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United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: November 15, 2001

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-69)

TO: Linda Hermeston - KEWL
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Improvement of Anadromous Fish Habitat and Passage in Omak Creek

Project No: 2000-001-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):

1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures; 1.7 Install Other Habitat Complexity Structures; 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; 1.17 Rearing habitat enhancement.

Location: The Omak Creek watershed, which lies within the boundary of the Colville Confederated Tribes Indian Reservation in the State of Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Colville Confederated Tribes.

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund a project with the Colville Confederated Tribes that will improve spawning and rearing specifically for summer steelhead in the Omak Creek Watershed. Efforts to achieve this objective include improved livestock and forestry management and barrier removal. These techniques include exclusionary fencing, spring developments, hardened-rock crossings, road decommissioning, culvert removal and placement, riparian vegetation planting and installation of instream structures. The result of implementing these techniques will reduce fine sediment delivered to the stream channel which will result in increased hatching success of summer steelhead. Also, reestablishing riparian vegetation will provide canopy and enclose the stream channel resulting in reduced stream temperatures.

Two “on-the-ground” projects are proposed for this year. One project consists of installing three instream structures and planting riparian vegetation to provide bank stability along approximately 200’ of privately owned stream bank of Omak Creek. Also a fence will be constructed to exclude the landowner’s horses. The second project consists of removal of an inadequate sized culvert (5’ diameter) and replacement with a larger bottomless arch (6’ x 12’). This project will also include seven instream structures to stabilize the stream bank both upstream and downstream of the culvert and direct flows through the center of the bottomless arch.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Chris Fisher, Anadromours Fisheries Biologist II, Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) 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 located in the general vicinity of the project are Grizzly Bear, Gray Wolf, North American Lynx, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Spotted Owl and Western Sage Grouse. Bull trout are not present in the area. It was determined by Chris Fisher, CCT Anadromous Fisheries Biologist, and Matt Berger, CCT Wildlife Biologist that it is highly unlikely that these species will be adversely affected by the proposed action of either project. The disturbance will be short term (approximately 2 weeks in duration) and insignificant in regards to distribution and range of the listed or candidate species. Therefore, these two restoration projects are considered to have no effect upon the endangered, threatened or candidate species listed above.

Additionally summer stealhead are listed as endangered in the Upper Columbia River Basin. A Biological Assessment (BA) for the culvert replacement was submitted by CCT to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on October 18, 2001. NMFS responded with a "no effect" determination to listed steelhead based on the absence of listed fish because of instream impedances downstream in Mission Creek. In addition, the proposed work would have no measurable/detectable effects to listed fish or critical habitat at or downstream of the work site.

Two hydraulic permits have been obtained by the CCT for the culvert replacement and instream structures and another for the streambank stabilization and fish habitat improvements.. Copies of the permits are attached.

If any bones, chards, implements or other cultural resources are uncovered during the implementation of this project, all work in the affected area will stop immediately and cultural resources personnel of the CCT will be notified prior to any further work in the affected area.

The project lies wholly within the boundary of the Colville Confederated Tribes Indian Reservation. All necessary regulatory agencies and landowner have been contacted and informed of the projects.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with 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/Colleen Spiering
Colleen Spiering
Environmental Project Lead

CONCUR: *Thomas C. McKinney* DATE: *11/15/2001*
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
Memo from Chris Fisher re ESA
Hydraulic Permits (2)
BA for Culvert Replacement
Response to BA from NMFS

cc: (w/attachment)
Chris Fisher – Colville Confederated Tribes
PO Box 862
Omak, WA 98841

bcc: (w/attachment)
K. Nakata - DOE/EH-42
L. Croff - KEC-4
C. Spiering - KEC-4
W. Weintraub - KEC-4 (w/o attachments)
P. Key - LC-7 (w/o attachments)
Official File - KEC (EQ-14)

CSpiering:cs:5756:11/15/2001
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