

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 27, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-04)

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

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management on Ponderosa - Pilot Butte 18/2 to 18/4 Relocation

Location: The project area is in the City of Bend, OR, in Deschutes County.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to clear unwanted vegetation from a section of BPA's Ponderosa - Pilot Butte Transmission Line Right-of-way to facilitate relocation of structure 18/3. Work would begin in mid-March and end in April, 2001.

Analysis:

1. *Description of right-of-way and vegetation management needed:* The project involves cutting all tall growing trees and brush within BPA's 100-foot wide transmission line right-of-way. An encroachment by the City of Bend Sewer Treatment facility, and future expansion plans, compelled the relocation of this portion of the right-of-way. Structures 18/2 and 18/4 will be modified in place to accommodate the new angle of the right-of-way. Structure 18/3 will be moved approximately 300 feet westerly to allow for the expansion of the sewer treatment facility. Only vegetation within the new portion of the right-of-way, totaling approximately 3.5 acres, will be controlled. No herbicides will be used on this project.

Vegetation to be controlled: Juniper trees are the only tall growing tree species within this portion of the right-of-way requiring treatment. The density of vegetation within the new right-of-way is light to medium. The right-of-way boundaries will be examined for danger trees and if found, danger trees will be marked and cut according to danger tree policy.

2. *Surrounding land use and landowners:* The City of Bend is the underlying fee-owner of the land within the original and relocated portion of the right-of-way. BPA Natural Resource Specialist Libby Johnson has discussed BPA's proposed treatment of the right-of-way with Mike Elmore, City of Bend, and he has authorized and approved the proposal. A release of easement for the original easement and a new contract and grant of easement is being prepared to release and acquire new BPA easement rights.

3. *Natural Resources:* According to information from BPA's GIS system, no T& E species or their habitat will be affected. In this segment of right-of-way, there are no natural stream courses, winter range habitat, or sensitive plants. The area of treatment and adjacent areas are used by local migratory deer populations for forage and cover. An irrigation canal lies parallel to the project area and is approximately 500 feet westerly of the present location of structure 18/3. No specific mitigation requirements have been proposed by the City of Bend regarding the treatment of the right-of-way.

4. *Vegetation control methods:* No herbicide use is planned for this project. Control methods will be mowing and handcutting. Appropriate mitigation measures outlined in the EIS for hand cutting and machine cutting methods applicable to this site specific project will be followed.

5. *Debris disposal:* Limbs and branches will be lopped off on 3 sides of trees and chipped with the mower. Tree boles will be left intact for landowner use. No revegetation will be necessary.

6. *Monitoring:* The project will be monitored during and after completion to determine effectiveness and evaluate any environmental impacts. If any impacts are found, they will be mitigated by mulching and/or seeding the disturbed areas.

7. *Appropriate environmental documentation:* This Supplement Analysis provides an overview of site specific details regarding this project. Any subsequent information received from the landowner will be incorporated.

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/ Inez S. Graetzer

Inez S. Graetzer
Environmental Project Lead – KEC

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

DATE: 3/29/01

cc:

K. Nakata – DOE/EH-42
I. Graetzer – KECN-4
J. Meyer – KEP-4
F. Walasavage – KEP/Celilo
P. Key – LN-7
R. Melzer – TFR/Redmond
M. Oakland – TFRF/Redmond

Official File – KEC (EQ-14)

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