USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Superior National Forest
Tofte Ranger District | 7355 West Highway 61
Tofte, MN 55615
218-663-8060

File Code: 2720; 1950
Date: February 26, 2018

See Mailing List
Dear Interested Public:

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Office of Electronic Communications has applied for a special-use permit to construct a communication facility, including radio tower, for the operation and maintenance of the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) system on National Forest System lands. The tower site is proposed to be located in Township 64 North, Range 1 West, Section 35, NWSE. Additional project information is enclosed.

The purpose of the tower is to provide a public safety communication network managing the implementation of the 800 MHz (megahertz) digital trunked radio communication system. This system provides emergency response personnel the means and ability to share information via voice and/or data systems on demand in real time. This includes every city, county, state agency, tribal government and non-government public safety entity operating in the state.

The ARMER radio system operates by line of sight, talking to other ARMER towers. In order for the system to operate effectively, multiple towers are needed to produce a solid blanket of coverage. Other agencies would have the opportunity to rent space on the radio tower for communication equipment and systems.

You are invited to provide comments on the proposed project. Scoping comments are most useful if received by Tuesday, March 27, 2018 (30 days from the date of this letter). All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the project file and will be available for public review, if requested.

For further information, or to provide comments, please contact Christy Tampio, Project Leader:

Phone: (218) 663-8080
Fax: (218) 663-8095
Email: christinatampio@fs.fed.us
Mailing Address: Christy Tampio, Project Leader, Attn: MnDOT ARMER Project – Lima Mountain, 2020 W. Highway 61, Grand Marais, MN 55604

Sincerely,

MICHAEL CROTTEAU
District Ranger

MnDOT ARMER Tower Proposed Project – Lima Mountain

Project description:

MnDOT has requested a special use authorization to allow installation, operation, and maintenance of a communication facility, including radio tower, which will increase the public safety communication network known as the ARMER project. The location was chosen based on the need to bridge the gap in coverage to the South West of Lima Mountain.

Total construction area acreage (includes access road): 0.94
Final Permit area acreage following construction (includes access road): 0.79

The communication site will consist of (see attached photo example):

Tower

- A 180-foot, 3-legged, self-supporting steel radio tower that is dull gray galvanized in color; legs approximately 24-feet apart
- No aircraft warning markings or lighting, in accordance with FAA guidelines

Equipment shelter

- A concrete prefab shelter will be placed 11-feet from the base of the tower
- 12 'x 30' x 10' (W x L x H) – covered with a brown stone aggregate finish
- Will house radio equipment in one end, and a 34 kva generator in other end – generator runs on LP gas

LP Tank

- A 1,000-gallon LP tank measuring approx. 10' x 4' (L x W) will be placed in the compound 25-feet from the shelter

Compound

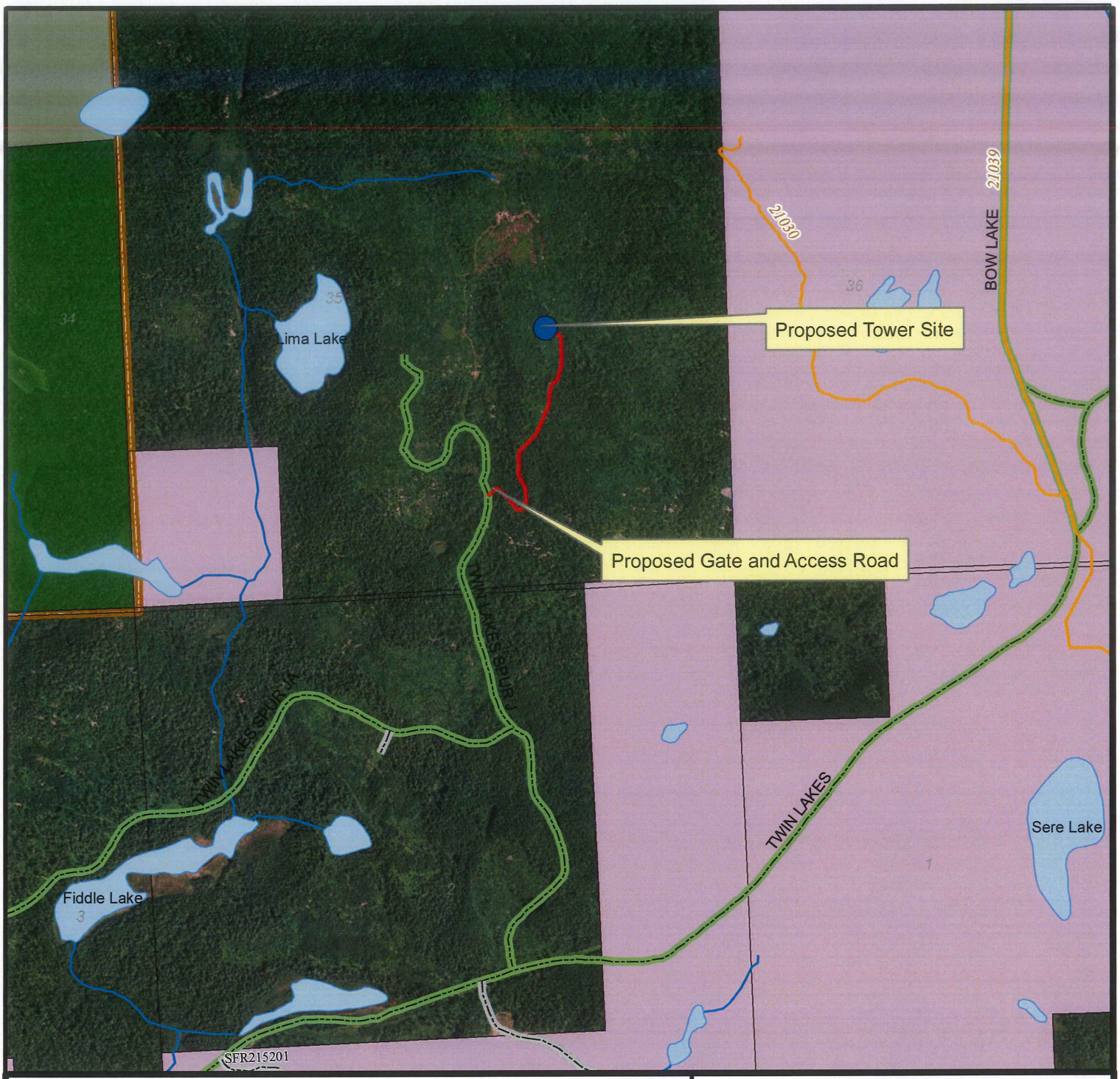
- 65' x 70' – comprised of the tower, shelter, and LP tank
- Will be enclosed with a 7-foot chain link security fence with 3 strands of barbed wire extending 1-foot above the fence
- Fence will have a 4-foot pedestrian gate in front of the shelter doors and a 16-foot double drive-through gate on the opposite end
- Entire compound will be covered with a 4-ounce polyester filter fabric (i.e. landscape fabric) to retard the growth of weeds and allow water to pass freely to the soil. Landscape rock (class 5) will cover the entire compound.

Gate

- Gate will be placed at the end of Forest Road 152J and beginning of the private special use road to access the site.

Power Distribution

- Power will be brought to the site by an existing power company, Arrowhead Electric. The routing of the powerline and fiber optic line will be located within the existing right-of-way of Forest Road 152J and MnDOT's proposed access to the site. The power distribution panel will be located outside of the fenced compound.



Legend

- State of MN Administered Lands
- County Administered Lands
- BWCA Wilderness
- MnDOT Lima
- MnDOT Lima Road
- Trails
- State, County, and Local Roads
- US Forest Service System Roads
- Other/Special Use Roads

References:

Data acquired from a variety of sources of differing accuracy, precision, and reliability. Features represented by these data may not represent accurate geographic locations.

Disclaimer:

The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied regarding the data displayed on this map, and reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace this information without notification.

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 Miles

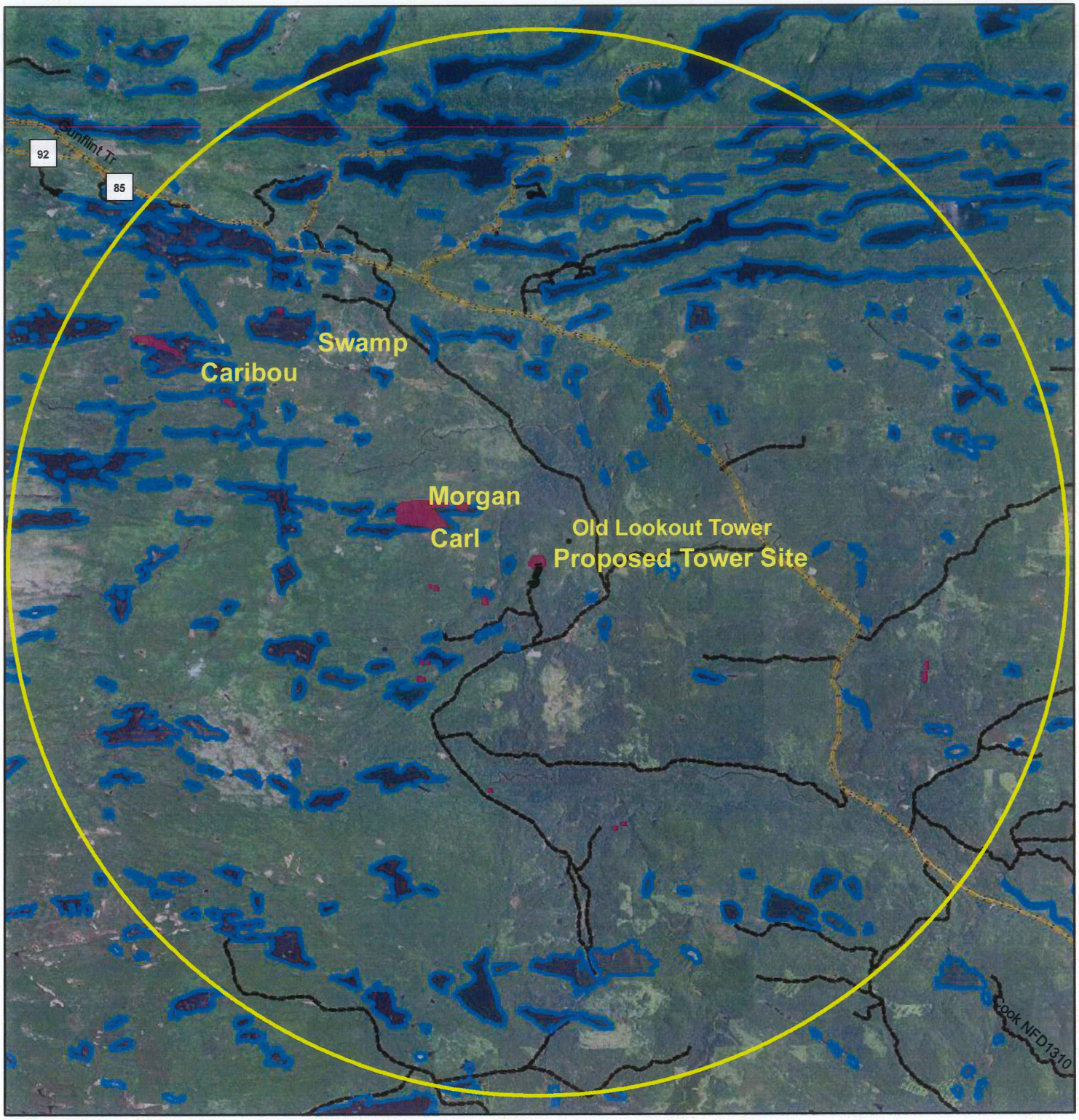
Map creation date 02/21/2018

MnDOT ARMER TOWER PROPOSAL
LIMA MOUNTAIN

0.94 Acres, Section 35, Township 64 North, Range 1 West

Gunflint Ranger District
Superior National Forest
Region 9
U.S. Forest Service

Copies of this map are available upon request.



VISUAL IMPACT OF 180 FOOT TOWER

11/21/2017

N

Lima Mountain Tower - TEC426

Seven (7) Mile Radius

Observer Height = 1 foot to 8 feet
Purple shaded areas depict visual to tower

PHOTO EXAMPLE

MNDOT ARMER TOWER PROPOSAL