

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: May 21, 2003

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-33)

TO: Ron Morinaka  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEWU-4

**Proposed Action:** Gooderich Bayou Culvert Replacement (Hungry Horse Fisheries Mitigation Program)

**Project No:** 1991-019-03

**Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis**  
**(See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS):** 8.2 Control of Predators and Nuisance Animals  
– Removal or Reduction of Undesirable Wildlife Species.

**Location:** Flathead County, Montana

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to fund a fish barrier project with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks that proposes to block migrating rainbow trout during spawning to prevent the production and recruitment of approximately 2,500 rainbow trout into the Flathead River system annually. This action will reduce the opportunity for hybridization between rainbow and native westslope cutthroat trout; a species currently under consideration for threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. The project will be accomplished by replacing an existing culvert and retrofitting a fish passage barrier to the bayou.

**Analysis:** The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Grant Grisak with MFWP (November 19, 2002) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are bald eagle and bull trout. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, BPA submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) for the Gooderich Bayou Culvert Replacement project to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on January 2, 2003. As part of the BA, BPA determined that the proposed project would have no effect on bull trout and may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect bald eagle. USFWS concurred with these findings on February 4, 2003.

BPA determined that the proposed Gooderich Bayou Culvert Replacement project would have no effect on prehistoric or historic resources given the present site conditions and the findings of the Montana Historical Society. The culvert to be replaced and retrofitted as part of this project is located in an earthen bridge dyke that spans across Gooderich Bayou. The bridge itself was created by previous landowners within the past 50 years. As part of the Montana Environmental Policy Act process, the Montana Historical Society conducted a cultural resource file search for the Gooderich Bayou project site. According to their records, there have been no previously recorded historical or archaeological sites

within the designated locale. The Historical Society concluded that the proposed project had a low likelihood of impacting cultural properties and that a cultural resource inventory was unwarranted for this project at this time. The Montana State Historic Preservation Office concurred with BPA's determinations on March 25, 2003.

Standard water quality protection procedures will be followed during the implementation of the Gooderich Bayou Culvert Replacement project. Permits and authorizations that have been obtained or are pending include: a 124-Montana Stream Protection Act<sup>2</sup>, a 3A-Short Term Exemption of Surface Water Quality Standards, and a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit. No construction will be authorized to begin until the applicant has obtained all required local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has taken place as part of this project. Landowner contacts have been made and several discussions have occurred and been forwarded to MFWP through a landowner spokesperson. MFWP is planning on meeting with all interested landowners to discuss the project in detail. MFWP is also planning a meeting with the local road maintenance association to discuss the project. In addition, a formal Montana Environmental Policy Act Environmental Assessment will be prepared for this project (as part of a State requirement) and will be distributed for public comment.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Wildlife Mitigation Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Wildlife Mitigation Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon Stewart  
Shannon C. Stewart  
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

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

DATE: 5/21/2003

Attachments:  
NEPA Compliance Checklist  
USFWS Letter, February 4, 2003  
Montana SHPO Letter, March 25, 2003

cc: (w/ attachments)  
Mr. Grant Grisak