

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

Memorandum

DATE: March 21, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Avian Predation on Juvenile Salmonids in the Lower Columbia River Research Project Supplement Analysis (DOE/EA-1374-SA-03)

to: Dorie Welch
Project Manager - KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Avian Predation On Juvenile Salmonids in the Lower Columbia River Research Project—Modifications to original proposal.

Project No: 199702400

Location: Columbia and Snake Rivers.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), USGS-Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Oregon State University, and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Introduction: The Bonneville Power Administration prepared a multi-year Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on this project in April of 2001 and a Supplement Analysis (SA) to that EA in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

- The project involves multi-year research on Caspian terns, double-crested cormorants, and glaucous-winged gulls begun in 1997.
- The activities examined in the EA focused on measuring the salmonid smolt consumption rate of tern, cormorant, and gull populations in the lower Columbia River.
- Additionally, this project measured the impacts of this research on brown pelicans roosting in the area. Additional changes are being proposed to the project in 2005, thus a fourth SA has been prepared to determine if a supplemental EA is needed to analyze the environmental impacts of the proposed changes to the program since the Final EA and FONSI were completed.

Description of Action and Analysis: The proposed changes for 2005 to the program and an analysis of their environmental impacts are described in the attached SA.

Findings: As documented in the SA, the potential impacts from the proposed changes to the Avian Predation on Juvenile Salmonids in the Lower Columbia River Research Project are of the kind described in the 2001 EA and FONSI. The proposed changes would not raise the level of the environmental impacts to a significant level.

There are no new circumstances or analysis. Therefore, a supplement to the Avian Predation on Juvenile Salmonids in the Lower Columbia River Research Project EA and FONSI is not needed.

/s/ Colleen Spiering
Colleen A. Spiering
Environmental Project Lead

CONCUR:

/s/ James Kehoe for
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

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