four landowners for which trees were removed on their property to discuss a replacement plan; two of which declined the tree replacement. The two landowners that requested the removed trees be replaced account for 171 of the 224 removed trees. To find a suitable location for the remaining 53 trees, Basin Electric contacted the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF). Basin Electric will provide NDGF 400 trees to use in a Natural Resources Conservation Service partnered block planting in northwest North Dakota.

Basin Electric will consult with the local NRCS office to help guide the private landowner plantings to ensure maximum benefit to wildlife and the environment. The table below displays the species,

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total number removed, and total number to be replanted on private land. The NDGF will provide feedback on which species they would like incorporated into their block planting.

Species		Number Removed	Number to be Replanted
Common Name	Scientific Name		
Russian Olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	46	92
Siberian Elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	98	196
Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	27	54

Due to nursery availability and NRCS preference, some removed species may not be replanted and a different, wildlife friendly species may be chosen.

The plantings are proposed to occur in the spring of 2025. Yearly survival inspections will be completed, and, if deemed necessary to achieve the overall goal of a 75% survival rate after 2 years, Basin Electric will replant lost trees. Two years after completion of the planting, Basin Electric will file a summary document detailing the benefits of the tree and shrub mitigation to landowners, farmers and ranchers, the community, wildlife, and the environment. The summary will also report the number of surviving replacement trees and shrubs.

Basin Electric requests NDPSC approval for the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan for Case No. PU-23-338. Please contact me at rking@bepc.com or 701.557.5558 if you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding this submittal.

Sincerely,



Ryan King
Environmental Coordinator