

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 19, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-03)

TO: Elizabeth Johnson - TFR/The Dalles
Natural Resource Specialist

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management on Grizzly-Summerlake Transmission Line
Corridor from Structure 52/2 to 68/1+340.

Location: The project area is SE of Bend, OR, in Deschutes and Lake Counties, beginning just north of BPA's Sand Springs Compensation Station and ending near the Deschutes NF boundary.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to clear unwanted vegetation from the rights of way and access roads for BPA's Grizzly-Summer Lake and Grizzly-Captain Jack lines, beginning in mid-March and ending in May, 2001. Another transmission line in the corridor belongs to Portland General Electric, and will not be cleared.

Analysis:

1. Description of right-of-way and vegetation management needed: The project involves controlling all tall growing trees and brush within BPA's transmission line right-of-way corridor. The corridor consists of three lines - Grizzly-Summerlake (77 foot wide with some variable width), Grizzly-Captain Jack (150 foot wide), and PGE's Grizzly-Malin (150 foot wide). Only vegetation within BPA's portion of the corridor, totaling approximately 440 acres, will be controlled. No herbicides will be used on this project.

Vegetation to be controlled: Tall-growing trees under the lines and danger trees adjacent to the ROW; and brush around structures. This includes lodgepole and ponderosa pine, juniper, bitterbrush and sagebrush. The density of vegetation under the lines is light to medium but trees located on the edges and within the ROW boundaries are fairly dense and growing into the lines. The ROW boundaries will be examined for danger trees and if found, danger trees will be marked and cut according to danger tree policy.

2. Surrounding land use and landowners: The land within the easement is owned by the USFS (Deschutes NF), BLM and several private landowners. Uses on the land include timber production, agriculture and grazing. All landowners will be notified by letter about 1 month before the project begins. The Forest Service and BLM have been notified by phone and letter to determine any seasonal restrictions. The Land Information system (LIS) has been consulted

for existing tree agreements and none were found. Klamath Tribal ceded lands are located within the southeast portion of the corridor near Fort Rock and the tribe has been notified of this proposal.

3. *Natural Resources:* According to information from BPA's GIS database system, no T& E species or their habitat will be affected. There are no stream courses in this segment of ROW. BPA was notified by the Forest Service about a Forest-wide sensitive plant, the pumice grape-fern located between structures 53/3 to 58/1. To protect individual plants and their habitat, BPA has agreed to operate its mowing machines in this area when the ground has a minimum of 6" of snow or 4" of frost. According to the Prineville BLM office, the area may contain some sage grouse habitat between structures 52/2 to 53/3 and recommended that mowing operations be completed by April 1. Also, they indicated big game winter range exists between those structures but they would waive the restrictions due to the issues with the sage grouse. Although the Klamath Tribe was notified, no correspondence was received regarding this project.

4. *Vegetation control methods:* No herbicide use is planned for this project. Control methods will be hand cutting or machine cutting or a combination thereof. Vegetation will be cut, chipped, mulched and/or mowed. Appropriate mitigation measures outlined in the EIS for hand cutting and machine cutting methods applicable to this site specific project will be followed.

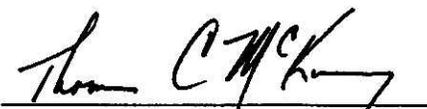
5. *Debris disposal:* Limbs and branches will be lopped off on 3 sides of trees and chipped with the mower. Tree boles will be left intact for landowner use. No revegetation will be necessary.

6. *Monitoring:* The project will be monitored during and after completion to determine effectiveness and evaluate any environmental impacts. If any impacts are found, they will be mitigated by mulching and/or seeding the disturbed areas.

7. *Appropriate environmental documentation:* This Supplemental Analysis provides an overview of site specific details regarding this project. Any subsequent information received from landowners or resource managers will be incorporated.

Finding: This Supplemental 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. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.


Inez S. Graetzer
Environmental Project Lead – KEC

CONCUR: 
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 3/21/2001