



RE: Final Scope of Study: Tongue River Railroad Construction Project (FD 30186)

Catherine Nadals to: Terence Clouthier

03/25/2013 11:04 AM

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Cc: "Summerville, Alan", "Barbara.Ranf@bnsf.com",
"Brandonsazue@hotmail.com", "brhodd1@yahoo.com",

Hi Terry,

The Final Scope simply addresses the concerns of the individuals, agencies and tribes that submitted comments during the scoping period.

We certainly understand that there are tribes other than the Northern Cheyenne Tribe that have ancestral connections to the Tongue River project area. Therefore, we will be working with all of the tribes that have expressed concerns about sacred sites that may be impacted by the proposed project.

-Cathy

Catherine Nadals
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Terence Clouthier

[This Final Scope is more than a little misleading....](#)

03/25/2013 10:47:52 AM

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Date: 03/25/2013 10:47 AM

Subject: RE: Final Scope of Study: Tongue River Railroad Construction Project (FD 30186)

This Final Scope is more than a little misleading.

Page 22 of 29 - Analysis of Cultural and Historic Resources.

The Northern Cheyenne and other commenters requested that the EIS evaluate the effects of the proposed action on sites and resources of religious and cultural significance to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. USEPA commented that the Northern Cheyenne Tribe considers the Tongue River and the Tongue River Valley to be places of cultural and spiritual significance.

I'd love to know where in any of the discussions it was decided that only the Northern Cheyenne have sites of significance in this area or are the only tribe which considers this area to be culturally and

spiritually significant?

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe completely disagrees with this quoted section from the scope.

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Terry Clouthier
Tribal Archaeologist

From: Catherine.Nadals@stb.dot.gov [mailto:Catherine.Nadals@stb.dot.gov]

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 9:19 AM

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Subject: Final Scope of Study: Tongue River Railroad Construction Project (FD 30186)

Dear Consulting Party,

The Surface Transportation Board (Board) has issued the Final Scope of Study for the Tongue River Railroad Construction (TRRC) Project. The Final Scope addresses comments that were submitted to the Board during the scoping comment period, summarizes those comments, and states what environmental issues will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

The DEIS will identify the potential environmental impacts from the proposed rail line and alternatives,

and address the environmental issues identified during the scoping process and detailed in the Final Scope. It will also discuss a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed action, including a no-action alternative, and recommend environmental mitigation measures, as appropriate.

To view the Final Scope of Study on the Board's web site, click [here](#). The Final Scope is also available on the Project [website](#).

If you have any questions regarding the Final Scope, please contact Kenneth Blodgett, the Environmental Manager for this case. He can be reached at 202-245-0305, or blodgettk@stb.dot.gov. Please feel free to contact me as well if your concerns are related to cultural resources issues discussed in the Final Scope.

Best Regards,

-Cathy

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