

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: November 15, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program
FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285-SA-32)

TO: Bill Erickson – TPF/Walla Walla
Natural Resource Specialist

Proposed Action: Re-vegetation Plot Study along the Lower Monumental-McNary Transmission Line ROW. The study area sections are located near structures 38/4 and 39/3. The line is a 500kV Single Circuit Transmission Line having an easement width of 165 feet. The proposed work will be accomplished in the indicated sections of the transmission line corridor as indicated on the attached checklist.

Location: The ROW is located in Walla Walla County, WA being in the Walla Walla Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposed Action: A summer of 2001 fire burned the subject area leaving the ROW in a bare ground situation. Before, the fire the site was dominated by annual vegetation (cheatgrass) and noxious weeds (yellowstar thistle). As a study of plant succession after the fire for a local Boy Scout group, two 100 X 100 foot areas will be identified for study over the next 2-3 years.

The two test plots will be identified and permanently marked. One will receive treatment while the other will not be treated and used as a control plot.

The test plots will be located near structures 38/4 and 39/3. Only the plot near structure 38/4 will be treated as discussed below.

The treated plot will be divided into four equal sections. Section 1 will be broadcast seeded with Bluebunch Wheatgrass or Slender Wheatgrass. Section 2 will be broadcast seeded plus ground scarified to incorporate the seed into the ground. Section 3 will be planted the same as section one with the addition of a pre-treatment of the section with Tordon 22k. Section 4 will be planted the same as Section 2 with the addition of a pre-treatment of the section with Tordon 22k.

The plots will be planted in the fall and treatments described will show outcomes of various methods of germination success.

The site is rangeland. The Range site is Deep Silty Upland 6-9 inches (Sagemore very fine sandy loam). The Walla Walla River is located approximately 1400 feet from the nearest test plot. No natural resources will be affected by the work.

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). The planning steps are described in the attached checklist.

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 C. Sharpe for
 Ken Hutchinson
 Environmental Scientist – KEPR/WallaWalla

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

DATE: 11/21/2001

Attachment

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4
 T. McKinney – KEC-4
 M. Hermeston – KEP-4
 J. Meyer – KEP-4
 K. Hutchinson – KEPR/Walla Walla
 J. Sharpe – KEPR-4
 P. Key – LC-7
 D. Hollen – TF/DOB-1
 R. Coila– TFP/Walla Walla
 M. Richardson – TFP/Walla Walla
 M. Ward – TFPF/Walla Walla
 Environmental File – KEC (EQ-14)
 Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)

KCHutchinson:kch:6382:11/19/2001
 (KEP-KEPR/WALLA WALLA-W:\EP\2002 FILES\EQ\EQ-14\FEIS-0285-SA-32-LoMo-McNary.doc)