

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.

---

Ken Hutchinson  
Environmental Scientist – KEPR/WallaWalla

CONCUR: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment

# Vegetation Management Checklist

## 1. IDENTIFY FACILITY AND THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NEED

### 1.1 Describe Right-of-way.

Corridor Name	Corridor Length & kV	Easement width	Miles of Treatment
Lower Monumental-McNary	3000 feet 500 kv	165	.75

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](#).

Right Of Way:

Other – Re-vegetation plot study

### 1.2 Describe the vegetation needing management.

See handbook — [List of Vegetation Types](#), [Density](#), [Noxious Weeds](#) for checkboxes and requirements.

A summer of 2001 fire burned the area leaving the ROW in a bare ground situation. As a study of plant succession after fire for a local Scout group, an area not more than an acre will be identified for study over the next 2-3 years. The site is rangeland. The Range site is Deep Silty Upland 6-9 inches (Sagemore very fine sandy loam). Before the fire, the site was dominated by annual vegetation (cheatgrass) and noxious weeds (yellowstar thistle).

The Plots will be located near 38/4 and 39/3. Only the plot near 38/4 will have treatments to the plots.

### 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 — for requirements and checkboxes.

N/A

### 1.4 Describe overall management scheme/schedule.

See Handbook - [Overall Management Scheme/Schedule](#).

Initial entry – A 100 by 200 foot area will be identified. And permanently marked. Beside an initial control plot. 4 other plots will be established with different re-vegetation treatments.

Plot 1 Will be Broadcast seeding of Bluebunch Wheatgrass or Slender Wheatgrass

Plot 2 will be Broadcast seeding plus ground scarification to incorporate the seed into the ground.

Plot 3 will be the same as plot one with the addition of a pre-treatment of the plot with Tordon 22k

Plot 4 will be the same as plot 2 with the pretreatment with Tordon 22k.

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

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

See Handbook — [Landowners/Managers/Uses](#) for requirements, and [List of Landowners/Managers/Uses](#) for a checkbox list.

#### Cattle Ranchers and the Corps of Engineers.

Jack Richards 520-5779 - Contacted 11/5/01 Ok with him. I have call in to them at this time. If not ok, will move to Private lands

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.

See Handbook — [Methods for Notification and Requesting Information](#) for requirements.

**Personal Contact**

**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 [Residential/Commercial](#), [Agricultural](#), [Tribal Reservations](#), [FS-managed lands](#), [BLM –managed lands](#), [Other federal lands](#), [State/ Local Lands](#).

Span		Landowner/use	Specific measures to be applied
To	From		
38/4-584	38/4+422	Rangeland	Study plot. W/Tordon 22k

**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.

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.**

See handbook — [Casual Informal Use of Right-of-way](#) for requirements.

Hunting

Fill-in

**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.

N/A

**3. IDENTIFY NATURAL RESOURCES**

See Handbook — 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.

Span		Waterbody	T&E?	Method	Herbicide	Application Technique	Buffer	Other
To	From							
Fill-in	Fill-in	Fill-in	Fill-in	Fill-in	Fill-in	Fill-in	Fill-in	Fill-in

None

**3.2 If planning to use herbicides, list locations of any known irrigation source, wells, or springs (landowners may be able to provide this info if requested).**

See Handbook — [Herbicide Use Near Irrigation, Wells or Springs](#) for buffers and herbicide restrictions.

Span		Well/irrigation/or spring	Herbicide	Buffer	Other notes/measures
To	From				
Fill-in	Fill-in	NonE	Fill-in	Fill-in	Fill-in

**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 — [T&E Plant or Animal Species](#) for requirements and determining presence.

Span		T&E Species	Method/mitigation or avoidance measures
To	From		
Fill-in		NONE Identified	Fill-in

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

See Handbook — [Protecting Other Species](#) for requirements.

Span		Species	Measures
To	From		
Fill-in		NONE IDENTIFIED	Fill-in

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

See Handbook — [Visual Sensitive Areas](#) for requirements.

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
To	From		
Fill-in		NONE	Fill-in

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

See Handbook – [Cultural Resources](#) for requirements.

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
To	From		
Fill-in		None affected	Fill-in

**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.

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
To	From		
Fill-in		NONE	Fill-in

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

See Handbook – [Spanned Canyons](#) for requirements.

Span		Methods, cutting
To	From	
Fill-in		NONE

**4. DETERMINE VEGETATION CONTROL METHODS**

See Handbook — [Methods](#)

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

See Handbook — [Manual](#), [Mechanical](#), [Biological](#), [Herbicides](#) for requirements for each of the methods.

Span		Methods
To	From	
Fill-in		See Plot Plan. Manual and herbicide methods

**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.

N/A

**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.

Span		Reason for Reseed/plant	Type of Seed or Plants	Native?
To	From			
		Sever Fire	Bluebunch wheatgrass, Slender wheatgrass	yes

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

Fill-in

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

Will be fall planted and treatments described will show outcomes of various methods of germination success

**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.**

Site will be reviewed over the next 2-3 years

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

N/A

## 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.**

No