

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: February 8, 2006

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-283- Shultz-Raver Corridor) **Project No. V-S-06/04**TO: Tom Murphy
Natural Resource Specialist – TFS/Bell-1**Proposed Action:** Vegetation Management along the Schultz-Raver Transmission Line Corridor Right of Way (ROW).**Location:** The project area is located in Kittitas County, Washington, being in the Spokane Region.

<i>County</i>	<i>Township</i>	<i>Range</i>	<i>Section</i>
Kittitas	20N	13E	9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 24
	20N	14E	19, 29, 30, 32, 33
	19N	14E	1, 2, 3, 4
	19N	15E	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
	19N	16E	7, 8, 9, 10

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. 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. The site specific transmission line ROW of the Schultz-Raver Corridor that will be treated is as follows:

<i>Transmission Line ROW</i>	<i>Corridor Length, kV</i>	<i>Easement width (ft)</i>	<i>Miles of Treatment</i>
Schultz-Raver #1	20 miles, 500 kV	192.5	17/1 to 37/2
Schultz-Raver #2 (operated as Schultz-Echo Lake #1)	20 miles, 500 kV	192.5	17/1 to 37/2
Covington-Columbia #1	20 miles, 230 kV	125	50/3 to 70/4
Olympia-Grand Coulee #1	20 miles, 287 kV	125	94/3 to 114/4

Schultz-Raver #3	20 miles, 500 kV	100	17/1 to 37/2
Schultz – Raver # 4	20 miles, 500-kV	162.5	16/4 to 36/6

All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards and will provide system reliability.

Analysis: A Vegetation Management Checklist (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).

Approximately 85% of the project area is within private industrial forest property, generally managed for timber production and recreation. The other 15% is a combination of small woodlot owners and U.S. Forest Service managed lands. Additional uses include game hunting and recreation.

The ROW crosses anadromous/listed and resident fish bearing streams as well as terrestrial/aquatic critical habitat and essential fish habitat. 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 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. Shrubs will not be cut that are less than 10 feet high where ground to conductor clearance is more than 50 feet. No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams.

For spot herbicide application, Glyphosate will be applied by hand using a 25 foot buffer from any stream, pond, wetland, or other sensitive habitat. For localized herbicide application, Glyphosate will be applied by hand using a 35 foot buffer from any stream, pond, wetland, or other sensitive habitat.

An irrigation/domestic use spring has been identified in Section 3.2 of the Checklist but no herbicide treatment is planned or anticipated for this area. If herbicides are used in this area, the following buffers will be followed:

- For herbicides without a groundwater advisory label use a 50-foot radius buffer
- For herbicides with a groundwater advisory label use a 164-foot radius buffer

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 December 12, 2005, 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.

The following species were identified as occurring within ½ mile of the project area: Bull trout, Steelhead, Chinook salmon, and Northern spotted owl and Gray wolf. By implementing the conservation and avoidance measures listed in the Effects Determination and the checklist for this project, a determination of “No Effect” was made for all ESA listed species, designated critical habitat and Essential Fish Habitat waters that occur in the project area.

Cultural Resources: Vegetation management activities are not anticipated to affect cultural resources that may be present. 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 vegetation/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 2006 and the summer of 2007.

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

Michael A. Rosales

Physical Scientist - Environmental

CONCUR /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 2/10/2006

Attachment:

Vegetation Management Checklist