

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 19, 2007

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-335-Grizzly-Captain Jack) **Project #: V-R-07/02**

TO: Elizabeth Johnson
Natural Resource Specialist – TFR-THE DALLES

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management will be performed along the Grizzly-Captain Jack transmission line corridor from Grizzly substation to Captain Jack substation.

Location: The project line is located in Jefferson, Crook, Deschutes, Lake, and Klamath Counties, Oregon, and is located in BPA's Redmond 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, 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, mowing, and herbicidal treatment. Vegetation management work will occur in the transmission line corridors described above. The entire easement widths of all subject lines will be managed.

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 U.S. National Forest (Deschutes and Fremont), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (Prineville and Klamath), and county, state, and private lands, mostly used for grazing and timber production. Project will be discussed with the BLM and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFS) prior to commencement of work. Notification letters will be sent to private landowners one month prior to commencement of work.

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. Shrubs will not be cut that are less than 10 feet high where ground to conductor clearance is more than 50 feet.

As conservation and avoidance measures, only spot and basal treatment with Garlon 3A/Tahoe 3A (Triclopyr TEA) or Arsenal (a practically non toxic herbicide to aquatic invertebrates and vertebrates) will be used within a 100 foot buffer up to 1 yard of the waters edge of any T&E or EFH stream, pond, wetland, or other sensitive habitat.

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) in December 2006 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 federally listed ESA listed species and designated critical habitat for the project.

Essential Fish Habitat: A review of NOAA and BPA’s integrated GIS system 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 ground disturbing activities are planned for this project that could potentially affect cultural resources, however, 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.

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/ Aaron Shurtliff
 Aaron Shurtliff
 Environmental Engineer

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

DATE: 3-21-07

Attachments:
 Vegetation Management Checklist
 Effects Determination
 cc: