

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 6, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-166)

TO: Jay Marcotte
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects – Coleman Creek Fish Passage Restoration

Project No: 2002-025-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management, 1.9 Structural Bank Protection Using Bioengineering Methods, 1.13 Culvert Removal/Replacement to Improve Fish Passage, 1.16 Spawning Habitat Enhancements, 2.6 Native Seed Inventories, 2.7 Avoid Exotic Species, 2.9 Mechanical Vegetation Removal, 4.2 Water Measuring Devices, 4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline.

Location: Kittitas County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Kittitas County Conservation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a fish passage improvement project on Coleman Creek in Kittitas County, Washington with the Kittitas County Conservation District. Components of the Coleman Creek project include the removal of a perched culvert, installation of a bridge span and concrete abutments, construction of a pump facility and rock-lined spillway off Bull Ditch, installation of a drop structure on Bull Ditch, construction of three rock weirs within Coleman Creek to enhance fish passage and minimize degradation of the bed, and re-vegetation of streambanks immediately above and below the road crossing.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Anna Lael with the Kittitas County Conservation District (January 6, 2004) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area include steelhead trout, bull trout, Wenatchee Mountain checkermallow, and Ute ladies'Tresses. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, BPA submitted a Biological Assessment to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on November 4, 2003. BPA determined that the proposed actions will have no effect on Wenatchee Mountain checkermallow and Ute ladeis'Tresses, and that the actions may affect but are not likely to adversely affect bull trout. USFWS issued a Biological Opinion on impacts to bull trout on December 5, 2003. All terms and conditions contained in the Biological Opinion must be implemented accordingly.

BPA determined that ESA consultation for steelhead and Essential Fish Habitat consultation for chinook and coho salmon were covered under BPA's Habitat Improvement Program Programmatic Biological Opinion with NOAA Fisheries (August 4, 2004). All applicable terms and conditions contained in the Programmatic Biological Opinion must be implemented accordingly. Project design was approved by

Bryan Nordlund with NOAA Fisheries. A minor modification to the preferred inwater work window was approved by Kale Gullet with NOAA Fisheries.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resource survey of the Lower Wilson Creek Projects, which includes the Coleman Creek project, was completed by Gregory Cleveland in 2000. No cultural resources were identified as a result of that survey however Mr. Cleveland recommended that archaeological monitoring take place during the construction of the sites. The WA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with this determination on August 3, 2004. In accordance with these findings, a qualified archaeological monitor should be onsite during all ground disturbing activities associated with the Coleman Creek project. A monitoring report should be prepared and submitted to the WA SHPO. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, work should be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices should be followed during the implementation of the Coleman Creek project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Coleman Creek project. The Kittitas County Conservation District is sponsoring this project as part of the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP). YTAHP is a consortium of local irrigators and conservation districts, as well as WA Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Coleman Creek project was identified by the YTAHP core committee as a high priority early action project. Consultation on this project has taken place with Kittitas County, Yakama Indian Nation, local landowners, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, WA Department of Ecology, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition, public involvement will take place as part of the WA State Environmental Policy Act process.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that 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/ Shannon C. Stewart

Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: August 9, 2004

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
HIP BO Authorization and Consistency Form, August 4, 2004
USFWS Biological Opinion, December 5, 2003
WA SHPO Letter of Concurrence, August 3, 2000