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(08-89)

United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: April 29, 2003

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEP/4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-148- McNary Wildlife (McNary-Santiam #2))

TO: Mark Newbill – TFE/Chemawa

Proposed Action: Joint project with US Forest Service for vegetation control for the McNary-Santiam #2 230 kV transmission line that enhances wildlife habitat under powerlines.

Location: The project is located in the BPA Eugene Region within Marion County, Oregon.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) in cooperation with US Forest Service.

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to remove unwanted vegetation along the right-of-way by hand cutting or machine mowing. The overall goal is to remove small fir trees, brushy hardwoods and Scotch broom so grasses and small shrub communities can expand.

Analysis: Please see the attached checklist for the resources present. Applicable findings and mitigation measures are discussed below.

Planning Steps:

1. ***Identify facility and the vegetation management need.***

   Work will take place along the McNary-Santiam #2 230 kV transmission line rights-of-way for "on" right-of-way removal of small fir trees, brushy hardwoods and Scotch broom. The proposed treatment will be performed in designated areas along the ROW's with an easement width of 125 feet. See attached checklist and documents for exact locations of treatment within the corridor.

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

   The land ownerships and land uses the project corridor passes through are the Willamette National Forest (Detroit Ranger District) and US Fish and Wildlife. Meetings with the US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife have been held throughout the year.

3. Identify natural resources and any mitigation.

Section 3 of the attached checklist identifies the natural resources present in the area of the proposed work. The following resources found along with applicable mitigation measures:

Riparian Habitat:
Riparian habitat includes rivers, wetlands, streams, and creeks meeting the definition of riparian habitat. Two riparian habitat areas (wetland and Breitenbush River) were identified near or within the project areas. Site-specific requirements for work around these resources, including buffers are contained in Section 3.1 of the attached checklist.

Irrigation sources, Wells, and Springs:
No known irrigation sources, wells, or spring were identified in the project area.

Threatened and Endangered Species/Essential Fish Habitat (EFH):
The project area includes N. Spotted Owl Unit #67 and Peregrine Falcons are known to be in the general area. The Forest Service conducted surveys and neither Northern Spotted Owl nor Peregrine Falcons were found in the project area. Therefore, a "no effect" determination can be concluded for these species. The project area contains no EFH or listed fish species. For a complete listing see Section 3.3 in the attached checklist.

Visually Sensitive Areas:
The project is not located near any visually sensitive areas.

Cultural Resources:
The US Forest Service conducted cultural surveys and no cultural resources were found. In the event that project activities unearth or discover any cultural/historic or prehistoric materials, work will cease immediately; and will not resume until a professional archaeologist has evaluated the site.

4. Determine vegetation control and debris disposal methods.

Mechanical removal of vegetation will be accomplished by hand cutting and machine mowing. All debris will be scattered after being mulched or ground into small chips (see Section 4 and 5).

5. Determine revegetation methods, if necessary.

The US Forest Service has an approved seed mix that will be applied May 3, 2003. Lime and fertilizer will be applied at the same time (see Sections 5.2-5.4).

6. Determine monitoring needs.

Monitoring will occur in the form of the Natural Resource Specialist being onsite while work is being done in the area. After one month, the NRS will make a site visit to evaluate conditions and plan future work (with coordination of USFS).

7. Prepare appropriate environmental documentation.

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/ Shawn L. Barndt
Shawn L. Barndt – KEPR/4
Environmental Physical Scientist

CONCUR:*/s/ Thomas C. McKinney* DATE:05/02/2003
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment

cc:
L. Croff – KEC-4
T. McKinney – KEC-4
C. Leiter – KEP-4
J. Meyer – KEP-4
B. Sherer – KEP-4
P. Key – LC-7
D. Hollen – TF/DOB-1
T. Jones – TFE/Alvey
B. Tilley – TFE/Alvey
K. Barber – TFEK/Chemawa
Environmental File – KEC
Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)

SBarndt:sb:5351:4/22/2003 (KEP-KEPR-4-W:\EP\2002 & 2003 FILES\EQ\EQ-14\FEIS-0285-SA-148-McNary Wildlife.doc)

Vegetation Management Checklist

Mark A. Newbill
Natural Resource Specialist
April 21, 2003
Eugene Region

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
McNary-Santiam # 2	164/1 – 164/5	125 feet	1 mile
	168/1 – 168/5	125 feet	1 mile
Marion CO.	171/1 – 171/2	125 feet	¼ mile
	230 KV		

The vegetation control method used on the Right-of-Way (ROW) will be hand cutting or machine mowing in brushy areas.

1.2 Describe the vegetation needing management.

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

Vegetation type: Douglas fir, Hemlock, Cedar, Cottonwood, Big Leaf Maple, and Red Alder.

Low Density: (0-50 stems per acre)

Noxious weeds: Scotch Broom and Blackberry.

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.

Removing small fir trees and brushy hardwoods allows grass and small shrubs to expand. Mowing Scotch broom increases sunlight and thus grass and small forbs can grow.

1.4 Describe overall management scheme/schedule.

See Handbook - **Overall Management Scheme/Schedule**.

Initial entry – This is a cooperative effort to enhance wildlife under BPA Power-lines. Areas have been selected by the Forest Service Biologists as ideal winter range. Enhancing forage in these areas is the desired goal. The project will clear small trees by hand cutting and use machine mowers to prep the soil for grass seeding. Volunteers will lime / fertilize / and grass seed areas listed above. (Table 1.1)

Subsequent entries – Return later in summer to remove bracken fern (by commercial weed eaters) Return annually to maintain sites by hand pulling / hoeing / or adding addition seed.

Future cycles – Return every year for the next 10 years until the entire 20-mile power line section from Detroit, OR up past Breitenbush is converted into an enhanced wildlife area.

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.

Willamette National Forest – Detroit Ranger District
US Fish & Wildlife

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.

See Handbook — **Methods for Notification and Requesting Information** for requirements.

This is a joint project and meetings have been held throughout the year.

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.**.

None Known

Span		Landowner/use	Specific measures to be applied
To	From		
164/1	164/5	US Forest Service	Hand cutting and machine mowing
168/1	168/5	US Forest Service	Hand cutting and machine mowing
171/1	171/2	US Forest Service	Hand cutting and machine mowing

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.

See Table Above

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

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

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							
164/1	171/2	Breitenbush River	No	Hand cut	None	N/A	35 ft	Located near project area
164/2	164/3	PEMC - wetland	No	Hand cut	None	N/A	35 ft	In project area

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.

Herbicide will not be used on any part of this project.

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.

T&E Species	Method/mitigation or avoidance measures
Spotted Owl	Calling surveys have been conducted and completed by Forest Service. None were found.
Peregrine Falcon	Surveys were conducted by climbing cliffs. None were found.
Botany	Plant surveys were conducted. None were found.
Cultural	Archeology surveys were conducted and none were found.

3.4 List any other measures to be taken for enhancing wildlife habitat or protecting species.
See Handbook — **Protecting Other Species** for requirements.

Measures: Small shrubs will be left for bird habitat. Ruffed Grouse Society is involved in the project.

3.5 List any visually sensitive areas and the measures to be taken at these areas.
See Handbook — **Visual Sensitive Areas** for requirements.

The project will not be located near HIGHWAY crossings.

3.6 List areas with cultural resources and the measures to be taken in those areas.
See Handbook – **Cultural Resources** for requirements.

Forest Service has the lead.
Cultural surveys have been completed. Nothing was found. The area has been approved for work. If evidence is found during work (cultural resources such as artifacts, features, burial sites), work will cease immediately and appropriate authorities will be contacted.

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.

Hand cutting will be used on every slope >10 %.

3.8 List areas of spanned canyons and the type of cutting needed.
See Handbook – **Spanned Canyons** for requirements.

N/A

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.

The project area is surrounded by timberland on Cascade mountain range. It is a SPECIAL wildlife enhancement project, and thus not common to power line type clearing.
Machines and some limited hand cutting will remove selected vegetation to make way for more desirable low growing grasses and forbs.
No chemicals will be used.

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.

Any woody debris left by hand cutting will be mowed and mulched by nearby machines. The machines used will grind and mulch all woody debris into small chips.

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.

The Forest service has purchased a grass seed mix of Annual Rye, Per. Rye, Sub Clover, Persian clover and New Zealand white Clover.

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

Approved mix by USFS staff

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

Application will be May 3, 2003 lime and fertilizer will be applied at this same time. It will be lightly sowed into the soil with homemade harrows. Adequate rain and moisture exist to ensure proper germination.

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.

NRS will be on site for the project. After 1 month, NRS will make a site visit to evaluate conditions and plan future work. All work is coordinated with USFS.

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

If mitigation was put in place, on site visit will be conducted to monitor. Otherwise no mitigation is expected.

7. PREPARE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

See handbook — **Prepare Appropriate Environmental Documentation** for requirements. . Also prepare Supplement Analysis — **Supplement Analysis** — for signature.

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, Project is consistent with EIS.

7.2 Is there a need for additional NEPA documentation (i.e. Forest Service requirement, Record of Decision, supplemental EIS)? If so, attach.

None