

DATE: March 14, 2003

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS  
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-91) Idaho Falls Region – Wood Pole Vegetation Treatment

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Natural Resource Specialist –TFS/Kalispell  
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**Proposed Action:** Vegetation Management around wood pole structures in the Idaho Falls Region for the purposes of fire protection.

**Location:** The wood pole structures are situated in various locations throughout the Idaho Falls Region. The attached checklist identifies the specific transmission line to be included.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Idaho Falls Region.

**Description of the Proposal:** During routine maintenance and inspections of the transmission lines, certified applicators from the Idaho Falls TLM crews will, as needed, apply herbicides on a five-foot radius around wood pole structures for fire protection. These efforts will be conducted on an on-going basis and done so during appropriate weather conditions. All wetlands and waterways have been inventoried and recorded in the TLM Applications System. Prior to any application, the applicator will review the TLM database and determine if there are any restrictions in the given area as well as conduct an on-site assessment for any sensitive areas. All buffers as identified in the Vegetation Management EIS will be adhered to. Such application will not be conducted in agricultural areas. Prior to application on Federal, State, other publicly owned land, the manager of such lands will be contacted to determine the appropriate level of herbicide management.

**Analysis:** The attached checklist was completed as a requirement of the Bonneville Power Administrations “Transmission System Vegetation management Program, Final Environmental Impact Statement”. The intent of completing the checklist is to identify the resources present and to provide for any mitigation measures as may be needed. The following is a summary of the planning steps contained within the checklist.

**1. Identification of facilities and the vegetation management need.**

During routine maintenance and inspections of the transmission lines, certified applicators from the Idaho Falls TLM crews will, as needed, apply herbicides on a five-foot radius around wood pole structures on the following transmission lines for fire protection.

<b>Corridor Name</b>	<b>Corridor Length &amp; kV</b>	<b>Easement width</b>	<b>Miles of Treatment</b>
Antelope-Lost River	Lost River-Spar Canyon	Spar Canyon-Round Valley	West Burley Tap to Unity-Heyburn 1
Goshen-Drummond	Palisades-Goshen	Swan Valley-Goshen	Swan Valley-Teton 1&2
Swan Valley-Teton 1&2	Swan Valley-Teton 1&2	Targhee-Drummond	Targhee Tap to Swan Valley-Teton 1
Drummond-Macks Inn	Macks Inn-Madison	Anderson Ranch-Mountain Home	Black Canyon-Emmett
Heyburn-Adelaide	Jackson Tap to Canal Second Lift	Minidoka Pwr House-Unity	Minidoka Sub Tap to Idaho Power
Burley Tap to West Burley Heyburn	Riverton Tap West Burley-Heyburn	Unity-Heyburn	Unity-West Burley

**2. Identification of surrounding land use and landowners/managers and any mitigation.**

Land uses generally consist of, but are not limited to, grazing, agricultural, rural, and recreational use. Landowners are comprised of the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, as well as private ownership

**3. Identification of natural resources and any mitigation.**

Wetland areas, drinking water resources and water resources have been identified near some of the facilities. Sensitive areas will continue to be identified and recorded during project implementation.

The following is a list of Threatened or Endangered Species known to exist within the project area.

<b>Span</b>	<b>T&amp;E Species</b>	<b>Method/mitigation or avoidance measures</b>
Anderson Ranch – Mountain Home	Bull Trout	No Application within 150 feet of waterway
Drummond-Macks Inn No 1	Bald Eagle –Haliaeetus Leucocephalus Lynx – Lynx Canadensis	None*
Macks Inn - Madison	Lynx – Lynx Canadensis	None

Palisades - Goshen	Bald Eagle –Haliaeetus Leucocephalus	None*
Palisades – Swan Valley	Bald Eagle –Haliaeetus Leucocephalus	None*
Targee-Drummond	Bald Eagle –Haliaeetus Leucocephalus	None*
Minidoka Powerhouse - Unity	Desert Valvata – Valvata Uthanensis	None
Swan Valley - Goshen	UTE Ladies Tresses – Spiranthes Diluvailis	None

\* Although Bald Eagles are identified as being present within these project boundaries, not specific nest sites have been identified within ½ mile of the transmission lines. Should a nest site be identified within ½ mile of the transmission lines, nest avoidance will be used as a mitigation measure.

Mitigation measures are consistent with the FEIS, and are listed in Section 3 of the attached checklist.

**4. *Determination of vegetation control and debris disposal methods.***

There will be no debris associated with these applications.

**5. *Determination of re-vegetation methods, if necessary.***

There will be no re-vegetation associated with these activities.

**6. *Determination of monitoring needs.***

Monitoring is two-fold. Monitoring for evaluation of BPA/contractor treatment practices to ensure vegetation management practices will be handled through contract specifications. Environmental monitoring to ensure environmentally sound application practices will be determined in the future as outlined in the BPA/NMFS/USFWS Biological Assessment.

**7. Preparation of appropriate environmental documentation.**

Appropriate documentation has been completed by virtue of completing this Supplementary Analysis and referenced checklist.

**Findings:** A search of BPA databases, Stream Net, and the Idaho Natural Heritage Program was conducted to identify if any Threaten or Endangered Species or sensitive habitats exist within the project area. Results of the search are listed in Section 3.3 of the attached checklist. Based on the scope of the proposed action, a finding of “no effect” was determined. Since the scope of the proposed action is limited to a five-foot radius around the wood poles and the soil has been previously disturbed, it has been determined that cultural resources will not be impacted.

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

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

DATE: 03/17/2003

Attachment

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4  
 T. McKinney – KEC-4  
 J. Meyer – KEP-4  
 F. Walasavage – KEP/Celilo  
 J. Sharpe – KEPR-4  
 P. Key – LC-7  
 D. Hollen – TF/DOB-1  
 J. Hathorne – TFI – Idaho Falls  
 S. Davis – TFI – Idaho Falls  
 Environmental File – KEC-4  
 Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)

# Vegetation Management Checklist

# 1. IDENTIFY FACILITY AND THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NEED

## 1.1 Describe Right-of-way.

See Handbook — List of Right-of-way Components for checkboxes and the requirements for the components Rights-of-way, and .

Corridor Name	Corridor Length & kV	Miles of Treatment
Antelope-Lost River	11.3 miles/230-kv	11.3 miles
Lost River-Spar Canyon	53 miles/230-kv	53 miles
Spar Canyon-Round Valley	11.9 miles/230-kv	11.9 miles
Goshen-Drummond	72.7 miles/115-kv	72.7 miles
Palisades-Goshen	51.7 miles/115-kv	51.7 miles
Swan Valley-Goshen	46.5 miles/161-kv	46.5 miles
Swan Valley-Teton 1&2	35.4 miles/115-kv	35.4 miles
Targhee-Drummond	26.8 miles/115-kv	26.8 miles
Targhee Tap to Swan Valley-Teton 1	10.9 miles/115-kv	10.9 miles
Drummond-Macks Inn	36.8 miles/115-kv	36.8 miles
Macks Inn-Madison	17.1 miles/115-kv	17.1 miles
Anderson Ranch-Mountain Home	17.9 miles/115-kv	17.9 miles
Black Canyon-Emmett	3.7 miles/69-kv	3.7 miles
Heyburn-Adelaide	4.6 miles/138-kv	4.6 miles
Jackson Tap to Canal Second Lift 1&2	5 miles/34.5-kv	5miles
Minidoka Power House-Unity	24.9 miles/138-kv	24.9 miles
Minidoka Sub Tap to Idaho Power	5.2 miles/35-kv	5.2 miles
Burley Tap to West Burley Heyburn	0.1 miles/138-kv	0.1 miles
Riverton Tap West Burley-Heyburn	0.1 miles/138-kv	0.1 miles
Unity-Heyburn	6.6 miles/138-kv	6.6 miles
Unity-West Burley	7.2 miles/138-kv	7.2 miles
West Burley Tap to Unity-Heyburn 1	4.4 miles/138-kv	4.4 miles

- Wood Poles - fire protection clearing

For wood pole fire protection, a vegetation-free (bare ground) area within 5 feet of the pole will be kept.

Apply Weed Blast by hand, around poles.

## 1.2 Describe the vegetation needing management.

See handbook — List of Vegetation Types, Density, Noxious Weeds for checkboxes and requirements.

Grasses, juniper and other herbaceous species.

### Density:

- Medium (50 – 250 stems/per acre) for grasses
- Low (50 stems or less/ per acre) for herbaceous species

## 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. See Handbook — Promoting Low Growing Plants for requirements and checkboxes.

- Not Promoting Low Growing Plant Communities Describe Why? Total vegetation management (bare ground treatment) will be used for fire suppression within a five-foot radius of the wood poles. Fill-in

## 1.4 Describe overall management scheme/schedule.

See Handbook.

**Initial** – All vegetation surrounding the wood poles on a five-foot radius will be treated. Such treatment will be done during routine maintenance or patrol of the lines. Work will be completed on an on-going basis during the appropriate months for herbicide application.

**Future** – Treatment is expected to be effective for three to five years. Additional applications will be conducted as necessary.

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

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

See Handbook — List of Landowners/Managers/Uses for a checkbox list.

Land uses are primarily grazing, rural, and recreational use. Landowners are comprised of Forest Service, BLM, as well as private ownership.

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

See Handbook — Methods for Notification and Requesting Information for requirements.

Large owners will be notified by telephone, small owners and homes close to treatment site will receive personal notification and or door hangers. Data base list of ownership will be prepared where possible.

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

See handbook — Requirements and Guidance for Various Landowners/Uses for requirements and guidance, also Agricultural, Residential/Commercial, Tribal Reservations, FS-managed lands, BLM –managed lands, Other federal lands, State/ Local Lands.

**Agricultural:**

- § The following measures will be taken:
- § If using herbicides on grazing lands, comply with grazing restrictions as required per herbicide label.
- § If using herbicides near crops for consumption, comply with pesticide-free buffer zones, if any, as per label instructions.
- § For rights-of-way adjacent to agricultural fields, observe appropriate buffer zones necessary to ensure that no drift will affect crops.

**Tribal Reservations:**

No work will be conducted on Tribal Lands

**FS-managed Lands:**

- § When on Forest Service-managed lands, they will be contacted and a vegetation management plan (or a ROW management plan, which includes other maintenance issues) will be developed. This checklist may be the basis for that plan.
- § The Forest Supervisor or District Ranger’s office will be contacted in advance of any proposed vegetation management activity (non-emergency) on national Forest System lands (or follow direction in site-specific vegetation management plans for notification procedures). Notification will be made as far in advance of the planned date of on-the-ground implementation as is reasonably possible, in order for appropriate environmental compliance to be conducted.
- § It is expected that proposals for herbicide use will be subject to review and either concurrence or approval by the appropriate Forest Officer.

**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.**

See handbook — Landowner Agreements for requirements.

Not Applicable

**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.**

See handbook — Casual Informal Use of Right-of-way for requirements.

None

**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.**

See handbook — Other Potentially Affected Publics for requirements and suggestions.

Herbicide treatment around poles is a very low-key operation; we do not expect any outside problems.

**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.**

See Handbook — **Water Resources** for requirements for working near water resources including buffer zones.

Water resources will be identified by the applicator prior to application. The applicator will use information stored on the Penn Based System as well as using on-site observation during the time of the application. All buffers identified within the EIS will be adhered to.

**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).**

See Handbook — **Herbicide Use Near Irrigation, Wells or Springs** for buffers and herbicide restrictions.

Irrigation source, wells, or springs will be identified by the applicator prior to application. The applicator will use information stored on the Penn Based System as well as using on-site observation during the time of the application. All buffers identified within the EIS will be adhered to.

**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.**

See Handbook — **Determining Threatened or Endangered Plant or Animal Species** for requirements and determining presence.

Line	T&E Species	Method/mitigation or avoidance measures
Anderson Ranch – Mountain Home	Bull Trout	No Application within 150 feet of waterway
Drummond-Macks Inn No 1	Bald Eagle –Haliaeetus Leucocephalus Lynx – Lynx Canadensis	Nest Avoidance
Macks Inn - Madison	Lynx – Lynx Canadensis	None
Palisades - Goshen	Bald Eagle –Haliaeetus Leucocephalus	Nest Avoidance
Palisades – Swan Valley	Bald Eagle –Haliaeetus Leucocephalus	Nest Avoidance
Targee-Drummond	Bald Eagle –Haliaeetus Leucocephalus	Nest Avoidance
Minidoka Powerhouse - Unity	Desert Valvata – Valvata Uthanensis	
Swan Valley - Goshen	UTE Ladies Tresses – Spiranthes Diluvailis	

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

See Handbook — **Protecting Other Species** for requirements.

None

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

See Handbook — **Visual Sensitive Areas** for requirements.

None

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

See Handbook – **Cultural Resources** for requirements.

All applications will be conducted immediately adjacent to the poles on previously disturbed soil; therefore no cultural resources will be disturbed.

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

See Handbook – **Steep/Unstable Slopes** for requirements.

Not Applicable

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

See Handbook – **Spanned Canyons** for requirements.

Not Applicable

**4. DETERMINE VEGETATION CONTROL METHODS**

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

See Handbook — **Manual, Mechanical, Biological, Herbicides–spot, Herbicides-localized, Herbicides-broadcast, and Herbicides- aerial** for requirements for each of the methods.

Localized Application

**5. DETERMINE DEBRIS DISPOSAL AND REVEGETATION**

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

See Handbook — **Debris disposal** for a checkbox list and requirements.

No debris anticipated

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

See Handbook — **Reseeding/replanting** for requirements.

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

**6. DETERMINE MONITORING NEEDS**

See handbook — **Monitoring** for requirements.

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

The treated areas will be monitored during routine inspections and maintenance.

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

None

**7. PREPARE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

See handbook — **Prepare Appropriate Environmental Documentation** for requirements.

**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.**

None