

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 20, 2020

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: EP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-747)

TO: Chester (JR) French
Forestry Tech – TFBV-3

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management around the Noti Radio Site

Pollution Prevention and Abatement Project No.: 4518

Location: Lane County, Oregon

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to remove approximately ten trees that are interfering with the signal strength in the telecommunication corridor between Noti Radio Site (RS) and Eugene Substation.

The proposed project area encompasses approximately 0.5 acres on land managed by United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Northwest Oregon District.

BPA would coordinate with BLM personnel to secure the rights to remove these trees. Only selected trees that interfere with the communication pathway would be cut or topped using chain-saws operated by qualified individuals. All vegetation removal would be restricted to aboveground, leaving root systems intact. All other vegetation will remain. No herbicides would be applied as part of this project. All onsite debris would be scattered on the ground along the beam path, or managed as prescribed by BLM. It is anticipated that the work would take place in Fall 2020.

Analysis: A BPA Forester surveyed trees in the project area and developed a list of trees to be cut in accordance with the requirements identified in BPA's Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) (August 23, 2000). The following summarizes natural resources occurring in the project area.

Water Resources: There are no water bodies (lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands) occurring in, or adjacent to, the project area.

Endangered Species Act and Magnuson-Stevens Act: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA has made a determination of whether its proposed project would have any effects on any listed species. A species list was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) containing federally-listed, proposed, and candidate species potentially occurring in the project area, as well as designated critical habitat. Based on the ESA

review conducted, BPA made a determination that the project would have “No Effect” for all ESA-listed species and critical habitat under USFWS’ jurisdiction.

There are no water bodies occurring in, or adjacent to, the project area. A review of ESA-listed species, critical habitat, and Essential Fish Habitat (as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Act), under the jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is not necessary, as the project would have no potential to affect those species or habitats.

Cultural Resources: The proposed vegetation management actions do not result in ground disturbance to the physical environment, so the action is not one that typically has the potential to affect historic and/or cultural resources. If a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work would be stopped in the vicinity and the BPA Environmental Specialist and the BPA archeologist would be contacted.

Re-Vegetation: Existing naturalized grasses and woody shrubs are present on the entire ROW and are expected to naturally seed into the areas that would have lightly-disturbed soil.

Monitoring: The entire project would be inspected during the work period, and signal strength would be re-assessed, in Fall 2020. A vendor scorecard of inspection results would be used to document formal inspections and will be filed with the contracting officer.

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/ Oden Jahn
Oden W. Jahn
Natural Resource Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Katey Grange
Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: August 20, 2020

References:
Effects Determination