

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 9, 2008

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-376-Tanner to Snoqualmie-Lake Tradition Vegetation Management)
Project #: PP&A 877

TO: Jacob Grinolds
Student Trainee (Natural Resources) – TFN-SNOHOMISH

Proposed Action: The Tanner Tap to Snoqualmie-Lake Tradition corridor will be cleared in accordance with the Master Agreement Statement of Work for Vegetation Control on Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Transmission Line Rights-of-Way (ROW) and in accordance with the specific details identified in the prescription. This prescription is intended to control all tall growing species and reclaim trees on the ROW, danger trees adjacent to the ROW, and clearing around all structures and all tower sites. Approximately 3.5 miles of this corridor are in the treatment area.

Location: The proposed project is located in King County, Washington in the Snohomish Region. The project area consists of the ROW along the Tanner Tap to Snoqualmie-Lake Tradition 115 kV Transmission Line corridor between structures 2/2 to 5/21. The land is privately owned along the project area. Approximate project size is 21 acres.

Township	Range	Section
23N	7E	1-2
23N	8E	4-6
24N	7E	35-36
24N	8E	31

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposal: All vegetation identified in the treatment area that can grow within 25 feet of the maximum sag position of the conductor will be controlled. These include, but are not limited to, tall growing conifer and hardwood trees (e.g. Douglas-fir, true firs, hemlock, cottonwood, alder, maple) Low growing species that may interfere with the safety of the transmission line (e.g., Himalayan blackberry) will also be treated. Manual, mechanical and herbicide control methods are to be used for this project.

Herbicides will be selectively applied using stump treatment applications to prevent resprouting. Garlon 4 (33% Triclopyr) & WEB Oil will be used in accordance with label instructions in non-water resource areas. A minimum 35 foot buffer for water resources will be implemented. A follow-up herbicide treatment will be applied to resprouting vegetation 6-12 months following the initial treatment.

The follow-up low-volume foliar herbicide treatment will use a mixture of 1.5% Garlon 4 (33% Triclopyr), 5% WEB Oil, & 93.5% water. A buffer of 100 feet from water's edge for waterways will be used with this mixture. Garlon 3A will be used for spot treatments up to the waters edge.

The project is to be completed by the end of July 2008.

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

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

Threatened and Endangered Species: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA has made a determination of whether the proposed project will have an effect on any listed species. A species list was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) website on June 5, 2008 for listed species potentially occurring in the project area. In addition, a review of species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries was conducted. A determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA listed species and designated critical habitat for the project.

Essential Fish Habitat: There is not any essential fish habitat in the project area. Based on this factor, it was determined that this project will have "No Effect" on Essential Fish Habitat.

Cultural Resources: No cultural resources are known for the project area. If a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work will be stopped at that location and the BPA environmental specialist, and the BPA archeologist will be contacted.

Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during the work period.

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.



Shawn L. Barndt
Environmental Scientist

CONCUR: 
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 6-10-08

Attachments:
Vegetation Management Checklist
Effects Determination