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United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: November 13, 2007

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-349-Santiam-Alvey No. 1 & 2 Transmission Line Vegetation Management) **Project #: PP&A-521**

TO: Benjamin Tilley
Natural Resource Specialist – TFE/Alvey

Proposed Action: The project activities will be conducted along the entire right-of-way (ROW) of the 230-kV Santiam – Alvey No. 1 & 2 transmission line corridor. The 125-300 foot wide corridor traverses approximately 65 miles of terrain consisting of rural, agricultural, grazing, industrial forest, and BLM (Eugene District) lands.

Vegetation management of the corridor was previously addressed in DOE/EIS-0285/SA-109-Santiam – Alvey No.1 & 2 (September 9, 2002).

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Adminstration (BPA)

Location: The proposed project is located in Linn and Lane Counties, Oregon in the BPA Eugene Region.

Description of the Proposal: BPA is proposing to conduct vegetation control activities along its Santiam – Alvey No. 1 & 2 transmission line corridor to remove common tall-growing tree species, including Douglas fir, true fir, hemlock, alder, maple, willows, poplar, cottonwood, and wild cherry, present in the ROW. This will allow low-growing plant communities to get established, reducing the number of invasive weeds. In addition, several species of noxious weeds will be controlled, including Scotch broom, tansy ragwort, thistle, and Himalayan blackberry. Site-specific activities are described below:

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. Only Garlon 3A herbicide (active ingredient: Triclopyr) will be used for this project. Backpack sprayers will be used with a 25% Garlon 3A / 75% crop oil mix (stump treatment). Localized low volume spot treatments will use a 1.5% Garlon 3A mix in water with 5% crop oil to create an emulsion and applied as a follow-up to the initial treatment to address any respouting of target vegetation. No herbicide will be applied on or adjacent to residential infrastructure water supply areas, waterways, wetlands, or on BLM lands.

The project is to be completed between November and January 2008. Follow-up foliar treatment of resprouts (tall-growing trees and noxious weeds) will occur approximately 6 months later using Garlon 3A.

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

Section three 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.

Private water wells/springs were identified along the ROW. No herbicide application will be made within a 167 foot radius of the wellhead/spring. For location information, see section 3.2 of the attached project checklist.

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 October 17, 2007, for threatened and endangered (T&E) 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 EFH.

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 at that location and BPA Environmental Specialist, and BPA archeologist will be contacted.

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

Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally, monitoring for the follow-up herbicide treatment will be in 2008.

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 T&E species. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

Sincerely,

/s/ Laura Roberts
Laura Roberts
Biological Scientist

CONCUR: */s/ Katherine S. Pierce* DATE: *November 14, 2007*
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
FY08 Detail Sheet
Vegetation Management Checklist
Effects Determination for Threatened & Endangered Species