DOE F 1325.8 e Electronic Form Approved by CGIR - 01/20/95
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United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 9, 2005

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-254- Dworshak – Taft Corridor, 1/1 to 91/3) **Project No. V-S-05/04**

TO: Tom Murphy
Natural Resource Specialist – TFS/Bell-1

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the Dworshak - Taft 1/1 to 91/3 Transmission Line Right of Way (ROW).

Location: The project is located in Clearwater, Latah and Shoshone County, Idaho and Mineral County, Montana in the BPA Spokane 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, danger trees, 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 between structures 1/1 to 91/3 of the subject transmission line. This proposal covers the right-of-way width of 150 feet totaling about 91 acres of treated area.

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).

Land along the project corridor consists of approximately 60% Forest Service managed lands (i.e. Clearwater, St. Joe and Lolo National Forests), 25% private industrial property and 15% is a combination of State lands and small woodlot owners. No other agencies or Tribal involvement exists.

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.

The following herbicide buffers will be implemented for the project. 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 the waters edge of any stream, pond, wetland, or other sensitive habitat. Localized herbicide use will be limited to either Triclopyr BEE using a 100-foot buffer or Glyphosate using a 35-foot buffer up to the waters edge of any stream, pond, wetland, or other sensitive habitat. For any initial or follow up broadcast treatment with Triclopyr TEA on sprouting stumps or brush, a 35-foot buffer will be maintained from any stream, ponds, wetlands, or sensitive areas.

No drinking water, irrigation wells, or water supplies were identified along the rights of way.

T&E Species and Habitats: 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 October 7, 2004, identifying threatened and endangered species and Critical Habitat Units 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. A determination of "No Effect" was made for Essential Fish Habitat waters that occur in the project area.

Cultural Resources: Vegetation management activities are not anticipated to effect cultural resources. Telephone contact to the both the Coeur d'Alene and Nez Perce Tribes was conducted and the project scope and time frame of project was discussed with Tribal representatives. No comments or concerns were received from either Tribe. The BPA archaeologist conducted a database search and no known cultural resources were identified along or near the line. If archaeological material is discovered during the course of vegetation management activities, all work will be halted and the appropriate tribe, the BPA environmental representative and the BPA archeologist will be notified.

Monitoring: The right-of-way identified in the checklist will be inspected after completion of the work to determine if all hazard trees have been removed from these areas. Re-seeding using a native seed mix will occur as necessary to stabilize travel surfaces. Follow-up monitoring for vegetation control will occur in the fall of 2005 and the summer 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/ Joseph Sharpe for
Michael A. Rosales
Physical Scientist - Environmental

CONCUR: */s/ Katherine S. Pierce* DATE: 5-12-05
Kathy Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer (acting)

Attachment:
Vegetation Management Checklist
Vegetation Survey
Effects Determination

cc:
K. Pierce – KEC-4
J. Meyer – KEP-4
M. Rosales – KEPR/Bell-1
J. Sharpe – KEPR-4
H. Adams – LC-7
J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2
D. Labrosse – TFS/Bell-1
J. Lahti – TFS/Bell-1
M. Borrows – TFSF/Bell
Environmental File – KEC
Official File – KEP (EQ-14)

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