

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 21, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-260-St. Johns – St. Helens: **Project #: V-O-05/16**)

TO: Ed Tompkins
Natural Resource Specialist – TFO/Olympia

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the St. Johns – St. Helens 115 kV
Transmission Line Corridor from structures 2/3 to 22/4.

Location: The project transmission line is located in Columbia and Multnomah Counties,
Oregon in BPA's Olympia Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to remove tall growing and invasive vegetation from the right of way and access roads that can potentially interfere with the operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines. Unwanted, tall growing, and invasive vegetation, danger trees, and reclaim trees will be removed and/or controlled inside the ROW using selective and nonselective methods that may include hand cutting, mowing, and herbicidal treatment. Vegetation management work will occur between structures 2/3 to 22/4 of the subject transmission line. This proposal covers the right-of-way width of 100 feet totaling about 166.5 acres of treated area.

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 Columbia and Multnomah Counties, Oregon. Landowners include private rural residential 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. 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 foot buffer from any stream, ponds, or wetlands Triclopyr BEE (common formulations, Garlon 4 & Tahoe 4E) may be applied.

Formulations of Triclopyr TEA (common formulations Garlon 3A) may be applied for spot or localized applications up to the waters edge. For any initial or follow up broadcast treatment with Triclopyr TEA on sprouting stumps or brush a 35 foot buffer will be maintained from any stream, ponds, wetlands, or sensitive areas.

No drinking water sources were identified.

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 received from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on June 16, 2005, identifying threatened and endangered species and Critical Habitat Units potentially occurring in the project area. This list also covered species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries. 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 tribal lands are involved.

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
 Mark W. Hermeston
 Physical Scientist
 Licensed Hydrogeologist (WA-663)

CONCUR: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce
 Katherine S. Pierce
 NEPA Compliance Officer (acting)

DATE: 6/23/2005

Attachments:
 Vegetation Management Checklist
 Columbia County USFWS Species List
 Multnomah County USFWS Species List
 Effects Determination