

# memorandum

DATE: December 18, 2003

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Grande Ronde Basin Endemic Spring Chinook Salmon  
Supplementation Program EA (DOE/EA-1173/SA-01)

TO: Ken Kirkman – KEWU-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Monitoring and Evaluation of Supplemented Spring Chinook Salmon and Life Histories of Wild Summer Steelhead in the Grande Ronde Basin

**Project No:** 1998-007-03

**Location:** Union County, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The CTUIR and ODFW propose to expand their monitoring and evaluation for the Grande Ronde spring chinook supplementation program to take additional data on summer steelhead that are trapped at the existing adult collection weirs on the upper Grande Ronde River and Catherine Creek. The weirs are a movable design and are operated seasonally during the adult chinook migration. Bull trout and summer steelhead have been trapped at the weirs since 1997 incidental to the spring chinook broodstock collection activities. Minimal data is recorded on both species as a requirement of the ESA permits, and reported to USFWS and NOAA Fisheries. This supplement analysis covers a minor expansion of the program to collect more extensive life history data on summer steelhead. The weir and trap will be installed 2-3 weeks earlier (early to mid-March) than was previously needed for the spring chinook broodstock collection in order to monitor the summer steelhead migration period. The adult steelhead will be captured in the traps, anesthetized, and measured. Data will be recorded on the date of capture, fork length, sex, markings, and maturity of the fish, and scale and punch tissue samples will be taken for genetic analyses.

**Analysis:** The original EA covered the installation of the weirs and collection of incidental data on steelhead and bull trout. The proposed changes involve only a minor extension of the trapping period and additional handling of steelhead. While this work will result in increased impacts to summer steelhead and bull trout, both of which are listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened, it will result in the collection of important data on their life histories in these streams. NOAA Fisheries has issued Endangered Species Act Section 10 permit #1011, modification #2 to ODFW for the overall project. In addition, Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation on this work is in process with NOAA Fisheries under a Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan submitted to them on November 21, 2002. Bull trout are covered under Section 10 permit number TE844468-4, issued by USFWS.

No ground disturbance or additional instream work would occur for this new work. All work will take place using existing facilities. Therefore, no cultural resources, hazardous or toxic wastes, or instream work permits are involved.

This project is a joint undertaking involving a partnership among the CTUIR, ODFW, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, Nez Perce Tribe, and BPA. All of these agencies participate in the planning and management of the program and support the expansion of data collection for summer chinook.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as the Grande Ronde Basin Endemic Spring Chinook Salmon Supplementation Program EA (DOE/EA-1173) and Finding of No Significant Impact. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Grande Ronde Supplementation 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 Grande Ronde Supplementation Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Nancy Weintraub 12-18-03

Nancy H. Weintraub

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 12-18-03

1 Attachment:

Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan

cc: (w/o attachment)

Mr. Stephen Boe

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