

SISKIYOU TELEPHONE CO. HAPPY CAMP TO SOMES BAR FIBER CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

To: Connie Chen, Project Manager, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: June 11, 2019
Subject: Monitoring Report #3 – May 12, 2019 to June 8, 2019

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the Siskiyou Telephone Co. Happy Camp to Somes Bar Fiber Connectivity Project for the installation of a fiber optics line along Highway 96 in the Klamath National Forest.

A summary of the Notices to Proceed (NTP) for construction is provided in Table 1 below.

CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Jody Fessler was on site May 22 and June 5.

Phase 1

NTP #1 was issued on February 20, 2019 for Phase 1 of the Happy Camp to Somes Bar Fiber Connectivity Project (Project). Under this NTP, Siskiyou Telephone received CPUC authorization to proceed with the construction and installation of a new fiber optic broadband facility cable within or adjacent to State Highway 96 (Caltrans right-of-way) in the Klamath National Forest from mile post (MP) 32.41 south to MP 24.0. NTP #1 included conditions that had to be satisfied prior to the start of construction. Additional NTP(s) will be required for the remainder of the Project.

Summary of Activity:

Week of May 12-18, 2019

Between May 13 and 17, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 25.3 and MP 24.8. The area between MP 27.8 and MP 26.9 is buffered Northern Spotted Owl habitat (NSO Core) designated by the Klamath National Forest and overseen by the Happy Camp Oak-Knoll Ranger District. This area has limited operating periods (LOPs) in place which restrict disturbance between approximately March 15 and July 9, annually. Due to the LOPs in place for this area, Siskiyou telephone will avoid work in this area until after July 9.

All traffic controls were in place prior to the start of construction. All sensitive habitat and potential wetland areas were well marked and pointed out/discussed with the construction supervisor prior to equipment placement. All equipment, with the exception of the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) equipment, were staged within the road. HDD equipment were placed within the shoulder of the road, outside of all sensitive habitat and wetland areas. No frack-outs or other drill issues occurred, and all necessary BMPs were in place.

Biological surveys were conducted daily and historic osprey nests monitored for activity. No nesting birds were found within the current work area. Cliff swallows are nesting immediately northeast of Wyman Gulch. Several of the historic osprey nests are considered active. Wildlife observed throughout the week included cliff swallow, Steller's jay, American crow, turkey vulture, osprey, and green racer.

Week of May 19-25, 2019

Between May 20 and 23, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 24.8 and MP 24.3. On May 21, work shut down for the day around 11 am due to heavy rain. No work was conducted on May 24 due to the upcoming Memorial Day weekend. All traffic controls were in place prior to the start of construction. All sensitive habitat and potential wetland areas were well marked and pointed out/discussed with the construction foreman prior to equipment placement. All equipment, with exception of the HDD units, were staged within the road during work hours. HDD equipment were placed within the shoulder of the road, outside of all sensitive habitat and wetland areas. No frack-outs or other drill issues occurred, and all necessary BMPs were in place.

Biological surveys were conducted daily, and historic osprey nests monitored for activity. Cliff swallows are nesting northeast of Wyman Gulch and in the current work area. A nest buffer was implemented for the cliff swallows and they were observed for disturbance; the nesting cliff swallows did not appear to be disturbed by the nearby drilling and construction activities. Wildlife observed throughout the week included black bear, cliff swallow, osprey, American crow, turkey vulture, and bald eagle.

The CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM) conducted a site visit on May 22 and met with Siskiyou Telephone's biologist in the field. The CPUC EM monitored a crew that was drilling at MP 24.5 southwest (see Figure 1). They had a small hydraulic leak on their vac-truck, which they were in the process of cleaning up (see Figure 2). Another crew was drilling at MP 24.44 south. Each drill crew had the required spill containment materials and a vac-truck. Traffic controls and a pilot vehicle were set up along Highway 96. The CPUC EM observed the cliff swallow nesting activity near the work area and the birds did not appear to be disturbed by construction. The historic osprey nest at MP 29.9 on the upslope side of the road approximately 90 yards away was inspected and an osprey was observed in the nest. Another historic nest at MP 28.1 was monitored and an osprey was observed in the nest. Wyman Gulch was inspected for amphibians, but no frogs or other amphibians were observed. The CPUC EM inspected the outfall of Wyman Gulch across Hwy 96 on the Klamath River side of the road; the outfall spills into dense bushes and blackberries. The CPUC EM drove the area of Phase II and observed bald eagles at approximately MP 23.77 and MP 19.89 (see Figure 3).

Week of May 26 – June 1, 2019

Between May 28 and 31, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 24.3 and MP 24.0 and between MP 29.7 and 29.5. No work was conducted on May 27 due to the Memorial Day holiday. All traffic controls were in place prior to the start of construction. All sensitive habitat and potential wetland areas were well marked and pointed out/discussed with the construction foreman prior to equipment placement. All equipment, with exception of the HDD units, were staged within the road during work hours. HDD equipment were placed within the shoulder of the road, outside of all sensitive habitat and wetland areas. No frack-out or other drill issues occurred within sensitive areas, and all necessary BMPs were in place.

Biological surveys were conducted daily and historic osprey nests monitored for activity. Sites were surveyed ahead of the drillers to ensure there were not any nesting birds in the area. No nesting birds were found within the current work area. Several active osprey nests were observed outside of the current work areas. Species observed during the week included California grey squirrel, common raven, Steller's jay, cliff swallow, and turkey vulture.

Week of June 2-8, 2019

Between June 3 and 7, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 29.7 and MP 29.5. All traffic controls were in place prior to the start of construction. All sensitive habitat and potential wetland areas were well

marked and pointed out/discussed with the construction foreman prior to equipment placement. All equipment, with exception of the HDD units, were staged within the road during work hours. HDD equipment were placed within the shoulder of the road, outside of all sensitive habitat and wetland areas. No frac-outs occurred during the week or any other HDD issues, and all necessary BMPs were in place.

Biological surveys were conducted daily, and historic osprey nests monitored for activity or disturbance. No nesting birds were observed within the current work areas. Historic Osprey Nest #3 is north of the work at MP 29.5 and has a “no-work zone” buffer between MP 30.0 and 29.65 (more than 0.25 mile). Species observed during the week included osprey, cliff swallows, and coastal giant salamander.

The CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM) conducted a site visit on June 5 and met with Siskiyou Telephone’s biologist in the field. The CPUC EM monitored a crew that was drilling at MP 29.16 northeast (Figure 4). Only one crew was drilling at the time of the site visit. The other crew had broken down their equipment the day before and traveled to Portland, Oregon for repairs. The active drill crew had the required spill containment materials and a vac-truck. Traffic controls and a pilot vehicle were set up along Highway 96. The historic osprey nest was observed at MP 29.9 and an osprey flew into the nest (Figure 5). An osprey was also observed at the historic nest at MP 29.1. Wyman Gulch at MP 24.0 was inspected for amphibians and four coastal giant newts/salamanders were observed in the water on the bottom of the pool (Figure 6).

Environmental Compliance:

1. Siskiyou Telephone’s biologist conducted monitoring and inspections each day of construction activities. Sensitive habitat and wetland areas were checked while inspecting the sites. Ongoing surveys for special-status species and nesting birds were also performed. The cliff swallows nesting northeast of Wyman Gulch had a buffer implemented and were monitored for disturbance from construction activities; however, they showed no signs of disturbance. The historic Osprey Nest #3 had a buffer established around it and a “no work zone”.
2. No HDD frac-outs occurred into environmentally sensitive areas during the reporting period.
3. The CPUC EM noted that the sites were neat and clean, and that SWPPP measures were in place. The sensitive habitat and wetland areas were staked/flagged. Traffic control signs were setup along Highway 96 with flaggers in place, and pilot cars escorted vehicles through the work areas. Drill crews had the required spill containment materials and a vac-truck. The site was in compliance with mitigation measures, Applicant Proposed Measures, and other permit requirements.

Notices to Proceed

Table 1 summarizes the Notices to Proceed (NTP) for the Siskiyou Telephone Project.

Table 1
Notices to Proceed (NTPs)
(Updated 6/11/19)

NTP #	Date Requested	Date Issued	Phase	Description
NTP #1	2/08/19	2/20/19	Phase I	Construction and installation of a new fiber optic broadband facility cable within or adjacent to State Highway 96 (Caltrans right-of-way) in the Klamath National Forest from MP 32.41 south to MP 24.0

Minor Project Changes (MPCs)

None at this time.

PROJECT PHOTOS



Figure 1 – Crew drilling at MP 24.5 south along Hwy 96 – view north, May 22, 2019.



Figure 2 – Small leak on vac-truck at MP 24.5 clean-up – May 22, 2019.



Figure 3 – Bald Eagle observed across river at MP 19.89 - May 22, 2019.
Photo courtesy of Brian Boyd (Jacobs).



Figure 4 – Crew Drilling northeast at MP 29.16 – view southwest, June 5, 2019.



Figure 5 – Active osprey nest at MP 29.9 – June 5, 2019



Figure 6 –Coastal giant salamander in Wyman Gulch – June 5, 2019.