



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050

April 26, 2019



Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Tribal Chairman
Tribe
Address
City, State Zip Code

RE: Availability of an Environmental Assessment for a Proposed Federal Minor Permit Revision for the Centralia Coal Mine

Dear Tribal Chairman,

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region Office, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC's (TCM's) Centralia Coal Mine minor permit revision for OSMRE Permit No. WA-0001E. See Figure 1 for the location of the Mine and the Amendment area.

The OSMRE is responsible for reviewing plans to conduct coal mining and reclamation operations on lands containing leased Federal coal.

The purpose of this letter is to formally invite the _____ Tribe to consult with the OSMRE on the EA for TCM's Centralia Coal Mine minor permit revision for OSMRE Permit No. WA-0001E, pursuant to the US Department of Interior's policy for Government-to-Government consultations [Executive Order 13175, Secretarial Order 3317, and Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation (November 9, 2009)] and 36 CFR Part 800.2(c)(2)(ii), the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended [NHPA]). The goal of the Government-to-Government process is to create effective collaboration and promote enhanced communication that emphasizes trust, respect, and shared responsibility. OSMRE requests input your tribe may have regarding the Centralia Mine Minor Permit Revision EA and the unsigned FONSI.

About the Project

The proposed minor permit revision would change the land use designation of approximately 81 acres within the Centralia Mine permit area, to allow for a 150-foot-wide powerline corridor for the Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project. The Centralia Mine is located within Sections 31-35, Township 15 North, Range 1 West, W.M., Lewis County, Washington. In September 2018 TCM entered into an easement agreement with Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project, LLC, which would allow the proposed powerline corridor easement and access for construction and maintenance.

If no action is taken, TCM would continue to conduct reclamation activities per their current permit.

If you believe that the proposed action listed above may affect your tribe or resources related to your tribe, including concerns under the NHPA, please submit a written request to gpinkham@osmre.gov or Gretchen Pinkham at 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, CO 80202-



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3050. The _____ Tribe may request a Government-to-Government consultation at any time during the NEPA process. In addition to Government-to-Government and Section 106 consultation, the _____ Tribe may also participate in the formal NEPA process by providing comments on the 2019 EA and unsigned FONSI. Comments may be submitted in writing or by e-mail. At the top of your letter or in the subject line of your e-mail message, please indicate that the comments are “TCM Centralia Mine EA Comments.”

Interested persons may view the EA and the unsigned FONSI on the OSMRE website at:

<https://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/centraliaMine.shtm>

The website also contains information related TCM’s proposed mining plan modification project, the public comment period, and the NEPA process.

To ensure consideration of your comments, we must receive your electronic or written comments by **May 28, 2019**. Comments may be submitted in writing or by e-mail. At the top of your letter or in the subject line of your e-mail message, please indicate that the comments are “TCM Centralia Coal Mine EA Comments.”

- E-mail comments should be sent to: gpinkham@osmre.gov
- Comments delivered by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or by courier service must be delivered by **May 28, 2019** and should be sent to:

OSMRE-Western Region
ATTN: Gretchen Pinkham, Centralia Coal Mine EA
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050

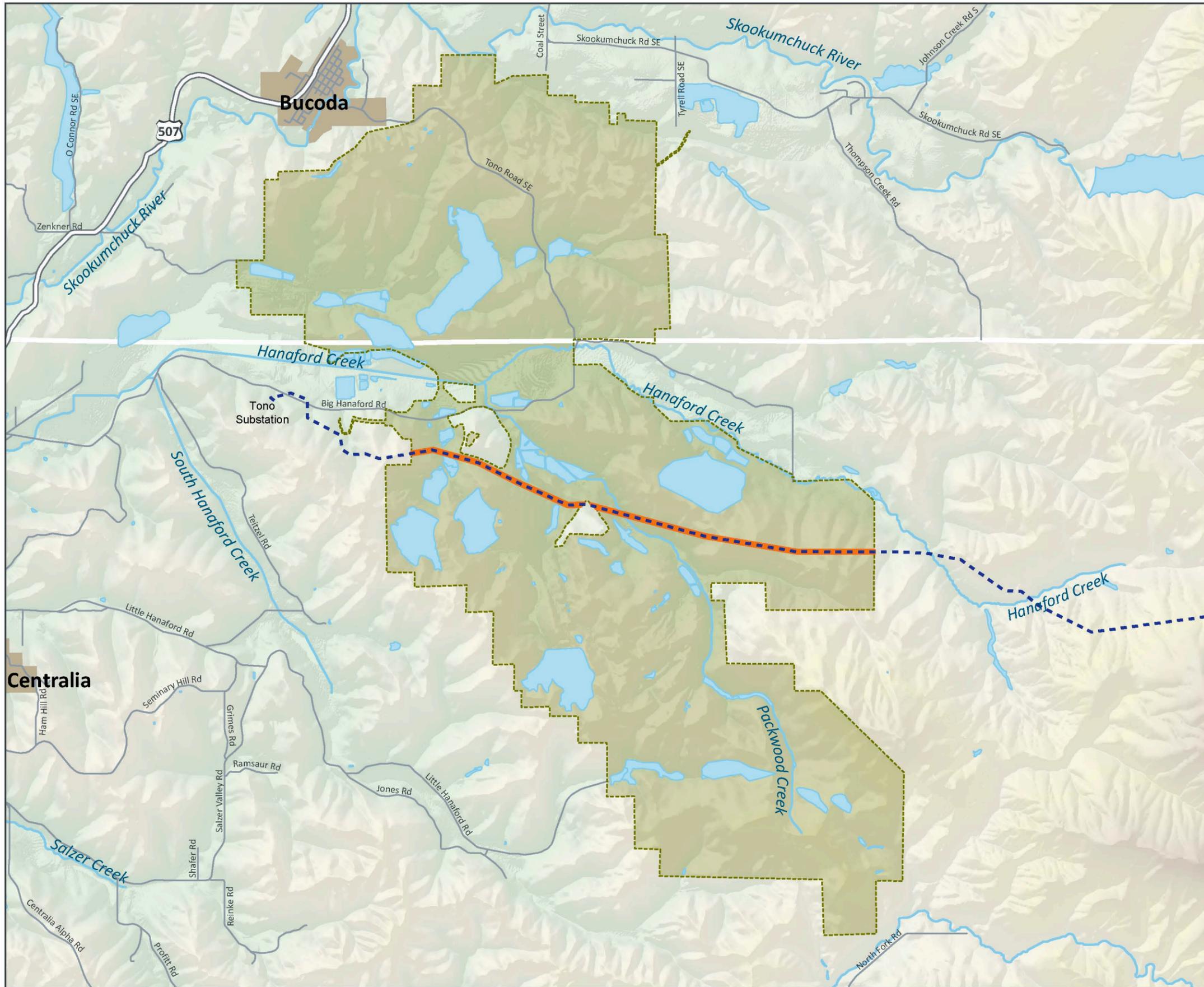
Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection. By including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personally identifying information, may be made publically available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

For further information about the Project, NEPA Process, or to have your name added to the mailing list, contact: Gretchen Pinkham, OSMRE Project Manager, at 303-293-5088 or gpinkham@osmre.gov.

Mychal Yellowman
OSMRE

Enclosure

FIGURE 1
PROJECT AREA



-  Centralia Mine Permit Boundary
-  Powerline Corridor
-  Powerline Easement



SOURCES: CHAMBERS GROUP 2017, LEWIS CO. 2016, THURSTON CO. 2016, USGS NHD 2017, WSDOT 2017



2/27/2019