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(8-89)

United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 24, 2001

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-17)

Donald F. Atkinson - TFN/Snohomish
Natural Resource Specialist

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along selected sections of the Schulz - Raver No.1, 2, 3 & 4, Olympia – Grand Coulee NO. 1 Transmission Line ROW's.

Location: The ROW's are located in Pierce and King Counties, WA, in the Snohomish Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to clear unwanted vegetation in the rights-of-ways and around tower structures that may impede the operation and maintenance of the subject transmission line. All work will be executed in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards. BPA plans to conduct 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.

Analysis: This project meets the standards and guidelines for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Planning Steps

1. Identify facility and the vegetation management need.

The work involved will be to clear tall growing vegetation that is currently or will soon pose a hazard to the lines; treat the associated stumps and re-sprouts with herbicides, mow and treat access roads and structure sites. All work will take place in existing rights-of-ways.

Also, all off right-of-way trees that are potentially unstable and will fall within a minimum distance or into the zone where the conductors swing will be removed. The width of the ROW is 175-600 feet. All work will be accomplished by selective vegetation control methods to assure that there is little potential harm to non-target vegetation and to low-growing plants. The work will provide system reliability.

The vegetation control is designed to provide a 3-7 year maintenance free interval. The overall vegetation management scheme will be to initially clear and remove all trees using cut, lop and scatter methods.

Future cycles of work will involve the treatments used in the previous phases of work.

2. Identify surrounding land use and landowners/managers.

The subject corridor traverses mountainous terrain mostly owned by large timber companies, the U.S. Forest Service (Wenatchee National Forest) and 3 or 4 private landowners. During routine patrols, tall encroaching trees and vegetation issues are identified and marked. If a danger or reclaim tree is identified as a potential threat to the integrity of the transmission line, appropriate action to remove the tree is taken. There are no landowner agreements or specific landowner measures required.

3. Identify natural resources.

U.S. Forest Service riparian, riparian T&E streams and potential Spotted Owl habitats have been identified in the areas of the proposed work. These areas have been tentatively identified during patrols and by using existing data sources. The Project Manager will positively identified the habitats as work progresses along the corridors. No other T&E/wildlife issues, visually sensitive areas, cultural resources or other natural resource issues have been identified along the other work corridor.

Steep slopes are present along the subject transmission line ROW.

See Attachment A for treatment zone methods and planned herbicide use in these areas.

Prior to the beginning of the work, the contractor will be provided with a set of the project maps, as well as with a list of management prescriptions from the Vegetation Management FEIS.

The herbicides used for vegetation management will be consistent with what is specified in the Vegetation Management FEIS.

4. Determine vegetation control and debris disposal methods.

Unwanted vegetation would be removed by employing mulching, lop and scatter methods and some follow-up stump treatment with glyphosate, triclopyr (Garlon 3A and 4), imazapyr, dicamba. The chemical means would be employed to prevent resprouts from the cut stumps. Prevention of resprouts encourages low-growing plant communities to establish themselves and flourish on the right-of-way. This impact avoidance approach both maximizes the use of limited resources and minimizes environmental impacts. Herbicides will be applied by licensed applicators following manufacturers' label instructions and BPA's management prescriptions. The herbicide used will be consistent with Vegetation Management FEIS.

Treatments on the steep slopes will be consistent with that outlined in the Vegetation Management FEIS and as shown on Attachment A.

The contractor will receive a list of required mitigation measures (management prescriptions) to follow as well as a set of maps delineating the transmission line and potential sensitive resource areas. The contractor will follow manufacturers' label instructions when applying herbicides.

5. Determine revegetation methods, if necessary.

Reseeding /replanting regimes have not been planned at this time.

6. Determine monitoring needs.

An inspector will monitor the work being performed at the time of the initial work. Follow-up inspections will be preformed during line patrols by the line crew and within one year by the NRS. Additional required work would be identified at that time.

7. Prepare appropriate environmental documentation.

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, unless Potential Spotted Owl Habitat is removed.

/s/ John Howington
John Howington
Physical Scientist - KEPR

CONCUR: */s/ Thomas C. McKinney* DATE: *7/24/01*
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment

cc:
L. Croff – KEC-4
M. Hermeston – KEP-4
J. Meyer – KEP-4
J. Howington – KEPR/4
M. Martin – KEPR/Covington
J. Sharpe – KEPR-4
P. Key – LC-7
K. Rodd – TFN/Snohomish
D. Hollen – TF/DOB-1
S. Davis – TFN/Snohomish
L. Alverez – TFN/Snohomish
Environmental File – KEC
Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)

JHowington:jh:7603:07/24/2001 (KEP-KEPR-4-W:\EP\2000 & 2001 FILES\EQ\Eq-14\FEIS-0285-SA-17-Schultz-Raver.doc)

Attachment A

Zones	Treatment Alternatives
SS	BPA Fee owned US Forest, State DNR, or private lands where a steep slope or visual resources precludes mechanical treatments. Available: all manual, mechanical treatments using track mowers on slopes up to 60%, mowing equipment such as the Spyder (trade name) can be used on slopes up to 90% - 100% and biological treatments, all access roads and structure sites may also be mowed. All herbicide treatments except for cut-stubble treatment following a mechanical treatment. **Herbicides:** glyphosate, triclopyr (Garlon 3A and 4), imazapyr, dicamba may be prescribed for cut-stump, stem-injection, and basal-stem treatments. In addition to the above herbicides, Escort, and clopyralid can be used spot foliar and broadcast treatments. 2,4-d amine can be added to the list to control noxious weed species.
Riparian FS	**RIPARIAN**: USFS lands, within 30.5 m (100 ft.) of a stream or open water. Available: Manual and biological treatments, except grazing. No mechanical treatments. **Herbicides**: No herbicide treatments allowed on USFS lands.
Riparian T&E FS	**RIPARIAN SALMON:** USFS lands, within 122 m (400 ft.) of a listed salmon stream. Available: all manual and biological treatments, except grazing. No mechanical treatments. **Herbicides**: No herbicide treatments allowed on USFS lands.
Riparian	**RIPARIAN**: County or private lands, within 30.5 m (100 ft.) of a stream or open water. Available: all manual, spot and localized herbicide, and biological treatments, except grazing. No mechanical treatments. **Herbicides**: Within 100 ft. of a stream, only cut-stump and localized treatments using practically toxic or Slightly toxic formulations of glyphosate, imazapyr, and Escort can be used up to the waters edge. Highly Toxic and very highly toxic (to fish) herbicides will not be used in this zone. Triclopyr (Garlon 4) may be used only more than 200 ft. from streams or water.
Riparian T&E	**RIPARIAN SALMON**: BPA, county, or private lands, within 122 m (400 ft.) of a listed salmon stream. Available: all manual, spot and localized herbicide, and biological treatments, except grazing. No mechanical treatments. **Herbicides**: No herbicides within 200 feet from the water edge.. From 100 to 400 feet away for stream or water, Escort, clopyralid, imazapyr, practically toxic or Slightly toxic formulations of glyphosate, and triclopyr (Garlon 3A) can be used. Highly Toxic and very Highly toxic (to fish) herbicides will not be used in this zone. Glyphosate, and triclopyr (Garlon 3A) can be used. Highly Toxic and very Highly toxic (to fish) herbicides will not be used in this zone.
STC	Any areas in the corridor with greater than 38.1 m (125 ft.) vertical distance between the ground surface and transmission lines. Here, removal is periodically required only of individual trees (single tree cuts) that could encroach into the transmission corridor danger zone. **Herbicides:** None.
LT	LEVEL TERRAIN: BPA, county, or private lands where the ROW is Fairly flat and level. There are minimal environmental and treatment restrictions. Available: all manual, mechanical (when conditions make it feasible), and biological treatments: all herbicide treatments spot, localized, and broadcast treatment including cut-stubble treatment following a mechanical treatment where suitable. **Herbicides:** glyphosate, triclopyr (Garlon 3A and 4), imazapyr, dicamba may be prescribed for cut-stump, stem-injection, and basal-stem treatments. In addition to the above herbicides, Escort, and clopyralid can be used spot foliar and Broadcast treatments. 2,4-d amine can be added to the list to control Noxious weed species.