

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 10, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-168)

TO: Sabrina Keen
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Protect and Restore Lolo Creek Watershed – Jim Brown Creek Streambank Stabilization

Project No: 1996-077-02

Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management, 1.9 Structural Bank Protection using Bioengineering Methods

Location: Clearwater County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Nez Perce Tribe

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration, Nez Perce Tribe, and Potlatch Corporation are proposing to stabilize streambanks along Jim Brown Creek near Weippe, Idaho in Clearwater County. The proposed designs will lay back the slope of eroding streambanks on approximately 600 feet of stream, reserving topsoil and sod for finish work. The 600-feet of stabilization will consist of at least two small sections of streambank. Native vegetation will be replaced to reinforce the bank using bioengineering techniques such as brush mattresses and tree revetments. Stabilizing streambanks within this drainage will reduce sediment input and restore fish habitat. The decreased sediment input will improve spawning gravels and rearing habitat both locally and downstream of the project site.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Heidi McRoberts with the Nez Perce Tribe (April 15, 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 are gray wolf, Canada lynx, bull trout, fall chinook salmon, and steelhead. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, BPA submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) for the Jim Brown Creek Project to NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on May 10, 2004. As part of the BA, BPA determined that the proposed actions may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect gray wolf, Canada lynx, bull trout, fall chinook salmon, and steelhead. In addition, BPA determined that the proposed actions may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat for chinook and coho salmon. USFWS issued a letter of concurrence on these findings on July 29, 2004. NOAA Fisheries issued a letter of concurrence on these findings on June 4, 2004.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resources survey of the Jim Brown Creek streambank stabilization sites was completed by Kevin Cannell with the Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resource Program. An intensive pedestrian survey utilizing 10-meter meandering transects was conducted of the project sites. All of the locations were found to have been heavily disturbed by road and culvert construction. No cultural resources were recorded as part of this survey. Based on the survey findings, BPA determined that the project would have no affect on cultural and/or historic resources. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office concurred with these findings on July 29, 2004. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during project construction, a qualified archaeologist should be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

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

Public involvement has taken place as part of the Jim Brown Creek Project. Notice of the project was published in the Tac Titooquan local newspaper. Discussions have also been held with the landowner, the County and Tribe, and various State and Federal agencies.

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 Stewart 8-11-04

Shannon C. Stewart

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 8-11-04

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

NOAA Fisheries Letter of Concurrence, June 4, 2004

USFWS Letter of Concurrence, July 29, 2004

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office Letter of Concurrence, July 29, 2004

cc: (w/ attachments)

Ms. Heidi McRoberts – Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries