

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 12, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-269-Martin Creek et al.) **Project #: V-E-06/03**

TO: Benjamin Tilley
Natural resource specialist – TFE/ALVEY

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the 115 kV Alvey-Martin Creek #1 (towers 1/2 to 3/6), Martin Creek-Drain #1 (towers 2/2 to 14/1), Martin Creek Tap #1 (towers 1/1 to 1/4), and Latham Tap #1 (1/1 to 2/15) transmission line corridors.

Location: The project line is located in Lane and Douglas County, Oregon, 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, safety, 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, mowing, and herbicidal treatment.

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 residential, rural, agricultural, and industrial forest lands.

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. No herbicides will be used within 35 feet of stream's edge. Elsewhere, only practically non-toxic (to aquatic) formulations of Garlon 3 (Triclopyr TEA) will be used. Only manual selective cutting of undesirable vegetation will take place within the riparian buffer if needed; no machinery will be used in these areas. Trees near a stream's edge will be topped, if necessary, to ensure negligible loss of stream shading. Brush near a stream's edge will only be cut, if necessary, in a manner to ensure negligible loss of stream shading.

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 obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on July 14, 2005 identifying threatened and endangered 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, designated critical habitat, and Essential Fish Habitat for the project.

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 in the vicinity and the appropriate tribe, the BPA Environmental Specialist, and the BPA archeologist 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. This Supplement Analysis also finds the proposed actions will not affect threatened or endangered species. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Joseph C. Sharpe for

Aaron Shurtliff
Physical Scientist

CONCUR: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 10/17/05

Attachment:
Vegetation Management Checklist