

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: February 22, 2006

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-284) Santiam-Albany No 1 230 kV: Project #: **V-E-06/04**

TO: Mark A. Newbill
Natural Resource Specialist – TFE/Chemawa

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the Santiam-Albany No. 1 Line from structure 12/5 to structure 29/4.

Location: The project area is located in BPA's Eugene Region between towers 12/5 and 29/4 along the Santiam-Albany No 1 230 kV transmission line corridor located in Linn County, Oregon.

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 may potentially interfere with the operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines. Unwanted tall growing and noxious vegetation and danger trees will be removed and/or controlled inside the ROW using manual, mechanical, and herbicide treatment. Vegetation management work will occur along two right of way segments between towers 12/5 and 29/4 230 kV transmission line corridor. An estimated 258 acres within the Right-of-Way and 17 miles of access road will be managed.

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

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.

As conservation and avoidance measures, only spot and basal treatment with Garlon 3A (Triclopyr TEA) will be used within a 100 foot buffer up to the waters edge of any stream containing threatened or endangered species. Danger 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. Shrubs will not be cut that are less than 10 feet high where ground to conductor clearance is more than 50 feet. No

ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams.

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 from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was reviewed on January 12, 2006, identifying threatened and endangered species and Critical Habitat Units potentially occurring in the project area. This review also covered species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries. A determination of “No Effect” was made for all ESA listed species. A determination of “No Effect” was made for Essential Fish Habitat waters that occur in the project area.

Essential Fish Habitat: A review of the 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 to be located within the project area. If a site is discovered during 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. Monitoring will be carried out post-treatment 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/ Andrew B. Chang
 Andrew B. Chang
 Biological Scientist

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

DATE: 2/27/2006

Attachment:
 Vegetation Management Checklist
 Effects Determination

cc:

K. Pierce – KEC-4

J. Meyer – KEP-4

B. Sherer – KEP-4

J. Sharpe – KEPR-4

H. Adams – LC-7

D. Krauss – TFE/Alvey

A. Sundberg – TFE/Alvey

K. Barber – TFEK/Chemawa

Environmental File – KEC-4

Official File – KEP (EQ-14)

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