

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: July 12, 2007

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS  
DOE/EIS-0285/SA-342-Chief Joseph - Monroe No.1 structure 64/5 to 80/1. **Project #: PP&A-360.**

TO: Don Atkinson  
Natural Resource Specialist – TFN/Snohomish

**Proposed Action:** Vegetation Management will be performed along the Chief Joseph – Monroe No. 1 transmission line corridor from structure 64/5 to 80/1, including a segment of the Chief Joseph – Snohomish No.3 and No.4 from 64/5 to 80/1.

**Location:** The project lines are located in Chelan and King Counties, Washington; which is in the Snohomish 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 (ROW) 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, mowing, and herbicidal treatment. Vegetation management work will occur in the transmission line corridors described above. The entire easement widths of all subject lines will be managed.

**Analysis:** A Vegetation Management Checklist was completed for this project in accordance with the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administration's Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285).

The subject corridor traverses timber managed, agricultural and residential lands. Notification letters will be sent two weeks prior to commencement of operation on the easement property.

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.

Shrubs will not be cut that are less than 10 feet high where ground to conductor clearance is more than 50 feet.

As conservation and avoidance measures, only spot stump treatment, localized basal treatment, and/or localized foliar treatments with Garlon 3A (Triclopyr TEA) (listed by US EPA as practically non toxic to aquatic invertebrates and vertebrates) can be applied within a 200 foot buffer up to the waters edge of any threatened or endangered (T&E) or essential fish habitat (EFH) stream, pond, wetland, or other sensitive habitat.

**Threatened and Endangered Species:** Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of whether the proposed project will have an affect on any listed species. A species list was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) website on April 6, 2007, for T&E species potentially occurring in the project area. In addition, a review of species under the jurisdiction of National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries was conducted. A determination of “No Effect” was made for federally-listed ESA-listed species and designated critical habitat for the project.

**Critical and Essential Fish Habitat:** A review of the services and BPA’s integrated GIS system database identified EFH streams occurring in the project area. Measures identified for water resources will be followed for EFH. A determination was made that this project will have “No Effect” on EFH.

**Cultural Resources:** No ground disturbing activities are planned for this project that could potentially affect cultural resources; however, if a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work in the vicinity will be stopped and the BPA Environmental Specialist and the BPA Archeologist will be contacted.

**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 T&E species. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Phil Smith for  
Mark Martin  
Environmental Engineer

CONCUR: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce  
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: July 12, 2007

Attachments:  
Vegetation Management Checklist  
Effects Determination