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United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: January 24, 2006

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-280-Pearl-Marion No. 1 Transmission Line Vegetation Management)
Project #: V-E-06/06

TO: Mark Newbill
Natural Resource Specialist – TFP/Chemawa

Proposed Action: The project activities will be conducted along the Right-of-Way (ROW) of the 115 kV Pearl-Marion #1 transmission line corridor between towers 4/3 to 40/5. The corridor includes 4.5 miles of the Ostrander-Pearl #1 and 3 miles of the Big Eddy-Chemawa #1. The corridor along this section of the proposed project ranges from 150 to 562 feet in width and crosses approximately 44 miles of terrain through rural residential, City of Wilsonville and private farmland.

Location: The project is located in BPA's Eugene Region in Clackamas and Marion counties, Oregon.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: BPA is proposing to conduct vegetation control activities along its Pearl-Marion transmission line ROW to remove Douglas fir, Oak, Ash, Hemlock, Red Alder, Big Leaf Maple, Wild Cherry and Cottonwood trees present in the ROW. This will allow low growing plant communities to get established, reducing the number of invasive weeds. The noxious weeds to be controlled are Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry. In addition poison oak will be targeted.

Vegetation will be removed using manual or mechanical methods. Debris will be disposed of using either chip, lop and scatter or mulching techniques. All debris will be scattered along the ROW.

Herbicides will be selectively applied using stump treatment applications to prevent resprouting. Garlon 4 / web oil in a 25 percent mixture will be applied as a stump treatment for hardwood species.

The project is anticipated be completed by the end of the summer of 2006 (approximately 12 weeks). Follow-up foliar treatment of resprouts will occur in the fall of 2006 using Garlon 3 A and Escort (2 percent in water mix).

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.

Water Resources: Waterbodies (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 will grow into the minimum approach distances of the conductor at maximum sag. Shrubs will not be cut that are less than 10 feet high where ground to conductor clearance allows. No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus eliminating the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. Adjacent to water resources only spot (cut-stump) and localized chemical treatments using practically non-toxic triclopyr (TEA) will be used.

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

Threatened and Endangered Species: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, 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) on July 14, 2005 for threatened and endangered 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: A review of NOAA database identified Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) streams occurring in the project area. Measures identified for water resources will be followed for EFH. A determination was made 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 in the vicinity and the BPA Environmental Specialist, and the BPA archeologist will be contacted.

Re-Vegetation: Native grasses are present on the entire right-of-way and are expected to seed into the areas that will have lightly disturbed soil predominately located on the right-of-way roads.

Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally, monitoring for the follow-up herbicide treatment will be in the fall of 2006.

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/ Shawn Barndt
Shawn Barndt
Environmental Physical Scientist

CONCUR: */s/ Katherine S. Pierce* DATE: 1/25/06
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
Vegetation Management Checklist
Effects Determination