

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 15, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-174- Miscellaneous Tree Cutting – Various Corridors)

TO: Tom Murphy
Natural Resource Specialist – TFS/Bell-1

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management around selected transmission line structures located in the Spokane Region for the purpose of fire protection and system reliability. The proposed work will be accomplished at the transmission line structure identified for each transmission line corridor as referenced in Attachment 1, checklist. Attachment 1 identifies the specific transmission line corridor, corridor length, voltage, easement width and structure number.

Location: The various transmission line structures are situated in Spokane, Stevens and Pend Oreille County, Washington and in Bonner County, Idaho.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to clear unwanted vegetation around selected transmission line structures that may impede the operation and maintenance of the subject transmission line. All work will be 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.

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 and selectively eliminating tall growing vegetation *before* it reaches a height or density to begin competing with low-growing vegetation. All work will take place in existing rights-of-ways and around the following transmission line structures:

Corridor Name	Corridor Length & kV		Easement Width	Miles of Treatment
Cheney Tap	100 ft	115 kV	100 ft	0 (3/6, 6/3)
Albeni Falls - Sandcreek	100 ft	115 kV	100 ft	0 (10/4, 26/6)
Bell – Boundary No. 1	225 ft	230 kV	225 ft	0 (2/4, 6/4)
Sacheen – Albeni Falls	7000 ft	115 kV	100 ft	1.5 (1/1, 5/9, 6/5, 6/6)
Addy - Cusick	300 ft	230 kV	125 ft	0 (2/10, 26/5, 26/11)
Four Lakes Tap	100 ft	115 kV	100 ft	0 (1/5)
Green Bluff Tap	100 ft	115 kV	100 ft	0 (3/3)
Trentwood - Valley Way	100 ft	115 kV	100 ft	0 (3/1, 3/2)

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. All work will be accomplished by manual or mechanical control methods to assure that there is little potential harm to non-target vegetation and to low-growing plants. Desirable low-growing plants will not be disturbed. The work will provide system reliability and fire protection.

2. Identify surrounding land use and landowners/managers and any mitigation.

The work site is located in woodlots, commercial/industrial forestland or rural residential settings. All land types are used for intermittent grazing purposes. The types and density of trees to be removed are noted on the checklist. All affected land is privately owned and developed. No other agencies or Tribal involvement exists.

Landowners will be contacted if trees pose a hazard to the line. This contact will be by phone call, site visit or door hangers if no positive contact occurs. BPA will remove the trees at no expense to the landowner.

3. Identify natural resources and any mitigation.

T&E Species and Habitats

No known locations of T&E species or species habitats have been identified in the project area. This information was verified through a database search of Tview2.

Wetland Resources

Wetland resources within a ½ mile vicinity of several structures have been identified through Tview2 but no planned work activities will impact these mapped wetland areas with the exception of the Addy-Cusick Corridor, structure 2/10. Any work performed at structures within wetlands will follow the following mitigation measures:

- No vehicle equipment will enter wetlands.
- All work will be performed using handheld equipment.
- All fueling operations will be performed outside the wetland area.

Sensitive Areas

Visually sensitive areas will not be impacted due to the low number of trees to be cut.

Cultural Resources

Ground disturbance will be minimal, so cultural resources, if present, will not be affected.

Erosion Control

Erosion potential will be minimal due to the low number of trees to be cut and the method of cutting (handheld chainsaws).

Based on this, the work will not impact any natural or cultural resources, so no mitigation will be necessary with the exception of the identified wetland area around the Addy –Cusick 2/10 structure.

4. Determine vegetation control and debris disposal methods.

Vegetation control on all lands will be performed by hand held chainsaws.

Debris generated will be lopped and scattered. Debris disposal on active grazing lands will be chipped and hauled off site. Debris generated in the rural residential areas will be hauled offsite to an approved dumpsite.

5. Determine revegetation methods, if necessary.

Due to minimal soil disturbance, no seeding is planned.

6. Determine monitoring needs.

The right-of-way and structures identified in the checklist will be inspected after completion of the work to determine if all hazard trees have been removed from these areas.

7. Prepare appropriate environmental documentation.

Besides this Supplement Analysis, no other environmental documentation should be necessary.

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/ Michael A. Rosales
Michael A. Rosales
Environmental Physical Scientist

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

DATE: 08/19/2003

Attachment

cc:

K. Nakata – DOE/EH-42
L. Croff- -KEC-4
T. McKinney – KEC-4
J. Meyer – KEP-4
E. Stratton – KEP/PSB2
M. Rosales – KEPR/Bell-1
P. Key – LC-7
J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2
D. Hollen – TF/DOB-1
D. Labrosse – TFS/Bell-1
J. Lahti – TFS/Bell-1
J. Woodward – TFSF/Bell
Environmental File – KEC
Official File – KEP (EQ-14)

**Vegetation Management Checklist
(Miscellaneous Tree Cutting – Various Corridors)**

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, Access Roads, Switch Platforms, Danger Trees, and Microwave Beam paths.

Corridor Name	Corridor Length & kV	Easement width	Miles of Treatment /location
Cheney Tap	100 ft. 115-kV	100 ft	0 (3/6 & 6/3)
Albeni Falls – Sandcreek	100 ft. 115-kV	100 ft	0 (10/4 & 26/6)
Bell – Boundary No. 1	225 ft. 230-kV	225 ft.	0 (2/4 & 6/4)
Sacheen – Albeni Falls	7000 ft. 115-kV	100 ft	1.5 (1/1, 5/9,6/5, 6/6)
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Four Lakes Tap	100 ft. 115-kV	100 ft.	0 (1/5)
Green Bluff Tap	100 ft. 115-kV	100 ft.	0 (3/3)
Trentwood – Valley Way	100 ft. 115-kV	100 ft.	0 (3/1, 3/2)

1.2 Describe the vegetation needing management.

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

Vegetation to be controlled are Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine, birch, cottonwood, and alder trees. Density ranges from single trees, to group cut (10 – 50 stems).

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.

No existing low-growing vegetation will be disturbed.

1.4 Describe overall management scheme/schedule.

Incidental trees will be cut, and represent inter-cycle targets.

2. IDENTIFY SURROUNDING LAND USE AND LANDOWNERS/MANAGERS

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

Trentwood – Valley Way targets are “backyard” trees. All other locations are in woodlots and commercial/industrial forest land.

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.

Prior notification to landowners will consist of a combination of the following:

Phone calls

Site visits

Door hangers will be used if no positive contact occurs.

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](#).

Span		Landowner/use	Specific measures to be applied
To	From		
All		Intermittent grazing	Debris will be chipped to minimize impact to ungulates. Pine needles will be blown into areas adjacent to active grazing pastures.

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.

N/A

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.

Domestic use areas will receive secondary debris disposal.

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.

N/A

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	Application Technique	Other
To	From			
2/10	2/10	Mapped wetland	Hand cutting	Addy - Cusick

No equipment will enter wetlands. Any work performed within wetlands will be accomplished using hand-held equipment.

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).

No herbicide useage planned near any water source.

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.

No known locations of T & E species in project work areas.

Due to relatively low numbers of trees to be cut (individual tree cutting, or group selection), the cutting will have no significant effect on indigenous flora and fauna species.

N/A

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

N/A

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

Due to low number of trees to be cut, visual impacts will be insignificant.

N/A

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

Due to low number of trees to be cut, impact to cultural resources will be non-existent.

N/A

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

Due to low number of trees to be cut and the method of cutting (hand-held chainsaws), erosion potential is non-existent.

N/A

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

N/A

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.

Span		Methods
To	From	
All		Work will be performed with hand-held chainsaws.

5. DETERMINE DEBRIS DISPOSAL AND REVEGETATION

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

Debris disposal will be lop and scatter. Debris on active grazing lands will be chipped/hailed off site.

Trentwood – Valley Way (residential) debris will be hauled to an approved dumpsite.

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

Due to minimal disturbance, no seeding is planned.

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

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.

Inspection of completed work will occur to determine if targets (hazards) have been removed.

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

N/A

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.