

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: April 22, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS, North Bonneville-Midway and Hanvor-Ostrander (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-63)

to: Elizabeth Johnson – TFR/The Dalles
Natural Resource Specialist

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management on the North Bonneville-Midway and Hanford-Ostrander transmission line right-of-way (approx. 702 acres). The project area begins at the North Bonneville Substation and terminates at structure 25/3+500. For most of the length of the right-of-way, the width is 300 feet wide on the North Bonneville-Midway Line and 150 feet wide for the Hanford-Ostrander Line.

Location: The ROW is located in North Bonneville, Skamania County, OR, being in the Redmond Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration.

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to clear unwanted vegetation from the rights of way and access roads on approximately 702 acres on the North Bonneville-Midway and Hanford-Ostrander transmission lines beginning May 2002, and ending August 2002.

Analysis: A Checklist (see attached) was completed for this project in accordance to the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administrations Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285). The Checklist evaluated the following areas:

- *Description of right-of-way and vegetation management needed*
- *Vegetation to be controlled*
- *Surrounding land use and landowner*
- *Natural Resource*
- *Vegetation control methods*
- *Debris disposal.*
- *Monitoring*
- *Appropriate environmental documentation*

In preparation of this Supplement Analysis, the Checklist was reviewed. Specific information regarding the areas as identified above are described the attached checklist.

Finding: 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/ Frederick J. Walasavage
Frederick J. Walasavage
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEP

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

DATE: 04/26/2002

Attachment

cc:

L. Croff – KEC
T. McKinney - KEC
M. Hermeston – KEP
J. Meyer - KEP
F. Walasavage – KEP/Celilo
P. Key - LN-7
M. Johnson – TF/DOB-1
R. Fouse – TFR/Redmond
R. Melzer – TFR/Redmond
W. Banker – TFRF/The Dalles
Environmental File - KEC
Official File – KEP (EQ-14)

1. IDENTIFY FACILITY AND THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NEED

1.1 Describe Right-of-way.

Corridor Name	Corridor Length & kV	Easement width	Miles of Treatment
No. Bonn-Mid (1/1-25/3+500)	75 miles – 2300kV	300' -Variable	25
Unwd Tap (1/1-25/3+500)	26 miles - 115kV	Same Corridor	25
Hanf-Ostr (146/4-152/1)	75 miles – 500 kV	150' - Variable	6

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 – clearing in right-of-way
- Transmission Structures – clearing around
- Access Road clearing - approximate miles – 30 miles

Work to commence May 2002 and completed by July 2002.

Rights-of-way Requirements

- Control all tall-growing species that are now or would be a hazard to the line.
- Cut stumps are not to be taller than 4 – 6 in.
- Control all tree and brush species within about 50 ft. of transmission structures. Cut stumps are not to be taller than 2 – 4 in. Pull all debris and slash out of the 50-ft. area around transmission structures.

1.2 Describe the vegetation needing management.

Tall growing conifer & hardwoods. Density is low medium. Treatment of noxious weeds, especially scotch broom, blackberries, poison oak will be required.

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.

Promoting Low Growing Plants. Bonneville's overall goal is to have low-growing plant communities along the rights-of-way to control the development of potentially threatening vegetation. In some areas this is not possible.

- Tall-growing vegetation that is currently or will soon be a hazard to the line will be removed.
- Vegetation that will grow tall will be selectively eliminated *before* it reaches a height or density to begin competing with low-growing species.
- Desirable low-growing plants will not be disturbed. Only selective vegetation control methods that have little potential to harm non-target vegetation will be used.

1.4 Describe overall management scheme/schedule.

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

Initial entry – This project is a maintenance entry. Vegetation will be cut with chain saws & mowers.

Subsequent entry's – Every 4 yrs., the row will need to be manually/mechanically cut.

Future cycles - Same as subsequent entry.

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.

- Residential
- Rural
- Agricultural
- Grazing lands
- Industrial Forest lands
- State/City/County Lands – Skamania County.

2.2 Describe method for notifying right-of-way landowners and requesting information (i.e., door hanger, letter, phone call, e-mail, and/or meeting). Develop landowner mail list, if appropriate.

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

- Rural – Notification letter will be sent 2 weeks prior to commencement of operations on the easement property (Hanf. -Ostr.). Most of the row is fee-owned by BPA.

2.3 List the specific land owner/land use 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](#).

Leasees & permit tee will be notified of pending operations prior to commencement of work. These areas will be skipped for the most part unless there are identified hazards that require treatment. COTR & contractor will work with permit tee & leasees for resolution.

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.

Several leases and tree agreements exists on the row. These permit tees will be contacted if work is required within the permitted portion of the row.

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.

None known at this time.

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.

None known at this time.

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.

General requirements:

- Leave vegetation intact, where possible.
- Any discharge of material (displaced soils, and in certain circumstances, vegetation debris) within a water of the U.S. may be subject to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulations under the Clean Water Act.
- Do not permit debris from tree falling, cutting, or disposal to fall into or be placed in any watercourse, spring, pond, lake, or reservoir, unless there is approval from the appropriate authorities for stream habitat projects.
- For all methods using machinery or vehicles (i.e. chainsaws, trucks, graders) keep the equipment in good operating condition to eliminate oil or fuel spills.
- Do not wash equipment or vehicles at a stream.

North Bonn-Midway

Span		Waterbody	T&E?	Method	Herbicide	Application Technique	Buffer	Other
From	To							
1/1+300	1/2+100	Greenleaf Slough	Yes	Hand cut.	Non-to practically non-toxic herbicides. See treatment zone details.	Spot spray stumps 100-400' away from waters edge.	400' Both sides. No herb w/in 100' of waters edge.	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
1/2+600	1/2+800	Sucker Cr.	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
1/4+300	1/4+450	Wetlands	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
2/1+300	2/1+700	Gilloette Lake	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
2/3+500	2/3+700	Lake	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
3/1+200	3/1+800	Blue Lake	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to

					zone details		w/in zone	conductor.
3/4+250	3/4+550	Lake	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
4/1+200	4/1+670	Lakes	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
4/3+550	4/4+600	Lakes	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
5/1	5/1+165	Lake	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
5/1+165	5/1	Wetland	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
5/2+600	5/3	Rock Cr.	Yes	Hand cut	Non-to practically non-toxic herbicides. See treatment zone details.	Spot spray stumps 100-400' away from waters edge.	400' Both sides. No herb w/in 100' of waters edge.	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
6/3+500	6/3+700	Kanaka Cr.	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
7/2+400	7/2 +1100	Nelson Cr.	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
7/3+100	7/3+800	E. Fork of Nelson Cr.	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
8/1+700	8/1 +1200	Creek	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
8/3+200	8/3+800	Creek	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
9/4+100	9/4+300	Intermittent Cr.	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations.	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No	Where possible, maintain 50'

					See treatment zone details	stumps	machinery w/in zone	clearance from treetops to conductor.
9/6+950	9/6+1150	Creek	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
10/6+300	11/1	Wind River	Yes	Hand cut	Non-to practically non-toxic herbicides. See treatment zone details.	Spot spray stumps 100-400' away from waters edge.	400' Both sides. No herb w/in 100' of waters edge.	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
13/2+500	13/2+1000	Pond	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	200' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.
20/5+200	21/1	Little White Salmon River	Yes	Hand cut	Non-to practically non-toxic herbicides. See treatment zone details.	Spot spray stumps 100-400' away from waters edge.	400' Both sides. No herb w/in 100' of waters edge.	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.

Hanf. -Ostr.

Span		Waterbody	T&E?	Method	Herbicide	Application Technique	Buffer	Other
From	To							
147/2	147/3	Wetland	No	Hand cut	Aquatic Formulations. See treatment zone details	Spot spray stumps	100' Both sides. No machinery w/in zone	Where possible, maintain 50' clearance from treetops to conductor.

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).

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

Span		Waterbody	Method	Herbicide	Application Technique	Buffer	Other
From	To						
5/6	5/6+200	Well	Hand cut	None		200' circumference. No machinery w/in zone	
6/5+550	6/5+750	Pump House	Hand cut	None		200' circumference. No machinery w/in zone	
7/4+100	7/4+300	Well	Hand cut	None		200' circumference. No machinery w/in zone	

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.

Wind River, Little White Salmon River, and Rock Cr. – anadromous fish populations.

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

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

None identified or known at this time.

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

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

None identified or known at this time.

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

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

- None identified. .

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.

- Do not use ground (soil)-disturbing mechanical equipment to clear on slopes over 20%.
- Perform mechanical clearing when the ground is dry enough to sustain heavy equipment.

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

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

- Avoid removing vegetation where it will not grow-up into the safety zones of the transmission line.

N.Bonn-Midway

Span		Methods, cutting
From	To	
2/3 +500	2/3+700	Lake. Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.
3/1 +200	3/1+800	Blue Lake. Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.
3/4 +250	3/4+650	Lake. Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.
4/1 +200	4/1+670	Lake. Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.
4/3 +500	4/4+600	Lake. Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.
7/2 +400	7/2 +1100	Nelson Cr. Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.
7/3 +100	7/3 +800	E. Nelson Cr. Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.
8/1 +700	8/1 +1200	Cr. Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.
8/3 +200	8/3 +800	Cr. Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.
13/2 +500	13/2 +1000	Pond. Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.

10/6 +300	11/1	Wind River. Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.
14/6 +200	14/7	Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.
14/7	15/1	Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.
15/1	15/4	Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.
15/4	17/1	Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.
17/6	18/1	Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.
20/5 +200	21/1	Conductor height is > 125'. Only individual trees w/tops w/in 50' of the lines will be cut.

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](#), and [Herbicides](#) for requirements for each of the methods.

General:

- When crews are working during the fire season (defined by the fire protection district with jurisdiction in the area), each crew shall have the proper fire-suppression tools and materials, as required by the responsible fire control agency.
- Cut conifers below the lowest live limb to eliminate the continued growth of lateral branches.
- For safety, cut all brush stumps flat where possible. (Angular cuts leave a sharp point that could cause injuries if fallen upon.)
- For cutting trees close to "live" power lines, use only qualified personnel.

Mechanical Requirements

- Do not use ground-disturbing mechanical equipment to clear on slopes over 20%.
- Perform soil-disturbing or heavy mechanical clearing when the ground is sufficiently dry to sustain heavy equipment and excessive rutting will not occur.
- Use measures to control the spread of noxious weeds.
- Do not use ground-disturbing mechanical methods in areas with T&E plant species unless determined appropriate through consultations.
- Do not use ground-disturbing mechanical methods in areas with cultural resources unless determined appropriate through consultations.
- Do not use ground-disturbing mechanical methods in riparian areas.

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.

- Lop and Scatter (Branches of a fallen tree are cut off (lopped) by ax or chainsaw, so the tree trunk lies flat on the ground. The trunks are occasionally cut in 1-to-2-m (4-to-8-ft.) lengths. The cut branches and trunks are then scattered on the ground, laid flat, and left to decompose.)
- Mulch debris with mower.

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.

None

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

NA

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

NA

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.

- Right-of-way will be visited during late summer to determine if target vegetation was cut and treated effectively, whether desired results were achieved for riparian as well as non-riparian areas and if mitigation measures were appropriately utilized and effective. ROW mgmt plan will be developed from this review and implemented next cutting cycle.

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

None