

# memorandum

DATE: August 20, 2004

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS  
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-226-Swan Valley - Teton No. 1 & 2) **Project #: V-I-04/02**

TO: Joe Johnson  
Natural Resource Specialist – TFS - Kalispell

**Proposed Action:** Danger tree removal and vegetation management along the Swan Valley - Teton No. 1 & 2 Transmission Line Corridor from structures 6/3 to 36/2. The corridor along this section of the proposed project is 140 feet in width.

**Location:** The project is located in Bonneville and Teton Counties, ID and Teton County, WY, in BPA's Idaho Falls Region.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

**Description of the Proposal:** BPA proposes to remove danger trees and unwanted vegetation along the transmission line corridor that may impede the operation and maintenance of the identified transmission line. BPA plans to conduct danger tree removal and vegetation control with the goal of removing tall growing vegetation that is currently or will soon be a hazard to the transmission line. BPA's overall goal is to have low-growing plant communities along the rights-of-way to control the development of potentially threatening vegetation. A total of 163 danger trees will be removed. Specific locations are as follows:

Span		Landowner/use	Specific measures to be applied
To	From		
6/3	8/6	Forest Service	Cutting only—21 Danger Tree's (DT's)
15/5	19/1	Forest Service	Hand Cut tall growing Brush—Treat stumps
19/1	27/1	Forest Service	Cutting only—130 DT's, and 9 "C" Trees
30/7	32/6	Forest Service	Cutting only—12 DT's
36/1	36/2	PVT Residential	Cut and Chip 4 DT's

Danger trees will be cut to lengths as directed by the Forest Service. Debris will be disposed of using onsite chip, lop and scatter, or mulching techniques. All onsite debris will be scattered along the ROW.

Herbicide will be selectively applied using spot/stump treatment of resprouting species with Pathfinder II (triclopyr @ 0.75lb/gal active ingredient) from structures 15/5 to 19/1.

**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 predominantly traverses Forest Service lands with some private lands near the BPA Teton Substation. The project area is primarily forested with residential lands in the Jackson, Wyoming area.

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 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.

**Threatened and Endangered Species:** Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 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) as potentially occurring in the project area. In addition a review of species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries was conducted. A determination of No Effect was made for all ESA listed species.

**Forest Sensitive Species:** In consultation with the Forest Service, it was determined that the project will have No Effect on Forest Sensitive Species.

**Essential Fish Habitat:** A review of NOAA database indicated that there was no essential fish habitat within 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 Protection Specialist, and the BPA archeologist will be contacted.

**Re-Vegetation:** Since no ground disturbance is anticipated, no revegetation is planned.

**Monitoring:** The entire project will be inspected during the work period.

**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/ James Meyer for  
Frederick J. Walasavage  
Environmental Protection Specialist

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

DATE: 8/23/2004

Attachments:

Swan Valley - Teton 04 Vegetation Management Checklist  
Effects Determination for **Project #: V-I-04/02**

cc:

Nancy Hall, District Ranger, USFS Jackson Ranger District, P.O. Box 1689, Jackson, WY 83001  
Dave Cunningham, USFS Jackson Ranger District, P.O. Box 1689, Jackson, WY 83001  
Jay Pence, District Ranger, USFS Teton Basin District, P.O. Box 777, Driggs, ID 83422  
Brent Porter, District Ranger, USFS Palisades District, 3659, East Ririe HWY, Idaho Falls, ID 83401

bcc:

L. Croff – KEC-4

T. McKinney – KEC-4

J. Meyer – KEP-4

F. Walasavage – KEP-Celilo

J. Sharpe – KEPR-4

P. Key – LC-7

J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2

K. Rodd – TF/DOB-1

S. Davis – TFI/Idaho Falls

M. Hadley– TFIF/Idaho Falls

Environmental File – KEC-4

Official File – KEP (EQ-14)

Fwalasavage:tmb:4722:8/19/2004 (KEP-KEP/CELILO-W:\EP\2004 FILES\EQ\EQ-14-Supplement Analasys\FEIS-0285-SA-226-Swan Valley Teton.doc)

**\*\*Vegetation Management Checklist\*\***  
**Swan Valley-Teton 1&2**

**Project #: V-I-04/02**

**1. IDENTIFY FACILITY AND THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NEED**

**1.1 Describe Right-of-way.**

<b>Corridor Name</b>	<b>Corridor Length &amp; kV</b>	<b>Easement width</b>	<b>Miles of Treatment</b>
Swan Valley-Teton 1&2	35 miles/115Kv	140'	18 miles

**Right Of Way:**

Right-of-Way – clearing in right-of-way—Approx-- 50 acres

Reclaim (“C”) Trees-- 10 Trees

Danger Tree clearing—163 Trees

**1.2 Describe the vegetation needing management.**

Douglas Fir

Pine

Spruce

Aspen

**1.3 List measures you will take to help promote low-growing plant communities. If promoting low-growing plants is not appropriate for this project, explain why.**

We are hand cutting only marked DT’s and tall growing vegetation. Area will not be disturbed.

**1.4 Describe overall management scheme/schedule.**

**Initial entry** – Cut marked DT’s and 50 acres of brush this September

**Subsequent entries** – Cut brush next year

**Future cycles** – R/W will be on a 7 to 10 year cycle

**2. IDENTIFY SURROUNDING LAND USE AND LANDOWNERS/MANAGERS**

**2.1 List the types of landowners and land uses along your corridor.**

Forest and recreation

**2.2 Describe method for notifying right-of-way landowners and requesting information (i.e., doorhanger, letter, phone call, e-mail, and/or meeting). Develop landowner mail list, if appropriate.**

USFS and PVT owners will notified by telephone

**2.3 List the specific land owner/landuse measures — determined from the handbook or through your consultations with the entities — that will be applied.**

Span		Landowner/use	Specific measures to be applied
To	From		
6/3	8/6	Forest	Cutting only—21 DT's
15/5	19/1	Forest	Hand cut tall growing Brush
19/1	27/1	Forest	Cutting only—130 DT's, and 9 "C" Trees
30/7	32/6	Forest	Cutting only—12 DT's
36/1	36/2	PVT Residential	Cut and Chip 4 DT's

**2.4 Review any existing landowner agreements (e.g. tree/brush Permits or Agreements). List in table above any provisions that need to be followed and where they are located.**

None

**2.5 List any known casual informal use of the right-of-way by non-owner publics. List any constraints or measure's to take due to the informal use.**

Forest recreation

**2.6 List other potentially affected people, agencies, or tribes (that are not landowners/managers) that need to be notified or coordinated with. Describe method of notification and coordination.**

None

### **3. IDENTIFY NATURAL RESOURCES**

**3.1 List any water resources (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) that may be impacted by vegetation control activities. For each water body describe the control methods and requirements or mitigation measures that will be used.**

Span		Waterbody	Method	Herbicide
To	From			
6/8 +600'	21/2+800'	Pine Creek	Hand Cut	None
15/7+670'		Creek	Hand Cut	None
21/2+400'		Creeks	Hand Cut	None
22/1+200'	22/7+550'	Creek	Hand Cut	None
22/7+400'		Creeks	Hand Cut	None
23/6+400'		Creek	Hand Cut	None
24/3+390'		Spring	Hand Cut	None
24/6+630'		Creek	Hand Cut	None
25/2+490'		Spring	Hand Cut	None

**3.2 If planning to use herbicides, list locations of any known irrigation source, wells, or springs (landowners maybe able to provide this info if requested).**

N/A

**3.3 List below the areas that have Threatened or Endangered Plant or Animal Species and the name of the species, and any special measures that need to be taken due to their presence. Attach any BAs, T&E maps, or letters from US Fish and Wildlife.**

T&E Species	Method/mitigation or avoidance measures
Bald Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	No Impact, See Effects Determination
Grizzly Bear ( <i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i> )	No Impact, See Effects Determination
Canada Lynx ( <i>Lynx Canadensis</i> )	No Impact, See Effects Determination
Gray wolf ( <i>Canis lupus</i> )	No Impact, See Effects Determination
Yellow-billed cuckoo ( <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> )	Not Present in project area.
Ute Ladies' -tresses ( <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i> )	Not Present in project area.

**3.4 List any other measures to be taken for enhancing wildlife habitat or protecting species.**

Span		Measures
To	From	
6/3	36/2	All low growing plants will be left

**3.5 List any visually sensitive areas and the measures to be taken at these areas.**

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
To	From		
30/3	30/4	Wyoming Hwy 22	Trees cut will not have any impact on Hwy

**3.6 List areas with cultural resources and the measures to be taken in those areas.**

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
To	From		
6/3	36/2	None known	None

**3.7 List areas with steep slopes or potential erosion areas and the measure and methods to be applied in those areas.**

None

**3.8 List areas of spanned canyons and the type of cutting needed.**

Only Marked DT's will be cut close to canyons

#### 4. DETERMINE VEGETATION CONTROL METHODS

4.1 List Methods that will be used in areas not previously addressed in steps above.

Span		Methods, including herbicide active ingredient, trade name, application technique
To	From	
6/3	36/2	Cutting only w/clean up

#### 5. DETERMINE DEBRIS DISPOSAL AND REVEGETATION

5.1 Describe the debris disposal methods to be used and any special considerations.

Lop and scatter or as directed by Forest Service

5.2 List areas of reseeded or replanting (those areas not already described in steps 1, 2, or 3).

N/A

5.3 If not using native seed/plants, describe why.

N/A

5.4 Describe timing and any follow-up that will need to take place to ensure germination/success of seeding/planting.

N/A

#### 6. DETERMINE MONITORING NEEDS

6.1 Describe the follow-up/monitoring cycle that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the vegetation control methods used.

None needed

6.2 Describe any follow-up or monitoring needed to determine if mitigation measures were effective.

None

#### 7. PREPARE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

7.1 Describe any potential project impacts or project work that are different than those disclosed in the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program EIS. Describe how those differences impact natural resources and if the differences are “substantial”.

None

7.2 Is there a need for additional NEPA documentation (i.e. Forest Service requirement, Record of Decision, supplemental EIS)? If so, attach.

No