

**Supplement Analysis**  
for the  
**Transmission System Vegetation Management Program EIS**  
(DOE/EA/EIS-0285/SA-873)

**Pollution Prevention and Abatement Project Number 4943**  
**Natural Resource Specialist/Project Manager: Bill Merriam – TFBV-3**

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Activities**

BPA proposes to remove or modify thirteen trees that are interfering with the signal strength along the Blue Ridge – Fairview microwave beam path near Coquille in Coos County, Oregon.

BPA coordinated with private landowners to secure rights to remove these trees. BPA proposes to remove twelve trees, and to “top” one tree leaving it at the greatest height possible, and with as many live limbs remaining as possible, while meeting BPA’s clearing needs and safety requirements. BPA would ensure that the tree top would be completely severed from the tree, and that it would fall completely to the ground. Debris would be lopped, scattered, chipped/mulched, and left in a manner to reduce slash, potential fuels load, keep roads and ditches clear, and fire risk. Debris depth would not exceed six inches. No ground-disturbing equipment would be used. The work would take place prior to April 2024 or after September 2024. BPA would monitor during tree cutting, no follow up monitoring would be required.

**Analysis**

A Vegetation Control Cut Sheet was developed for this microwave beam path that incorporates the requirements identified in BPA’s Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS and Record of Decision (August 23, 2000). The following summarizes natural resources occurring in the project area along with applicable mitigation measures outlined in the Vegetation Control Cut Sheets.

**Water Resources**

Water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) occurring in the project area are noted. One tree is located near a perennial waterbody and would be “topped” to minimize impacts to riparian habitat (shade) and water quality (sediment and temperature). No ground-disturbing vegetation management methods would be implemented.

**Endangered Species Act and Magnuson-Stevens Act**

Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA made a determination of whether its proposed project would have any effects on any listed species. A species list was obtained for federally-listed, proposed, and candidate species potentially occurring within the project boundaries from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Based on the ESA review conducted, BPA made a determination that the project would have “No Effect” for all ESA-listed species and designated

critical habitat under USFWS' jurisdiction provided that the project activities take place between October 1 and March 31.

BPA also conducted a review of species under the jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). A determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA-listed species under NMFS' jurisdiction, with the implementation of the conservation measures in Water Resources section above. It was also determined that the project would not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat.

#### Cultural Resources

Pursuant to its obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), a BPA archaeologist reviewed the proposed undertaking and available background information, conducted a field investigation, and determined that implementation of the proposed vegetation management actions will not affect historic properties. BPA received concurrence from the Coquille Indian Tribe on March 14, 2024, and from the Oregon State Office of Historic Preservation on March 15, 2024. If cultural resources are identified during any vegetation control activities, work would be stopped in the vicinity of the discovery location, and the BPA Environmental Specialist and the BPA archeologist would be contacted following the procedures established in the project Inadvertent Discovery Plan.

#### Re-Vegetation

Existing naturalized grasses and woody shrubs are present in both site areas and are expected to naturally seed into the areas that would have lightly-disturbed soil.

#### Monitoring

The entire project would be inspected during the work period, and signal strength would be re-assessed following the work, estimated to take place in spring or fall of 2024. A vendor scorecard of inspection results would be used to document formal inspections and will be filed with the contracting officer.

#### Findings

BPA finds that the types of actions and the potential impacts related to the proposed activities have been examined, reviewed, and consulted upon and are similar to those analyzed in the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD. There are no substantial

changes in the EIS's Proposed Action and no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns bearing on the EIS's Proposed Action or its impacts within the meaning of 10 CFR § 1021.314(c)(1) and 40 CFR §1502.9(d). Therefore, no further NEPA analysis or documentation is required.

*/s/ Julianna Martin*

Julianna Martin

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Concur:

*/s/ Katey C. Grange*

Katey C. Grange

NEPA Compliance Officer    Date: March 21, 2024

References:

Vegetation Control Cut Sheets