

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 20, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-258- Ross-St. Johns No. 1 & Rivergate-Keeler No. 1 **Project #: V-O-05/14**)

TO: Ed Tompkins
Natural Resource Specialist – TFO/Ross

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the Ross-St. Johns No. 1, 230 kV, and Rivergate-Keeler No. 1, 115 kV Transmission Line Corridors.

Location: The project begins at Ross Substation in Vancouver, Clark Co. WA and terminates at Keeler Substation in Hillsboro, Washington Co. OR. The project is located in BPA's Olympia Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

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, safety, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines. Unwanted tall growing and noxious vegetation, and reclaim trees will be removed and/or controlled inside the ROW using selective and nonselective methods that may include hand cutting and herbicidal treatment.

The project area consists of multiple transmission line rights of way located within a common corridor between towers 1/1 and 7/6 along the Ross-St. Johns No. 1 230 kV transmission line corridor starting at Ross Substation in Clark County, WA and terminating at St. Johns Substation in Multnomah County, OR. All other lines located within the right of way corridor including the Ross-Rivergate No. 1 230 kV and Ross-Alcoa No. 3&4 115 kV will be managed. Additionally the project consists of the right of way from towers 1/1 to 2/3 along the Ross-Carborundum #1 115 kV transmission line corridor starting at Ross Substation in Clark County, WA and joining the Ross-Rivergate corridor in mile two.

The Project continues along the Rivergate-Keeler No. 1 115 kV transmission line corridor starting at Rivergate Substation in Multnomah County, OR and terminating at Keeler Substation in Washington County, OR. All other lines located within the right of way corridor including the St. Johns-Keeler No. 1 115 kV (1/1 to 3/4 & 10/1 to Keeler) and St. Johns-St. Helens #1 115 kV (1/1 to 2/3) will be managed.

This proposal covers approximately 358 acres of land and encompasses the entire right of way widths of all of the transmission lines located along the transmission line right of ways.

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 public and private lands in Clark County Washington and Multnomah and Washington counties, Oregon. Lands consist of, rural forest, private farmlands, commercial nurseries, and urban residential properties. 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. 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 the streams. The following herbicide buffers will be implemented for the project. Outside a 100' buffer from any T&E listed steam, ponds, or wetlands or a 35' buffer from any other steam, ponds, or wetlands Triclopyr BEE (common formulations, Garlon 4 & Tahoe 4E) may be applied. Formulations of Triclopyr TEA (common formulations Garlon 3A & Tahoe 3A) may be applied for spot or localized applications up to one yard of the waters edge for T&E listed streams ponds, or wetlands or up to the waters edge of any other water body or sensitive habitat. For any initial or follow up broadcast treatment with Triclopyr TEA on sprouting stumps or brush a 35 ft buffer will be maintained from any steam, ponds, wetlands, or sensitive areas.

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

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 USFWS reference # 1/7/05-SP-0415 was received from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Portland, OR office on May 10th, 2005. Additionally a Species list (revised October 8, 2004) was generated from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Western WA. Office website on May 9th, 2005. The lists identify 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. 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 waters that occur in the project area.

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 in the vicinity and the BPA Environmental Specialist, and 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.

/s/ James R. Meyer for

Greg P. Tippetts
Physical Scientist

CONCUR: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

DATE: 5/23/05

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer (acting)

Attachment:
Vegetation Management Checklist
Effects Determination

cc:

K. Pierce – KEC-4
J. Meyer – KEP-4
J. Sharpe – KEPR-4
G. Tippetts – KEPR/Olympia
H. Adams – LC-7
J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2
D. Krauss – TFO/Olympia
D. Swanson – TFOP/LMT
Environmental File – KEC-4
Official File – KEP (EQ-14)