

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 31, 2006

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-07 (AMENDED))

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

Proposed Action: Continuation of the Grande Ronde Captive Broodstock Artificial Propagation O&M and M&E

Project NO's/Contract NO's: 1998-007-02/CR 79932 & CR 79933 and 1998-010-06/CR 79940

Location: Union and Wallowa counties, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Nez Perce Tribe (NPT)

Description of the Proposed Action: The NPT proposes to continue operations, maintenance, monitoring, and evaluation of the Grande Ronde Captive Broodstock Artificial Propagation Project on the upper Grande Ronde River, Catherine Creek, and Lostine River. The goal of this project is to prevent the extinction and continue the recovery of spring Chinook salmon stocks in the Grande Ronde River Basin of northeastern Oregon.

Analysis: The Grande Ronde Basin Supplementation Program has been in operation since 1995. The program was analyzed for environmental effects within the Grande Ronde Basin Endemic Spring Chinook Salmon Supplementation Program EA (DOE/EA-1173 completed April 3, 1998 with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) dated April 9, 1998). The EA covered the installation of the collection and rearing facilities, operation and maintenance, and research monitoring and evaluation of the entire supplementation program.

The program is covered by ESA Section 10 permits 1011 and 1149 issued by NOAA Fisheries and permit TE844468-4 issued by USFWS. 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 on November 21, 2002. The proposed action was reviewed relative to impacts on critical habitat for bull trout (W:\KEC\SAs - EQ-14\Grande Ronde NE Oregon Hatchery/Memo – Grande Ronde Basin Spr Chin Pgm 2004.doc), and no adverse effects are expected.

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

This project is part of a joint programmatic undertaking involving a partnership among the ODFW, CTUIR, USFWS-LSRCP, NOAA Fisheries, Nez Perce Tribe, and BPA. All of these agencies participate in the planning and management of the program and support the recovery of the spring chinook.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power and Conservation 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/ Mickey A. Carter

Mickey A. Carter

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ James M. Kehoe for

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: October 30, 2006

cc:

Mr. Jay Hesse, NPT Fisheries, P. O. Box 365, Lapwai, ID 83540

Mr. Rick Zollman, NPT Fisheries, 612 SW 2nd Ave., Enterprise, OR 97828

Mr. James Harbeck, NPT Fisheries, 612 SW 2nd Ave., Enterprise, OR 97828