

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: February 27, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-45)

TO: William T. Erickson - TFP/Walla Walla
Natural Resource Specialist

Proposed Action: Benton County noxious weed management along BPA rights-of-ways, transmission structures, roads, and switches listed in Attachment 1. Attachment 1 identifies the ROW, ROW width, and ROW length of the proposed action. Includes all BPA 115kV, 230kV, 345kV and 500 kV ROWs in Benton County, Washington.

Location: The ROWs are all located in Benton County, Washington, Walla Walla Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to clear noxious and/or unwanted low-growing vegetation in all BPA ROWs in Benton County, Washington. In a cooperative effort, BPA, through landowners and the Benton County Weed Control Board, plan to eradicate noxious plants and other unwanted, low-growing vegetation within the ROW width including all structures and access roads. BPA's overall goal is to eradicate all noxious and unwanted vegetation through chemical treatment and reseeding. Selective and nonselective chemical treatment using spot, local and broadcast methods. All work will be executed in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards. Work is to begin in March 2002.

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 Attachment 1, Checklist.

- All activities will be carried out in accordance with Section 15, Noxious Weed Act Amendment, 1990, Farm Act.
- Selective and nonselective chemical treatment will remove noxious and unwanted vegetation. Reseeding will take place to minimize reoccurrence of noxious vegetation. Retreatment may be required on an annual basis.
- Water resources (streams, rivers, wetlands and well) will be protected with the mitigation measures shown in Attachments 1.

- T&E Species will be protected as per the mitigation measures shown in Attachment 1. Species identified for mitigation include salmonids and bald eagles.
- No 'in stream' work is to take place without prior consultation with the appropriate government agencies and permits are in place.
- Herbicides will be applied by licensed applicators following manufacturers' label instructions and BPA's management prescriptions.
- Re-seeding /re-planting regimes have been identified as per Attachment 1.
- Notification of property owners and land management agencies, listed in Attachment 1, will be coordinated through the Benton County Weed Control Board as per the stipulations contained in Attachment 2, Statement of Work, Noxious Weed Management, Benton County, FY 2002.

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. T&E fish and wildlife are not affected, with implementation of the attached mitigation measures, therefore, no formal consultation is required.

/s/ Mark W. Hermeston

Mark W. Hermeston – KEP-4

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

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

DATE: 2/27/02