

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: April 5, 2005

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS  
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-249) Albany-Eugene Alderwood-Tap: Project #: **V-E-05/07**

TO: Mark Newbill  
Natural Resource Specialist – TFE/CHEMAWA

**Proposed Action:** Vegetation Management along the Albany-Eugene (1/3 to 40/10) and the Alderwood Tap (3/6 –9/13) Transmission Line Corridors.

**Location:** The project line is located in Lane and Linn County Oregon, and is located in BPA's Eugene 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 and mowing. Vegetation management work on the Albany-Eugene Transmission corridor will occur between structures 1/3 and 40/10, work on the Alderwood Tap will occur between structures 3/6 and 9/13. The ROW width varies between 50 to 100 feet.

**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 public and private lands in Lane and Linn County, Oregon, consisting of rural, urban/residential, private farmland and industrial forestlands. Specific land owner/land use measures are listed in section 2.3 of the checklist.

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.

No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. No herbicides will be used during the vegetation management. BPA will maintain a 100-foot buffer for streams occupied by threatened or endangered species within the project area, for all other streams BPA will maintain a 35-foot buffer.

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 was reviewed from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on March 10, 2004, identifying threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitat units potentially occurring in the project area. In addition, a review of species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries was conducted. Review of site-specific information indicated listed species were found to be potentially present along the project corridor. These species include: bald eagle, Chinook salmon, Steelhead, Fender's blue butterfly, Willamette daisy, Bradshaw's lomatium, and Kincaid's lupine. A determination of "No Effect" was made for all listed ESA species and designated critical habitat.

Essential Fish Habitat: A review of NOAA database identified Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) streams occurring in the project area. Vegetation control measures identified for water resources will be followed for EFH. A determination of No Effect was made for EFH.

Cultural Resources: There are no known cultural resources present in the project area. If evidence of cultural resources is found, work will cease immediately, and the appropriate authorities will be contacted.

Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally the line will be patrolled annually after treatment to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment and any issues associated with the project.

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. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ John Howington \_\_\_\_\_

John Howington  
Physical Scientist

CONCUR: /s/ James Kehoe for \_\_\_\_\_

Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 4/5/05

Attachment:  
Vegetation Management Checklist  
Effects Determination

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4	B. Sherer – KEP-4	J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2	K. Barber – TFEK/Chemawa
T. McKinney – KEC-4	J. Sharpe – KEPR-4	J. Domschot – TFE/Alvey	Environmental File – KEC-4
J. Meyer – KEP-4	H. Adams – LC-7	A. Sundberg – TFE/Alvey	Official File – KEP (EQ-14)