

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 27, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-261- Bald Mountain MW Service Road) **Project No. V-S-05/08**

TO: Joe Johnson
Natural Resource Specialist-TFS

Proposed Action: Remove encroaching vegetation along a microwave station service road.

Location: The project is located in Mineral County, Montana in the BPA Spokane Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposal: The proposed action involves utilizing a brush machine to clear encroaching trees and limbs on 5000 feet of service road leading to the Bald Mountain microwave station.

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 United States Forest Service Land, managed as the Lolo National Forest.

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: No water resources are present within the proposed action area. In addition, no ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near any unidentified streams.

No drinking water, irrigation wells, or water supplies were identified within the proposed action area.

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. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Listed Species of Montana website (revised June 2005) was accessed on July 15, 2005. The species list included all Threatened and Endangered listed, proposed and candidate species, and proposed and designated critical habitat potentially occurring in Mineral County, Montana. In addition, a review of species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries was conducted. There are no ESA listed fish species or Essential Fish Habitat present in or near the project area. A determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA listed species, designated critical habitat and Essential Fish Habitat for the project.

Cultural Resources: No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be used only machine cutting of encroaching trees and limbs along the identified roadway. All work will take place within the roadway prism. 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: Will not be conducted.

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
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 8/4/05

Attachment:
Vegetation Management Checklist
Effects Determination