

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: March 13, 2008

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-358 – Olympia – Grand Coulee 287-kV and Olympia – South Tacoma 230-kV Transmission Lines) PP&A Project Tracking No: **738**

TO: Jim Jellison  
Natural Resource Specialist – TFBV/Olympia

**Proposed Action:** Vegetation Management along the Olympia – Grand Coulee 287-kV and Olympia – South Tacoma 230-kV transmission line corridors.

**Location:** The project consists of vegetation management on transmission line corridors located within the Olympia District. The project will occur from tower 1/1 to 21/5 on both the Olympia-Grand Coulee 287-kV and Olympia – South Tacoma 230 kV located in Pierce and Thurston Counties, WA. Right-of-way width is 125 feet.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

**Description of the Proposal:** BPA proposes to conduct vegetation control activities that include cutting and or chemical treatment of tall-growing and noxious vegetation from the right-of-way and access roads. The subject vegetation can potentially interfere with the operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines located within the right-of-way corridor.

**Analysis:** A Vegetation Management 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).

The subject corridor traverses various lands in Pierce and Thurston Counties, WA including public and private lands. No tribal lands are involved.

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 section 3.1 of the Vegetation Management Checklist. No ground-disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented, thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. Cut stump herbicide application is prescribed for the project. The following herbicide conservation measures and buffers will be implemented. Outside a 100' buffer from any stream, ponds, or wetlands Triclopyr BEE (common formulations, Garlon 4 & Tahoe 4E) and Arsenal/Escort may be applied. Formulations of Triclopyr TEA (common formulations Garlon 3A & Tahoe 3A) may be applied for spot or localized applications up to the waters edge for non-T&E water bodies and up to one yard of the waters edge for any T&E listed stream, ponds, or wetlands. No broadcast herbicide treatments are prescribed for this project.

Four drinking water sources have been identified. No herbicides will be applied within a 164-foot radius of the water sources.

**Threatened and Endangered Species/Essential Fish Habitat:** 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 February 25, 2008, 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 National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries was conducted. A determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA-listed species and designated critical habitat for the project. A determination of "No Effect" was made for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) waters that occur in the project area.

Spotted Owl habitat was identified from tower 14/3 to 21/5. Seasonal restrictions are no chainsaw activity from March 1 to August 24 and no chainsaw activity two hours before or after sunset from August 24 to September 15

Bald Eagle nesting territory was identified within the project area. Since the Bald Eagle has been sited, no chainsaw activities will occur between January 1 to July 15, at tower 10/1 to 11/1 and 15/3 to 16/3.

**Cultural Resources:** The Nisqually Tribe was contacted and no cultural or historic resources are known to occur in the project areas. It has been determined that this project will not effect any cultural or historic resources. If a site is discovered during the course of the project, work will be stopped in the vicinity and the appropriate tribe, the BPA Environmental Specialist, and the BPA archeologist will be contacted.

**Monitoring:** The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally, the line will be patrolled annually after treatment to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment and any issues associated with the project.

**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.

Sincerely,



Mark W. Hermeston  
Licensed Hydrogeologist (WA663)

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

DATE: March 13, 2008

Attachments:  
Vegetation Management Checklist  
Threatened & Endangered Species Effects Determination.