

APPENDIX A
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: PUBLICATIONS

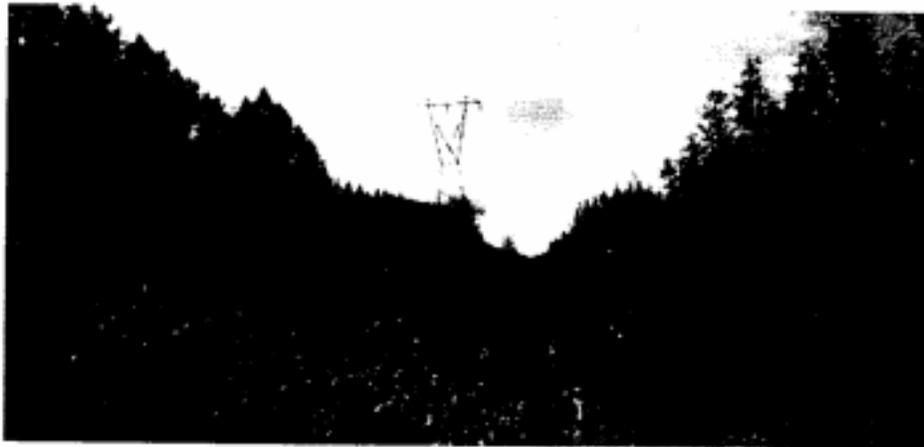
INFORMATION FROM THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

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FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT

JUNE 1997

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REVIEW



Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is starting a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on its vegetation management program. The analysis will review how BPA controls vegetation along our rights-of-way and around our facilities. This fyi tells you about our plans and explains how you can receive more information and provide us your ideas.

BACKGROUND

BPA provides electricity throughout the Pacific Northwest using a network of transmission lines and substations. To maintain safe and reliable power, BPA must control the vegetation, including large trees, around electrical transmission facilities. Those facilities include rights-of-way and

the area next to them, substations, access roads, microwave sites and beam paths, and maintenance facilities.

A major electric power outage occurred on August 10, 1996, caused in part by trees that had grown too close to transmission lines. The outage affected a number of other utilities linked to the federal system. As a result, BPA looked at its brush control practices and decided it should make changes to increase program efficiency and effectiveness.

BPA's 1983 environmental impact statement on the vegetation management program is out of date because it does not include methods and products that are currently available. We now manage

PROJECT PARTNERS

BPA works with many others in developing an EIS. For this project we are working closely with:

U.S. Forest Service

U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management



vegetation using a variety of techniques, depending on what's appropriate for a specific location and situation. This approach leads to inconsistency and inefficiency.

PROPOSAL

BPA proposes to review the program and establish a set of principles to guide the use of vegetation management techniques. Our objective is to provide a cost-effective, consistent, efficient, and environmentally acceptable means of controlling vegetation that may threaten transmission system safety and reliability.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The EIS will identify alternative ways of controlling vegetation and analyze how each alternative affects the environment. We will look at how different vegetation control methods affect water quality, plant communities, human health and safety, cultural resources, fish and wildlife populations, land use, and other resources.

This EIS will provide the framework for making decisions about vegetation control. It will not replace site-specific environmental analysis, which will still be done when needed for individual projects.

We plan to have the Draft EIS available for review in January 1998.

EIS SCHEDULE

Start comment period	June 16, 1997
Open house meeting	July 10, 1997
Last day for comments	July 23, 1997
Draft EIS ready for public review	Jan., 1998
Final EIS	August, 1998
Decision	Nov., 1998

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your ideas can help us analyze the vegetation management program. There are several ways for you to share your thoughts.

- Complete and mail the enclosed comment form.
- Call our toll-free comment line at 1-800-622-4519; in Oregon, call (503) 230-3478.
- Fax comments to (503) 230-3984.
- E-mail comments: comment@bpa.gov
- Mail comments to Public Affairs Office, Bonneville Power Administration - AC, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212.

Or, attend our open house meeting. You can come at any time since there will be no formal presentation.

Thursday, July 10, 1997
3 - 7 p.m.

BPA Headquarters - Room 106
905 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon

The last day to send comments is July 23, 1997.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To continue receiving information on this EIS, please return the enclosed post card. Otherwise you may be removed from the mail list. Our next *fyi* will summarize all the comments we received.

Feel free to call the environmental staff that is developing this EIS.

- Leslie Kelleher - (503) 230-7692
- Molly Koester - (503) 230-5920
- Tammie Vincent - (503) 230-3469

Bonneville Power Administration
PO Box 3621 Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

DOE/EP-3001 JUNE 1997 BC



INFORMATION FROM THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

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F O R Y O U R I N V O L V E M E N T

DECEMBER 1997

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM EIS



This fyi reports back to you on what people told us about BPA's vegetation management program: problems with what we do now and ideas on how we could improve. We sought these comments to help us develop the scope and content of the Environmental Impact Statement we are preparing on the vegetation management program.

Below, we explain how we sought comments, give an overview of what we heard, and list sample comments. On the back page is a project update.

TO GET YOUR VIEWS....

In June, we mailed a letter to nearly 1500 people and groups we thought would be interested

in or affected by our vegetation management program. We enclosed a comment form and asked for comments by July 23.

In July, we held meetings with BPA personnel in our seven regions—the people responsible for BPA's vegetation management. We held meetings in Covington, The Dalles, Eugene, Kalispell, Olympia, Spokane, and Walla Walla. When we couldn't arrange meetings in regional offices, we met in the field or talked on the phone. We recorded all comments on flip charts or in notebooks. Throughout those meetings, we met and talked with about 40 people.

PROJECT PARTNERS

BPA works with many others in developing an EIS. For this project we are working closely with:

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

U. S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management



Because many BPA facilities are located on lands managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, we specifically targeted those agencies for comment. (Both are partners with BPA in developing this EIS.)

Our facilities also cross lands that are important to Tribes. We are meeting with Tribes that have transmission lines crossing their reservations to learn about their interests in our practices.

Our facilities also cross and abut land under private ownership. On July 10, we held an open house meeting at BPA's Portland Headquarters office. Few attended. We knew this broad program approach would not attract as many comments from private landowners as a site-specific proposal; yet, the views of private landowners who neighbor our facilities are vital. For this reason, we are reviewing public comments about vegetation management from earlier site-specific projects and will include them in the study design.

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OVERVIEW

In total, we received 641 comments. Besides the comments from the meetings, we received 25 comment forms, six letters, and two phone calls. (We count each idea as a separate comment.)

The key points we heard:

- Nearly all see value in developing the environmental impact statement; most hope it will result in changes to BPA's vegetation management program; many have differing, even conflicting, expectations.
- Chemical treatment by far drew the most comments; some favor its use; some don't; most have specific ideas about when its use is appropriate.
- Other frequently mentioned topics: the Forest Service and noxious weeds.

- Commenters from outside BPA focused on rights-of-way; BPA staff commented on all BPA facilities: rights-of-way, substations, microwaves, access roads and other.
- Commenters were fairly uniform in their support for natural-looking right-of-way favoring low-growing native vegetation, especially grass, and irregular or "soft" edges.
- Main concern of BPA staff: electrical reliability and cost; of others: environmental impacts.

SUMMARY

To produce this summary, we grouped similar comments by subject; we used 10 categories: Techniques/Alternatives, Environmental Resources, Electrical Facilities, Outside Agencies, Current BPA Programs and Practices, Implementation Tools, Cost, EIS Information, Proposed Program and Practices, and Other. The table shows how many comments were in each category.

TECHNIQUES/ALTERNATIVES

The 349 comments in this category covered 10 vegetation management techniques or alternatives: chemical, manual, mechanical, low-growing plant communities, fire management, disposal, biological, reseeding, grazing, and other techniques/alternatives. Here's a sample of what we heard.

Chemical

Need to look at new industry developments for different herbicides and mixes.

Foliar spray and broadcast spray should be included in Draft EIS.

(BPA should) manual cut, then stump treat.

Workers need a current list of environmentally friendly herbicides that we can use.

COMMENT SUMMARY AT A GLANCE...

The 641 comments were grouped into 10 categories. Many comments fit more than one category for a total of 1058. Subcategories reflect specific concerns.

Techniques / Alternatives	349	Electrical Facilities	120
Chemical	174	Rights-of-way	42
Manual	45	Substations	34
Mechanical	26	Access roads	18
Low growing plant communities	24	Facility grounds	14
Fire management	18	Microwave	12
Biological	17	Outside Agencies	104
Disposal	11	Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management	51
Reseeding	11	Tribes	19
Other techniques/alternatives	23	Other outside agencies	34
Environmental Resources	212	Current BPA Programs and Practices	88
Vegetation	86	Implementation Tools	56
Wildlife	23	Cost	50
Safety	21	EIS Information	49
Water	17	Proposed Program and Practices	20
Sensitive and T&E species	15	Other comments	10
Aesthetics	13	TOTAL	1058
Geology	10		
Sensitive areas	9		
Fish	7		
Land use	7		
Other environmental resources	4		

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In high desert areas, we mow, but we would need to chemically treat after.

Almost all spray uses an oil base instead of water to mix it because we can use it in rain.

We want helicopter spraying at least for noxious weed control.

Need to get back into using herbicides on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management land because we are getting 3 foot resprout in one year.

I'd prefer you use nothing dangerous to humans, animals, or the planet!

Manual

Manually cutting without (chemical) treatment causes brush to come back thicker...

We use chain saws and treat stumps ...

...hand cutting...leaves too much slash...

In areas with sensitive plants, hand methods...are preferred.

Mechanical

...Compaction with machinery is a problem in some areas.

(We) need to mow in some areas within city limits on fee-owned easements (to) promote good neighbor attitude...

EIS should cover helicopter side-trimming and manual side-trimming (of trees).

Low growing plant communities

To establish low-growing plant communities, use native species that occur in the area such as grasses, forbs, and low shrubs.

I believe management for meadow under the lines may be helpful for meadow dependent species such as the Fenders' Blue Butterfly. Also these can serve as firebreak points.

...more low growing dense rooted grasses (for) low fire and erosion control...competition with weeds, and are adaptable to soils and area's rainfall.

Fire management

Burning brush piles is not an option. We need to educate folks that smoke causes flash over.

- 4 *BPA should look at fire as a vegetation management technique.*

Biological

...look at biological treatments like insects and fungus.

State brought in goats (Klamath County) to eat "leafy spurge".

I'd prefer that you maintain shrub and grass for browsing and grazing...because this is "light" on the land...

Disposal

... Address amount of slash left on the ground. Slash around here doesn't rot...its a fire hazard and landowners complain.

...Consider opportunities to provide for the removal of merchantable sawtimber and other wood products...

...consider leaving sufficient trees, snags, and large down woody material adjacent to streams for eventual recruitment into the stream.

Reseeding

Use native species in any planting or seeding...

We would also like to be able to grass-seed the rights-of-way after brush control, so the weeds don't grow again.

In areas where slopes are too steep to be reshaped...reseed with species appropriate to the soils, microclimate, and terrain conditions...

Other Techniques / Alternatives

Steam: consider it as a means of ground sterilization.

...use an integrated land management approach.

...use a combination of all available methods, depending on specific situation...

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The 212 comments on environmental resources were organized into 11 subcategories: vegetation; wildlife; safety; water; sensitive, threatened, and endangered species; aesthetics; geology; sensitive areas; fish; land use; and other environmental resources.

Vegetation

Noxious weeds are a concern. Where left unchecked, they cause social and economic loss.

County weed board takes care of noxious weeds. County picks up chemical from BPA and applies it.

(The Yahama Tribe uses) global positioning system (to show) infestations (of noxious weeds).

Your equipment has lots of weeds on them. Yellow star thistle, knapweed, and skeleton weed are spreading as a result.

Spray your weeds!

...no set process for inspecting for danger trees around substations and in microwave beam paths.

Replant rights-of-way with height-appropriate vegetation rather than "decapitate" conifers...

Wildlife

Please be sure your environmental studies include wildlife use for the right-of-way, habitat use, migration routes...

Convert area to brush species providing forage for big game and hunting areas for owls and birds of prey.

Raptor Protection. In western Wyoming, raptors, particularly osprey, will occasionally use transmission line structures for nesting...

Safety

We need to educate that building up to substations has associated hazards.

There is a safety issue on high voltage facilities; that's why ground needs to be bare of vegetation.

...Drift of herbicide and electric safety are big issues.

Water

Include impacts of all toxics (herbicides, pesticides) on water quality...

Leave vegetative buffers next to all water bodies when possible.

Sensitive, threatened, and endangered species

... the meadow concept can help restore endangered and threatened plants and animals to a more viable level.

(One of your draft EIS's)...lists ten herbicides. Everyone of these would decimate any rare plant population.

Concerned about: The need for BPA preparation of needed Biological Assessment, including those for sturgeon and bull trout.

Aesthetics

What looks better? noxious weeds or native plants?

Propose treatments which maintain, enhance or improve visual quality.

Use selective clearing of timber...to soften the edge between cleared and uncleared areas.

Geology

...mowing...causes too much ground disturbance...

I'd prefer you use mechanical removal that does not compact soil or encourage erosion.

Sensitive areas

Identify where sensitive areas are and their special treatments, then manage full right-of-way.

I am concerned about the treatment of lines near riparian areas.

Fish

...create/manage plant communities that will provide...shade to riparian areas...

Most herbicides are moderately to highly toxic to fish and aquatic organisms.

...if water based chemicals are to be applied by aircraft...minimize the possibility of water contamination by chemicals.

Land Use

...consider potential off-road vehicle effects and management implications...

Consider use of the rights-of-way for trails and trail-based recreation.

Avoid construction in or adjacent to recreation sites and areas during peak use times.

Other Environmental Resources

Include impacts on cultural plants, cultural resources, fish and wildlife.

Include economic uses of removed vegetation (mill rip trees for lumber)...

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ELECTRICAL FACILITIES

The 120 comments on electrical facilities were grouped by type of site: rights-of-way, substations, access roads, facility grounds, and microwaves.

Rights-of-way

Within the required right-of-way, trees can be allowed to grow taller and extend out into the opening near the towers...

Leave as much brush and small trees as possible...to soften the contrast between the corridor opening and the adjacent forest.

Once BPA clears right-of way, BPA should plant what it wants to grow.

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Substations

In substations, we use...(ground sterilant).

...area outside substation fence must be clear of vegetation...

Substation water drains off BPA grounds and carries herbicides if application is not done right.

Substation uses burner on weeds which will cause some seeds to germinate.

Some herbicides are corrosive and we can't use them in substations.

Access roads

On access roads, we may blade, cut brush, or spray, on top of our annual grading.

...(we) use a hydro ax.

We would like to use herbicides (on access roads) so we don't have to go back so often...

Facility grounds

Mechanical control of cover crops (with brush hog) is used on BPA property outside of the substation.

Many times the quickest and most efficient mechanical control around substations would be with a string trimmer.

Microwaves

For beam paths/microwave facility, (we) use chain saws...

...uses "weed blast" around microwaves.

There are other non-BPA users at microwave sites that could do vegetation control.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

The 104 comments about other agencies or governments were grouped by Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management, tribes, and other outside agencies.

Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management

Each Forest Service ranger district has different requirements.

Does BPA really need to have it's own approved list of herbicides...Forest Service has a list we should be able to use.

...the Forest Service (has) more requirements and regulations...at BPA we are concerned about maintaining reliability and safety and staying in business; these goals contradict each other.

BPA has established specific protocol regarding T&E with Fish and Wildlife Service, but some Forest Service districts question it still.

Naturally, we are concerned that BPA's vegetation management proposals remain consistent with the many and varied National Forest Service resource management objectives and standards.

BLM, eastern regions, likes brush control.

On Tribal, Forest Services, or BLM land, BPA needs to get in when there is a "reasonable need" versus "emergency need".

Tribes

The tribal economy is negatively affected by vegetation management.

...tribal reservation lands deal with land in a totally different way. Tribes live off the land, have a different way of looking at land; gather roots for food.

Other outside agencies

Make sure state, county, and local agencies have input.

We contract with County weed agent to spray...for noxious weeds.

...confer with (state fish and game department)...when vegetation management (is) proposed for rights-of-way that cross habitat management units.

BPA should consult with state, county, local and federal fire management officials to ensure...proposals fully consider fire/fuel management objectives for each specific area.

CURRENT BPA PROGRAMS & PRACTICES

Current BPA vegetation management programs and practices drew 88 comments; most from BPA staff.

We are reactive, not proactive.

Every district has different vegetation management problems.

We need to do more one-on-ones (with landowners).

Rights-of-way get most attention because of safety and reliability.

Most vegetation management is crisis management at this time.

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

The 56 comments we received on implementation tools covered six areas: timing; education/training; landowner coordination; internal coordination; tree/brush agreements; and vegetation management plans.

We need to do more education; let people know what's safe.

All operators need to be certified.

BPA's technical staff needs to be aware of all new methods.

BPA needs to propose actions or make applications well in advance of the intended implementation date.

...Need better communication on agreements.

Need...current Standard Procedure Instruction Information (SPIF) on herbicides.

C O S T

Most of the 50 comments about the cost of vegetation management were in dollar-terms; a few spoke of staffing.

...we always run out of money. We can only cut the "hot spots."

The lack of money is causing us to not promote low growing plant communities which can lengthen control cycles(and) save money.

Maybe there is a way to work or cost share with private companies (industrial forests) when our objectives are compatible...

Yakama (Tribe) would prefer to receive the funding directly and do the work themselves...

(Look at using) summer program for high schoolers.

E I S I N F O R M A T I O N

We received 49 comments on items we should include in the Draft EIS.

In EIS, develop prescriptions for site specific; identify which herbicide in wetlands, etc.

Pattern EIS after standards and recommendations that came out in August 10 (outage) report.

EIS needs to be open ended to cover new techniques in the future.

An EIS that only portrays ONE alternative that a reasonable person could select is not "a choice among alternatives." Convey the values behind the alternatives you portray...

PROPOSED PROGRAM & PRACTICES

We received 20 comments on a proposed vegetation management program or practices.

Suggest BPA cut everything on right-of-way on forest land. Then, go back in 1 or 2 years and do selective clearing.

Don't want restrictions on use of in-house staff or contractors because of budget and site specific factors.

OTHER COMMENTS

We received ten other comments. Most were requests for information on other BPA activities.

* * *

Each comment has been reviewed by the project team and given to the appropriate environmental specialist working on the Draft EIS. The comments will be used to develop the alternatives and conduct the analysis.

PROJECT UPDATE

We have begun to develop the Draft EIS. It will identify alternative programs for controlling vegetation and analyze how each program would affect the environment. The program analysis will include how different vegetation control methods affect water quality, plant communities, human health and safety, cultural resources, fish and wildlife populations, land use, and other resources.

The EIS will provide the framework for making decisions about vegetation control. It will address the following issues:

- Methods of controlling vegetation,

- Methods to minimize or avoid impacts to sensitive areas or species,
- Types of vegetation that need controlling,
- Types of electrical facilities and their needs for vegetation control, and
- Landowner/manager coordination.

The EIS will not address: other components of reliability or safety of the power system; other right-of-way issues, such as limiting unauthorized vehicle access; management details for implementation, such as budget and staffing; and site-specific analysis.

This EIS will not replace site-specific environmental analysis, which will still be done when needed for individual sensitive areas.

We plan to have the Draft EIS available for review this winter. We will let you know when it is available.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions about the project, call Stacy Mason at (503) 230-5455 or Tammie Vincent at (503) 230-3469 or write them at the address below.

EIS SCHEDULE

Draft EIS/public review	Winter 1998
Final EIS	Aug 1998
Decision	Nov 1998

Bonneville Power Administration
PO Box 3621 Portland, Oregon 97208-3621
DD&EP-3023 DECEMBER 1997 1715



HELPING TO ENSURE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS

CROSSING

Vegetation Management

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is just starting an environmental study on its vegetation management program. The analysis will review how BPA controls vegetation along our rights-of-way and around our facilities. Because some of our facilities may be on or near lands that are important to you, we would like to tell you about our plans, hear about your ideas and interests, and learn how we can work together.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your ideas can help us develop a vegetation management program that considers your cultural, natural, and economic resources. The following questions are sample discussion points.

Do BPA's actions to control vegetation affect lands or activities that are important to you? Which areas near the transmission lines are most important to you?

Do you prefer that we use some control techniques instead of others? (Examples are: mowing, hand cutting, and herbicide application.) Why?

An ideal plant cover for rights-of-way is a low-growing variety that requires little maintenance. Do you have suggestions on how to transform the rights-of-way to low-growing plant communities?

Do you have vegetation management plans or other information that we need to consider?

Would you like a BPA person to meet with you or other Tribal members to discuss these or other topics?

BACKGROUND

BPA provides electricity throughout the Pacific Northwest using a network of transmission lines and substations. To ensure safe and reliable power, BPA must control the vegetation, including large trees, around electrical transmission facilities. Those facilities include rights-of-way and the area next to them, substations, access roads, microwave sites and beam paths, and maintenance facilities.

A major electric power outage occurred on August 10, 1996, caused in part by trees that had grown too close to some transmission lines. The outage affected a number of other utilities linked to the federal system. As a result, BPA looked at its brush control practices and decided it would be best to make changes to increase program efficiency and effectiveness.

BPA's 1983 environmental impact statement on the vegetation management program is out of date because it does not include methods and products that are currently available. We now manage vegetation using a variety of techniques, depending



on what's appropriate for a specific location and situation.

PROPOSAL

BPA proposes to review the program and establish a set of principles to guide the use of vegetation management techniques. The objective of the proposed action is to provide the most cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally acceptable means of controlling vegetation throughout BPA's system.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared. The EIS will identify alternative ways of controlling vegetation and analyze how each alternative affects the environment. We will look at how different vegetation control methods affect water quality, plant communities, human health and safety, cultural resources, fish and wildlife populations, land use, and other resources.

This EIS will provide the framework for making decisions about vegetation control. It will not replace site-specific environmental analysis, which will still be done when needed for individual projects.

We plan to have the Draft EIS available for review in January 1998.

We have invited the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to be cooperating agencies in this EIS process because some of BPA's facilities are located on lands these agencies manage.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

The new vegetation management principles should result in the following benefits:

- Efficiency
- Effectiveness
- Consistency
- Environmental quality
- A safe, reliable electrical system

THE PATH TO BPA

BPA wants to work with you — government to government. We'd like to talk with you about your interest in this proposal. Please tell us if there is someone on your staff you'd like us to work with.

For information on this or any BPA proposal, contact your BPA Tribal Liaison:

- Katherine Cheney - (509) 358-7470
- Darrell Eastman - (503) 230-3869
- Patricia Jawney - (503) 230-4315

Or, feel free to call one of the contacts for the environmental staff that is developing this EIS:

- Leslie Kelleher - (503) 230-7692
- Molly Koester - (503) 230-5920
- Tammie Vincent - (503) 230-3469

Bonneville Power Administration

PO Box 3621 Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

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HELPING TO ENSURE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS

CROSSING

Vegetation Management

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has just issued an environmental study on its vegetation management program for your review. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement compares alternatives and analyzes environmental impacts of managing vegetation along our rights-of-way and around our facilities. BPA's preferred alternative favors an approach that fosters low-growing plant communities; expands our vegetation management "tool-box" to include aerial herbicide application; and proposes planning steps for deciding the right tool for specific sites.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM YOU

We first contacted you about this two years ago. We received information from many of you to help us develop the alternatives and impacts for study. We heard your concerns about protecting cultural plants on and off reservation lands, and a desire to work with us to control the spread of noxious weeds and to establish native vegetation. We heard: "...the land provides us with spiritual well-being." Some said herbicide use was an appropriate method if used properly; others said from the traditional native people's perspective chemicals should not be used.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Our preferred alternative differs from our historical practices in three ways. First, BPA would promote low-growing plant communities along rights-of-way. In the long-term this could help reduce the spread of noxious weeds by lessening soil disturbance and the amount of vegetation management control needed. On some lands we may be able to work with tribes to replant low-growing traditional use plants.

Second, BPA would expand its tool-box of vegetation control methods. Those methods would include manual (mainly chainsaws), mechanical (heavy equipment use), herbicides, and biological (approved insects for noxious weeds). Herbicides would include 24 herbicide active ingredients and four herbicide application techniques: spot (one plant at a time), localized (small group of plants), broadcast (large area sprayed by truck or all-terrain vehicle) and aerial (helicopter or small plane). We would provide mitigation measures for all methods, and limit the areas where some methods could be used, such as no aerial spraying on your tribal reservations.

Third, we would develop right-of-way management plans to protect resource lands. For example, we would like to develop a right-of-way management plan when a tribe has BPA facilities on their reservation. The plan would outline environmental resources to protect (such as cultural plants) and the vegetation control methods to use. The plan could also include protections for tribal publics who may venture onto a site. We already have management plans with some tribes, but would like to have them for all tribal reservations.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Now that the Draft EIS is out for review, we would appreciate your help again.

- Does the Draft EIS include the right vegetation management tools?
- Does the EIS respond to the ideas and address the concerns we heard earlier?
- Is our proposed program consistent with your vegetation management plans and tribal laws? If not, how do they differ?
- Do the mitigation measures adequately protect cultural plants, fishing and hunting rights?
- Have we addressed the implementation concerns sufficiently to address concerns for protecting tribal resources and tribal publics?
- Are our proposed alternatives for managing vegetation around our electric facilities across the Northwest acceptable to the tribal government?
- What additional mitigation or implementation procedures would you recommend to address continuing concerns, if any?

BACKGROUND

BPA maintains a network of 15,000 miles of transmission line, 350 electric substations and numerous non-electric facilities such as storage yards,

throughout the Northwest - a region of diverse vegetation. Because vegetation can interfere with electric power flow and pose safety problems, management of vegetation around our facilities is an important part of our work.

These facilities cross the reservation lands of at least 10 tribes. About 1,400 miles of the transmission line right-of-way cross lands where tribes may have fishing, gathering and hunting rights.

THE PATH TO BPA

BPA wants to work with you - government to government. We'd like to talk with you about your interest in this proposal. If we are not already working with your staff on this proposal, please tell us if there is someone on your staff you'd like us to work with.

For information on this or any BPA proposal, contact BPA toll free, 1-800-282-3713.

Ask for your tribal liaison:

- Darrell Eastman
- Bob Shank
- Patricia Tawney
- For tribes outside the Columbia Basin, ask for John Smith

To speak with the environmental project lead for this environmental impact statement, ask for Stacy Mason.

Bonneville Power Administration

PO Box 3621 Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

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B O N N E V I L L E P O W E R A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

Transmission System Vegetation Management Program "I'd Like to Tell You . . ."

1. Of the choices offered in the Draft EIS, I prefer: _____

2. I do not like: _____

3. You can improve the choices by: _____

4. I have these other comments: _____

5. I need more information about: _____

(Use back of sheet if you need more room)

Please put me on your project mailing list. (You are already on the mail list if you received this in the mail.)

Name _____

Address _____

Please mail your comments by October 9, 1999 to:
Bonneville Power Administration
Communications Office - KC-7
P.O. Box 12999
Portland, OR 97212

