DOE F 1325.8 e Electronic Form Approved by CGIR - 01/20/95
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United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 1, 2004

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-213-Pilot Butte-La Pine No. 1) **Project #: V-R-04/11**

TO: Elizabeth Johnson
Natural resource specialist – TFR/The Dalles

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the Pilot Butte-La Pine, 230 kV (tower structures 1/1 to 5/8) transmission line corridor.

Location: The project is located in Deschutes County, Oregon in the BPA Redmond Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to remove tall growing and noxious vegetation from the right of way and access roads that can potentially interfere with the operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines. Unwanted tall growing and noxious vegetation, danger trees, and reclaim trees will be removed and/or controlled inside the ROW using selective and nonselective methods that may include hand cutting, mowing, and herbicidal treatment. Vegetation management work will occur between structures 1/1 to 5/8 of the Pilot Butte-La Pine transmission line.

Analysis: A Vegetation Management Checklist was completed for project corridor in accordance with the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administrations Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285).

The subject corridor traverses private rural lands in Deschutes County, Oregon.

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 Checklists. Trees in riparian zones will be selectively cut to include only those that are within 50 feet of the conductor at maximum sag. Trees will be topped where shrubs are not present to provide shade and a silt buffer. Shrubs will not be cut that are less than 10 feet high where ground to conductor clearance is more than 50 feet. No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near streams. For vegetation within 35 feet of a stream or wetland, only practically to slightly non-toxic formulations glyphosate (e.g. Rodeo) and Triclopyr (e.g. Garlon 3A) will be used for cut-stump, basal-stem, stem-injection, and spot-foliar treamtements. Spray treatments will be prohibited when wind speeds are greater than 5 mph. There will be no mechanical treatment within 35 feet of a stream or wetland.
No herbicides will be used within 164 feet of an irrigation canal that is located between tower structures 1/10 and 2/1.

Threatened and Endangered Species/Essential Fish Habitat: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, 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) on May 7, 2004 identifying threatened and endangered species potentially occurring in the project area. In addition a review of species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries was conducted. Review of site specific information determined that no listed species or designated critical habitat were found to be present along the project corridor. A determination of No Effect was made for all ESA listed species, designated critical habitat, and Essential Fish Habitat for the project.

Cultural Resources: There are no known cultural or archaeological resource sites in the project area. If a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work will be stopped and the BPA Environmental Specialist will be contacted.

Re-Vegetation: No ground disturbance is anticipated. If seeding becomes necessary, seeding will be completed when there is sufficient moisture to allow for 2 months of growth.

Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally the line will be patrolled annually after treatment to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment and any issues associated with the project.

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/ Aaron Shurtliff
Aaron Shurtliff
Physical Scientist

CONCUR: */s/ Thomas C. McKinney* DATE: 6/1/2004
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment:
Vegetation Management Checklist

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
J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2
K. Rodd – TF/DOB-1
R. Fouse Jr. – TFR/Redmond
R. Melzer – TFR/Redmond
M. Oakland – TFRF/Redmond
Environmental File – KEC-4
Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)

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