

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 29, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-168-Grand Coulee-Bell Corridor)

TO: Tom Murphy,
Natural Resources Specialist

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management for 4 Patches of Leafy Spurge on the Grand Coulee-Bell Transmission Line Corridor between WP 76/5 and WP 77/1 in Riverside State Park.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Location: Spokane, WA, in Spokane County.

Description of the Proposal: BPA plans to treat 4 succinct patches of Leafy spurge with herbicides in late July, 2003, and follow-up with another treatment after the first frost—usually in early October.

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.

Treatment of 4 patches of Leafy spurge, a noxious weed, would occur on .13 acres of the 84-mile long Grand Coulee-Bell right-of-way corridor, between WP 76/5 and WP 77/1. Patches are dense and succinct. Patch sizes are 50' x 50'; 20' x 20'; 50' x 50'; and 10' x 40', totaling .13 acres. Three patches are located AHOL from WP 76/5, between W. Seven Mile Road and WP 76/6. The first patch is under the No. 3 & 4 line and the 2nd and 3rd patches are under No. 5 line. The 4th patch is AHOL and down the hill from WP 76/8, under the No. 1 & 2 lines.

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

The 4 patches to be treated are located on state land in Riverside State Park, west of Spokane, WA. The corridor is used as part of the park. The Centennial Trail, a paved road that is now closed to public vehicular traffic, bisects the corridor about 20' BOL from WP 76/8. Three of the patches are between the W. Seven Mile Road and the Centennial Trail, and the 4th patch is just east and down the hill from the Centennial Trail.

3. *Identify natural resources.*

No sensitive resources are affected by the proposal.

4. *Determine vegetation control and debris disposal methods.*

The 4 patches of Leafy spurge will be treated with a liquid mixture of 1 qt./acre of Tordon 22K (picloram) + 2 qt./acre of Weedar 64 (2,4-D) imazapyr, with a “sticker” of R900 @ 1 qt./100 gal. water. A follow-up application would occur in the fall, after the first frost. The herbicide would be applied using a Spot foliar treatment method. No debris disposal would be necessary.

5. *Determine revegetation methods, if necessary.*

No revegetation is needed.

6. *Determine monitoring needs.*

Visit sprayed areas shortly after treatment (at least within a year of treatment) to determine effectiveness; and Use monitoring to help determine methods/issues for next treatment cycle.

7. Prepare appropriate environmental documentation.

No other environmental documentation is needed.

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/ Inez S. Graetzer

Inez S. Graetzer

Environmental Project Lead

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 07/29/2003

Attachment

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4

I. Graetzer – KEC-4

T. McKinney – KEC-4

J. Meyer – KEP-4

E. Stratton – KEP/PSB-2

P. Key – LC-7

J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2

D. Hollen – TF/DOB-1

S. Vickers – TFS/Bell-1

W. Kelsey – TNFE-TPP-3

M. Korsness – TNP-TPP-3

Environmental File – KEC

Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)

Vegetation Management Checklist

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
Grand Coulee-Bell Corridor (Nos. 1, 2, 3&4, 5)	84 miles; 2-115-kV lines and 3- 230-kV lines	400'	.13 acres in 4 succinct patches

1.2 Describe the vegetation needing management.

See handbook — [List of Vegetation Types](#), [Density](#), [Noxious Weeds](#) for checkboxes and requirements.

Four patches of Leafy spurge, a noxious weed. Patches are dense and succinct. Patch sizes are 50' x 50'; 20' x 20'; 50' x 50'; and 10' x 40', totaling .13 acres. Three patches are located AHOL from WP 76/5, between W. Seven Mile Road and WP 76/6. The first patch is under the No. 3 & 4 line and the 2nd and 3rd patches are under No. 5 line. The 4th patch is AHOL and down the hill from WP 76/8, under the No. 1 & 2 lines.

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.

N/A-Treating specific patches of Leafy spurge.

1.4 Describe overall management scheme/schedule.

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

Initial entry – Treat in late July, 2003 when plants set seed to prevent seed dispersion

Subsequent entries – Follow up treatment in October, after first frost

Future cycles – To be determined in spring of '04

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.

The 4 patches to be treated are located on state land in Riverside State Park, west of Spokane, WA. The corridor is used as part of the park. The Centennial Trail, a paved road that is now closed to public vehicular traffic, bisects the corridor about 20' BOL from WP 76/8.

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.

Personal communication by Inez Graetzer, Environmental Specialist, with Jack Hartt, Riverside State Park Manager, and Denis Felton, Assistant Manager for the Park regarding BPA’s proposal to spray the 4 patches of noxious weed on one section of the corridor near the Spokane River.

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](#).

Span		Landowner/use	Specific measures to be applied
To	From		
WP 77/1	WP 76/5	State of Washington, Riverside State Park	Contact made with Park Manager and Assistant Manager and they concurred with our proposal to treat the 4 patches of Leafy spurge this season.

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.

N/A

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.

ROW area is available for use by public because it is within Riverside State Park.

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

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
To	From						
WP 77/1	WP 76/5	Spokane River is more than 400 feet from the area of treatment.	No	Herbicide	Tordon 22K, Weedar 64 (2,4-D), plus R900 (sticker)	Liquid spot foliar application to each succinct patch of the weed.	None required

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		Well/irrigation/or spring	Herbicide	Buffer	Other notes/measures
To	From				
WP 77/1	WP 76/5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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.

Span		T&E Species	Method/mitigation or avoidance measures
To	From		
WP 77/1	WP 76/5	None in this area, according to the Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV Transmission Line Project Final EIS, December 2003 .	None required

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

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

Span		Species	Measures
To	From		
WP 77/1	WP 76/5	N/A	None required

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

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

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
To	From		
WP 77/1	WP 76/5	No visual sensitive areas	None

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

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

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
To	From		
WP 77/1	WP 76/5	No cultural resources present in the area	None

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.

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
To	From		
WP 77/1	WP 76/5	N/A	None

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

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

Span		Methods, cutting
To	From	
WP 77/1	WP 76/5	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.

Span		Methods, including herbicide active ingredient, trade name, application technique
To	From	
WP 77/1	WP 76/5	Spot foliar application of picloram + imazapyr, with a follow-up spray of 2,4-D. Repeat application of this formula in the fall after 1 st frost.

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.

None

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.

Span		Reason for Reseed/plant	Type of Seed or Plants	Native?
To	From			
WP 77/1	WP 76/5	None	None	None

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

N/A

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

N/A

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.

Visit sprayed areas shortly after treatment (at least within a year of treatment) to determine effectiveness;

Use monitoring to help determine methods/issues for next treatment cycle.

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

See 6.1

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

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

None needed.