

Supplement Analysis
for the
Transmission System Vegetation Management Program EIS
(DOE/EA/EIS-0285/SA-904)

Pollution Prevention and Abatement Project Number 5051
Natural Resource Specialist/Project Manager: William Merriam

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Activities

BPA proposes to remove or modify approximately ten trees that are interfering with the signal strength along the microwave beam path between Longview Maintenance Headquarters and Longview Substation in Cowlitz County Washington.

BPA coordinated with one private landowner to secure rights to remove these trees. The trees would be cut by conventional methods. Once on the ground, trees would be cut into smaller pieces. All debris would be disposed of onsite, using on-site chip, lop and scatter, or mulching techniques. The work is anticipated to take place through November and December 2024.

Analysis

A Tree Cut List was developed for this microwave beam path that incorporated the requirements identified in BPA's Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS and Record of Decision (August 23, 2000). The following summarizes natural resources occurring in the project area along with applicable mitigation measures outlined in the Tree Cut List and other project documents.

Water Resources

No herbicides would be used, and no ground-disturbing vegetation management methods would be implemented.

Endangered Species Act and Magnuson-Stevens Act

Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA made a determination of whether its proposed project would have any effects on any listed species. A species list was obtained for federally-listed, proposed, and candidate species potentially occurring within the project boundaries from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Based on the ESA review conducted, BPA made a determination that the project would have "No Effect" for all ESA-listed species and designated critical habitat under USFWS' jurisdiction.

BPA conducted a review of ESA-listed species, designated critical habitat, and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) (as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Act), under the jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). However, none were found in the project area. BPA made a determination that the project would have "No Effect" for all ESA-listed fish species and designated critical habitat under NMFS' jurisdiction, and the project would not adversely affect EFH.

Cultural Resources

BPA initiated consultation on August 7, 2024, and made a determination of no historic properties affected on September 30, 2024. Correspondence was sent to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde,

the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). On September 5, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde requested a “Post-Review Discovery Protocol” during project implementation. On September 30, Washington DAHP concurred with BPA’s determination. No other responses were received. After 30 days passed, BPA concluded the Section 106 process with a determination of no historic properties affected with the stipulation that if site is discovered during the course of project activities, work would be stopped in the vicinity, the BPA Environmental Specialist and the BPA Archaeologist would be contacted, and the Post-Review Discovery Protocol would be initiated.

Re-Vegetation

Existing naturalized grasses and woody shrubs are present in the project area 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 - November through December 2024. A follow-up treatment may occur after the initial treatment. Additional monitoring for follow-up treatment would be conducted as necessary. A vendor scorecard would be used to document formal inspections and would be filed with the contracting officer.

Findings

BPA finds that the types of actions and the potential impacts related to the proposed activities have been examined, reviewed, and consulted upon and are similar to those analyzed in the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD. There are no substantial changes in the EIS’ Proposed Action and no substantial new circumstances or information about the significance of the adverse effects that bear on the analysis in the EIS’ Proposed Action or its impacts within the meaning of 10 CFR § 1021.314 and 40 CFR § 1502.9. Therefore, no further NEPA analysis or documentation is required.

/s/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn, EPR-4

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 1, 2024

Attachments:

Longview MHQ Tree Cut List

Post-Review Discovery Protocol