

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 18, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-214-Cougar-Thurston Transmission Corridor **Project #: V-E-04/20**)

TO: Benjamin Tilley
Natural Resource Specialist – TFE/Alvey

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management for the Cougar – Thurston #1 and Thurston – Willakenzie #1 115V transmission line corridors.

Location: Project location is in the BPA Eugene Region in Lane County, Oregon.

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. Unwanted 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. Vegetation management work will occur along the entire length of both the Cougar-Thurston (39 miles) and Thurston-Willakenzie (9 miles) line corridors. The project encompasses the entire right of way width for both of the BPA transmission lines in their respective right of way corridors. The ROW width varies between 100 to 300 feet. This proposal covers approximately 473 acres of land on the Cougar-Thurston #1 115kV line and approximately 110 acres of land on the Thurston-Willakenzie #1 115kV line.

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 public and private lands in Lane County, Oregon, consisting of rural, urban/residential, private farmland, industrial forestlands, and Federal (USFS, BLM and ACOE) lands. Specific land owner/land use measures are listed in section 2.3 of the checklist.

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: 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 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. Formulations of Triclopyr TEA (common formulations Garlon 3A & Tahoe 3A) may be applied for spot or localized applications up to the waters edge. Formulations of Imazapyr glyphosate, and metsulfuron-methyl may be applied for spot or localized applications up to one yard from waters edge.

Drinking water sources, irrigation wells, or water supplies occurring within the project area are listed in Section 3.2 of the Vegetation Management Checklist. No herbicides will be used within 50 feet of any known irrigation source, well, or spring. Only spot (cut-stump) and localized chemical treatments using practically non-toxic to slightly toxic formulations of glyphosate, triclopyr (TEA), imazapyr, and metsulfuron-methyl will be used between 50 and 164 feet of any known irrigation source, well, or spring.

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. A species list was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on May 10, 2004 as potentially occurring in the project area. In addition, a review of species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries was conducted. Review of site-specific information indicated that several listed species were found to be potentially present along the project corridor. These species include: Canada lynx, bald eagle, northern spotted owl, Chinook salmon, Oregon chub, bull trout, Fender's blue butterfly, golden Indian paintbrush, Willamette daisy, howellia, Bradshaw's lomatium, and Kincaid's lupine. Also, a small section of designated critical habitat (CHU # 70) was found to be present along the project corridor. Based on further research on listed species, a site visit, and a review of the Vegetation Management Checklist, 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 NOAA database identified Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) streams occurring in the project area. Vegetation control measures identified for water resources will be followed for EFH. A determination of No Effect was made for EFH.

Cultural Resources: There are no known cultural resources present in the project area. If evidence of cultural resources is found, work will cease immediately, and the appropriate authorities will be contacted.

Re-Vegetation: Re-vegetation needs will be determined onsite. Any areas identified with limited ground cover will be replanted with native plant species.

Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally, the line will be patrolled intermittently 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. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Joseph Sharpe for
Oden W. Jahn
Physical Scientist

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 5/19/2004

Attachment
Vegetation Management Checklist

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4
T. McKinney – KEC-4
B. Sherer – KEP-4
J. Meyer – KEP-4
J. Sharpe – KEPR-4
P. Key – LC-7
K. Rodd – TF/DOB-1
J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2
J. Domschot – TFE-Alvey
K. Barber – TFEK-Chemawa
Environmental. File – KEC-4
Official File – KEP (EQ-14)