

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: April 25, 2007

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-341-Broadview-Garrison #1 and #2 Transmission Line Corridor)
Project #: V-S-07/06

TO: Joe Johnson
Natural Resource Specialist-TFS-Kalispell

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the Broadview-Garrison #1 and #2, 500 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line Corridor Right-of-Way (ROW) from mile 134 to mile 225.

Location: The project is located in Broadwater, Jefferson and Powell Counties, Montana in the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Spokane Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to remove tall growing and noxious vegetation from the right-of-way and access roads that can potentially interfere with the operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines. Tall growing and noxious vegetation and reclaim trees will be removed and/or controlled inside the right-of-way using selective and nonselective methods that may include, hand cutting, mowing, and herbicidal treatment. Low growing vegetation will be protected along the right-of-way with the exception of brush at the base of transmission structures and within access roads.

Vegetation management will occur along the Broadview-Garrison #1 and #2 transmission line corridor from mile 134 to mile 225. This proposal covers the right-of-way width of 125 feet totaling approximately, 1363 acres of debris disposal.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the subject transmission line, which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA safety standards.

Analysis: A Vegetation Prescription Checklist was completed for this project in accordance with the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administrations Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285).

Land along the project ROW consists of private; U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and state owned and managed lands. Primary uses for lands within the project area include; timber production, grazing, game hunting and recreational uses.

The ROW crosses several water resources (wetlands, streams, etc), which should be considered fish bearing. No other agencies or Tribal involvement exists.

Section 3 of the checklist identifies the natural resources present in the area of the proposed work. The following summarizes natural resources occurring in the project area along with applicable mitigation measures.

Water Resources: Water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) occurring in the project area are listed in the Water Resource Attachment of the Vegetation Prescription Checklist. Trees in riparian zones will be selectively cut to include only those that are within 50 feet of the conductor at maximum sag. Trees will be topped where shrubs are not present to provide shade and a silt buffer. No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near water bodies.

The following project specific herbicides will be applied by hand using the specified buffer width from the edge of any water resource (stream, wetland or sensitive habitat):

Herbicide	Buffer Widths	
	Spot	Localized
Garlon 3A	up to edge	up to edge
Glyphosate	25 feet from edge	35 feet from edge
Garlon 4	35 feet from edge	100 feet from edge

No drinking water, irrigation wells, or water supplies were identified along the right-of-way.

Threatened and Endangered Species and Habitats: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of whether its proposed project will have any effects on any listed species. A species list was reviewed from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on March 27, 2007, identifying threatened and endangered species and Critical Habitat Units potentially occurring in the project area. In addition, a review of species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries was conducted.

The following species was identified as occurring within half of a mile of the project area: Bull trout. By implementing the conservation and avoidance measures mentioned in the Effects Determination for this project, a determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA listed species, designated critical habitat and Essential Fish Habitat waters that occur in the project area.

Cultural Resources: Vegetation management activities are not anticipated to affect cultural resources as there will not be any ground disturbing activities. If archaeological material is discovered during the course of vegetation management activities, all work will be halted and the appropriate tribe, the BPA Environmental Representative and the BPA archaeologist will be notified.

Monitoring: The right-of-way identified in the checklist will be inspected after completion of the work to determine if all hazard trees have been removed from these areas. If needed, re-seeding using a native seed mix will occur to stabilize traveled surfaces. Follow up monitoring will occur on a periodic basis to document vegetation control methods.

Findings: This Supplement Analysis finds that (1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and; (2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. This Supplement Analysis also finds the proposed actions will not affect threatened or endangered species. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Joseph C. Sharpe (for)

Michael A. Rosales
Physical Scientist - Environmental

CONCUR: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: April 27, 2007

Attachment:
Vegetation Management Checklist/Detail Sheets
Effects Determination