



# OREGON TRAIL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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February 10, 2016

Blue Mountains Restoration  
Strategy Team  
72510 Coyote Rd  
Pendleton, OR 97801

Re: Forest Resiliency Project

Dear Strategy Team:

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC) serves over 22,000 members with approximately 30,000 meters and maintains approximately 3,000 miles of utility lines throughout our service territory.

OTEC's vegetation management program is designed to maintain proper right-of-way (ROW) clearances as a crucial aspect of OTEC's commitment to provide safe and reliable power. Properly maintained ROWs greatly lower the likelihood of vegetation caused power quality issues or outages; as well as, allowing better access to perform system maintenance. This vegetation management program combined with proper maintenance significantly reduces the risk of electrical fires.

Fire and access for plant maintenance are two of OTEC's biggest concerns in forested ROWs. It is these concerns that prompts OTEC to request trees not be planted in the utility line ROWs during your reforestation project.

Please contact me at 541-524-2823 or at [nratterman@otecc.com](mailto:nratterman@otecc.com) for further clarification of our request.

Sincerely,

Ned Ratterman  
Director of Engineering and Operations

NR:mg

cc: Werner Buehler, General Manager  
Pat McCluskey, Southern Division Superintendent

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*Proudly serving Baker, Grant, Harney and Union counties*

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