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United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: November 26, 2010

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEP-Celilo

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-439-Captain Jack-Malin, Captain Jack-Olinda Transmission Lines) Project #: PP&A 1856

TO: Elizabeth Johnson
Natural Resource Specialist – TFE/The Dalles

Proposed Action: The project activities will be conducted along the right-of-way (ROW) of the Captain Jack-Malin and Captain Jack-Olinda transmission line corridors. The Captain Jack-Malin corridor averages 150 feet in width for 8 miles and the Captain Jack-Olinda corridor averages 200 feet in width for 7 miles. Each line consists of high dessert terrain and crosses through Bureau of Land Management and private lands.

Location: The proposed project is located in Klamath County, Oregon, in the Redmond Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposal: During the winter of FY 2011, BPA proposes to clear unwanted vegetation along the Captain Jack-Malin and Captain Jack-Olinda transmission line corridors to include access roads and around tower structures that may impede the operation and maintenance of the subject transmission line. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA's Transmission System Vegetation Management FEIS and ROD, dated 2000. BPA plans to manage vegetation with the goal of removing tall growing vegetation that is currently or will soon become a hazard to the transmission line. (A hazard is defined as one or more branches, tops, and/or whole trees that could fall or grow into the minimum safety zone of the transmission line(s) causing an electrical arc, relay and/or outage). The work will provide system reliability.

BPA's goals for managing noxious weeds are to prevent and eradicate new invaders, and to control established infestations. Contractor equipment will be cleaned prior to moving onto the ROW and during operations to prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

Initial entry – Selectively handcut, mow and/or treat tall growing vegetation. Mow access roads and around structures. Work expected to start early January 2011, weather permitting.

Subsequent entry – Due to the low amount of rainfall, low ground-to-conductor clearance, density and typical growth of lodgepole pine trees, the treatment cycle will be every 8-10 years. The same prescription as stated in the initial entry will apply for future cycles.

Analysis: A Vegetation Management Checklist was completed for this project in accordance with the requirements identified in BPA's Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS. Section 3 of the checklist identifies the natural resources present in the area of the proposed work.

Water Resources: Waterbodies (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 will grow into the minimum approach distances of the conductor at maximum sag. No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented, thus eliminating the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. No chemical treatment will applied within 35 feet of the water bodies. No drinking water, irrigation wells, or water supplies were identified along the rights-of-way for this project.

Threatened and Endangered Species: 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 or critical habitat. A species list (dated November 15, 2010) was downloaded from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) database on November 22, 2010, identifying listed, proposed, and candidate species potentially occurring near the project area. In addition, a review of species under the jurisdiction of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries was conducted. A determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA listed species and designated critical habitat for the project.

Essential Fish Habitat: A review of the NOAA database did not identify Essential Fish Habitat streams occurring in the project area.

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 BPA Environmental Specialist, and the BPA archeologist will be contacted.

Conservation Measures: Conservation measures as identified in Section 4.1 of the Checklist shall be followed during the vegetation management efforts.

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/ Frederick J. Walasavage
Frederick J. Walasavage
Environmental Protection Specialist

CONCUR: */s/ Katherine S. Pierce* DATE: *November 26, 2010*
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
Captain Jack-Malin Vegetation Management Checklist
Effects Determination