

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

**To:** Connie Chen, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** May 15, 2019  
**Subject:** Monitoring Report #2 – April 7, 2019 to May 11, 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 April 24 and May 9.

### **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 April 7-13, 2019***

Between April 8 and 12, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 28.2 and MP 27.8, and between MP 26.9 and MP 26.0. 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. Additionally, no frack-outs or other drill issues occurred, and all necessary BMPs were in place.

Biological surveys were conducted daily, and historic nests monitored for activity. No nesting birds were found within the current work area. Historic osprey nests were monitored for activity, but were inactive. Wildlife observed throughout the week included river otter, bald eagle, American robin, Steller's jay, American crow, turkey vulture, and Canada goose.

##### ***Week of April 14-20, 2019***

Between April 15 and 19, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 26.9 and MP 26.0. 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. Additionally, no frack-outs or other drill issues occurred, and all necessary BMPs were in place.

Biological surveys were conducted daily, and historic nests monitored for activity. No nesting birds were found within the current work area. Historic osprey nests were monitored for activity, and some showed signs of nesting activity. Wildlife observed throughout the week included osprey, goshawk, American robin, Steller's jay, American crow, turkey vulture, and Canada goose.

#### ***Week of April 21-27, 2019***

Between April 22 and 26, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 26.6 and MP 26.0. 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 of other drill issues occurred within sensitive areas, and all necessary BMPs were in place.

Biological surveys were conducted daily, and historic nests monitored for activity. 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 osprey, golden eagle, bald eagle, kingfisher, scrub jay, yellow warbler, raven, American robin, wild turkey, acorn woodpecker, Canada goose, cliff swallow, turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, Steller's jay, skylark, and grey squirrel.

The CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM) conducted a site visit on April 24th and met with Siskiyou Telephone's biologist in the field. The CPUC EM monitored a crew that was drilling at MP 26.29 south to MP 26.1 (see Figure 1), and another crew that was drilling at MP 26.50 north to 26.57. The second crew's drill bit broke on the HDD equipment just as the CPUC EM arrived on site and they shut down for the rest of the day. Each drill crew had the required spill containment materials and a vac-truck. Traffic controls and a pilot vehicle were set up at each drill site along Highway 96. The historic nest at MP 29.9 on the upslope side of the road approximately 90 yards away was inspected and no birds were observed. The historic nest at MP 29.16 on the other side of the river approximately 300 yards away was observed and an osprey was seen carrying nesting material comprised of moss and lichen to the nest. Another historic nest at MP 28.1 was monitored and an osprey was observed bringing nesting material to the nest. Wyman Gulch was inspected for amphibians, but no frogs were observed and stream flows were strong (see Figure 2).

#### ***Week of April 28 – May 4, 2019***

Between April 29 and May 3, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 26.2 and MP 25.7. 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 nests monitored for activity. No nesting birds were observed within the current work areas. Species observed during the week included osprey, cliff swallows, American robin, crow turkey vulture, Steller's jay, red-tailed hawk, acorn woodpecker, Canada goose, and whip snake.

### **Week of May 5 – May 11, 2019**

Between May 6 and 10, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone’s biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 25.7 and MP 25.2. 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 nests monitored for activity. There are presently four active historic osprey nests. No nesting birds were observed within the current work areas. Species observed during the week included cliff swallows, crow, turkey vulture, Steller’s jay, red-tailed hawk, raven, bull snake, and black bear.

The CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM) conducted a site visit on May 9th and met with Siskiyou Telephone’s biologist in the field. The CPUC EM monitored a crew that was drilling at MP 25.19 south (see Figure 3), and another crew that was drilling at MP 25.3 south (see Figure 4). Each drill crew had the required spill containment materials and a vac-truck. Traffic controls and a pilot vehicle were set up at each drill site along Highway 96. The historic nest was observed at MP 29.9 and an osprey was sitting in the nest (see Figure 5). The biologist and CPUC EM drove all of Phase 1, 2, and 3 of the Project to T-Bar in the Six Rivers National Forest. Two bald eagles were observed flying around MP 18. Wyman Gulch was inspected for amphibians, but none were observed. The creek has been dammed creating a larger pool that could provide more habitat for the special-status foothill yellow-legged frog (see 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. No nesting birds were observed within the work areas.
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. 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**  
**Notice to Proceeds (NTPs)**  
(Updated 5/15/19)

<b>NTP #</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Phase</b>	<b>Description</b>
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 26.29 south along Hwy 96 – view north, April 24, 2019.



Figure 2 – Wyman Gulch at MP 24.4 along Hwy 96 – view west, April 24, 2019.





Figure 3 – HDD crew drilling south at MP 25.19 – view northwest, May 9, 2019.



Figure 4 – HDD crew drilling south at MP 25.3 – view northeast, May 9, 2019.





Figure 5 – Historic active osprey nest at MP 29.9 – view southwest, May 9, 2019.



Figure 6 – Wyman Gulch dammed at MP 24.4 – view west, May 9, 2019.