

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 28, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-31)

TO: Allyn Meuleman
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Allen Property Fee Simple Acquisition

Project No: 1995-057-00

**Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis
(See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS):** 1.1 Fee-Title Acquisition and Transfer

Location: Jefferson County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG).

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the acquisition of approximately 81 acres of forested wetlands and scrub shrub wetlands along the south bank of the South Fork of the Snake River in Jefferson County, Idaho. The property proposed for acquisition lies within the Snake River Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Title to the land will be held by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The property will be managed as part of the Deer Parks Wildlife Mitigation Unit and in accordance with the BLM Snake River Activity and Operations Plan. The goal of this project is to protect and enhance riparian and wetland habitats for the benefit of wildlife.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Karen Rice with BLM (October 18, 2002) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

BLM consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) about the presence of Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species on the Allen Property. BLM received concurrence from USFWS on March 21, 2002 documenting that the proposed property acquisition may affect, but it not likely to adversely affect bald eagle and Ute ladies'-tresses and that the acquisition will not affect grizzly bear, gray wolf, Canada lynx, and whooping crane. Prior to the implementation of any BPA funded restoration or enhancement activities on the site, ESA Section 7 Consultation will be conducted as necessary.

BPA conducted a cultural resource literature search for the South Fork Snake River/Palisades Wildlife Mitigation Project Environmental Assessment, which included the Allen Property. No sites were noted for the proposed project location. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe provided input on these findings. BLM will conduct an appropriate cultural resource clearance survey prior to the implementation of any ground disturbing activities on the Allen Property. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during developments that might occur as part of this project, an archaeologist should immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

An Initial Assessment field visit of the Allen Property was completed on May 9, 2002 by Dan Kotansky, BLM Environmental Protection Specialist. No recognized environmental conditions were identified on the property or surrounding property. A landowner interview conducted on June 6, 2002 did not reveal suspected hazardous material or waste contamination. An Environmental Initial Assessment Report was issued on July 5, 2002. Fred Walasavage, Environmental Protection Specialist with BPA, concurred with BLM's findings on August 26, 2002.

Public involvement has taken place as part of the Allen Property acquisition process. BLM and IDFG held a public open house on October 15, 2002 at the Deer Parks Wildlife Mitigation Unit headquarters in Jefferson County. Notice of the public meeting was sent to the Jefferson County Commissioners, the Jefferson County Star, the Rexburg Standard Journal, the Idaho Falls Post Register, and 28 additional media contacts. Nearby landowners were contacted about the meeting by telephone. BLM and IDFG have also consulted on separate occasions with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, USFWS, Jefferson County, and nearby landowners.

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.

CONCUR:

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart 10-29-2002
Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 10-29-2002
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/o attachments)
Ms. Karen Rice – U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Mr. Bob Martin – Idaho Department of Fish and Game