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File Code: 2350-4

Date: November 15, 2004

Mr. Gregory Delwiche  
Acting Vice-President for Environment, Fish, Wildlife  
Bonneville Power Administration  
PO Box 3621  
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Dear Mr. Delwiche:

Enclosed is my final determination under Section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) for the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Project, based on the *Final Environmental Impact Statement Prepared for the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Project Grande Ronde Spring Chinook Project* (NEOH FEIS), July 2004.

I have evaluated proposed project facilities in the Imnaha Wild and Scenic River (WSR) corridor as to whether their construction and/or operation would result in "direct and adverse effects" on the river's free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values, as directed by the language of Section 7(a) of the WSRA. I considered the effects of proposed project facilities below the Lostine WSR and on Lookingglass Creek (tributary to Grande Ronde WSR) as to their effects within the designated river corridors and specific to scenery, recreation, fish, or wildlife values, also as directed by language in Section 7(a) of the WSRA.

I find no direct and adverse effects to the Imnaha WSR from any part of the project within the designated river corridor. I also find the project as proposed does not invade the Lostine or Grand Ronde WSR or unreasonably diminish their scenery, recreation fish, or wildlife values.

I appreciate your willingness to avoid direct and adverse impacts to the Imnaha Wild and Scenic River from the Imnaha Final Rearing Facility, proposed in the NEOH DEIS, but not included in the project in the NEOH FEIS. As summarized in my determination and discussed in detail in the enclosed *Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Section 7(a) Report, NEOH FEIS*, I look forward to working with BPA, other federal and state agencies, and the Nez Perce Tribe during project construction and operations to ensure that both hatchery and habitat management objectives are met.



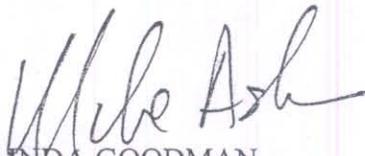
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Following the NEOH FEIS record of decision, the Forest Supervisor of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will make a separate decision on whether to issue a special use permit for the Imnaha Satellite Facility modifications, which are located on National Forest System lands.

Sincerely,



LINDA GOODMAN  
Regional Forester



cc: David Heller, Jeff Uebel, Susan Sater, Dee Hines

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**Wild and Scenic Rivers Act  
Final Section 7(a) Report**

*Final Environmental Impact Statement  
Prepared for the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Program  
Grande Ronde-Imnaha Spring Chinook Project*

November 15, 2004

This Section 7(a) report provides the basis for evaluation of the Northeast Oregon Hatchery project proposals within the Imnaha Wild and Scenic River (WSR) corridor under the “direct and adverse effects” standard and, for the portions of the project located proximate to the Lostine and Grande Ronde WSRs, under the “invade the area or unreasonably diminish” standard. It is presented in three parts:

- Fisheries Evaluation for both the Imnaha and Lostine WSR
- Projects Within the Imnaha WSR Corridor
- Projects Below the Lostine WSR

The report is based on the description of the effects in the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement Prepared for the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Program Grande Ronde-Imnaha Spring Chinook Project* (NEOH DEIS), the *Final Environmental Impact Statement Prepared for the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Program Grande Ronde-Imnaha Spring Chinook Project* (NEOH FEIS), and Forest Service staff knowledge.

This report updates the report prepared for the preliminary Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) Section 7(a) Determination (August 26, 2003) and the majority of the discussion relies on evaluation in the NEOH FEIS. Additional evaluation is provided by Forest Service specialists, based on local knowledge and other sources of information as parenthetically referenced.

The Imnaha Final Rearing Facility within the Imnaha WSR is dropped from the proposal in the NEOH FEIS, so that part of the project is not addressed in this update to the WSR Section 7(a) Report.

Project effects above the Grande Ronde WSR are addressed in the preliminary WSR Section 7(a) Report. There is nothing in the NEOH FEIS that requires update to the preliminary WSR Section 7(a) Report for the Grande Ronde WSR.

## Fisheries Evaluation under the "Direct and Adverse Effects" Standard for the Imnaha WSR and Under the "Invade ... or Unreasonably Diminish Standard" for the Lostine WSR

The preliminary WSR Section 7(a) Report (based on the NEOH DEIS), identified the following information needs on effects on the fish populations of the Imnaha and Lostine WSR:

- Show in supplementation operating plans how the recommendations of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council Independent Science Advisory Board (June 2003) have been utilized, and how the findings of the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP 2001-12C) have been addressed, especially regarding protecting and restoring natural production.
- Display how natural production is being monitored and enhanced, how the supplementation program will be evaluated, and identify the triggers for modifying operations to promote natural production.
- Include measures taken to match hatchery release numbers to cycles of high and low natural production, and
- Identify the measures taken to maintain and recover independent populations identified by the Interior Columbia Technical Recovery Team

The following is an evaluation of new information provided in the NEOH FEIS, related to these questions.

*Supplementation and M&E plan:* The initial concerns expressed by the ISRP (Independent Scientific Review Panel) regarding the experimental design of the supplementation program, and detail and focus of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the NEOH Hatchery Project have been resolved. The ISRP approved the M&E Plan for the project in its review dated May 18, 2004, complimenting the project managers on their approach. The Forest Service supports the findings of the ISRP. The improved M&E Plan should provide a good basis for determining status and trend of natural production of fish in these Wild and Scenic Rivers, in turn facilitating adaptive management for protection and recovery of these at-risk fish populations.

*Matching hatchery releases to natural cycles:* In the FEIS "response to comments", project managers note that NOAA Fisheries has determined that the direct take of listed fish for hatchery brood-stock and the release of their progeny are beneficial to these populations. NOAA Fisheries has oversight of the production and release of hatchery fish into these rivers through its permit process; therefore it is assumed that the number and location of hatchery fish (surplus adults, pre-smolts and smolts) liberated has been thoroughly evaluated and approved by the regulatory agency.

Project managers additionally noted that they have developed a sliding scale for incorporating wild and hatchery fish as brood-stock from across the entire returning run, based on the total number of returning adults. This methodology is designed to respond to what are viewed as the primary concerns for population survival- demographic and genetic.

*Maintenance of Independent Populations:* No information was found in the NEOH FEIS on how the independent stocks of spring Chinook recently identified by the TRT will be maintained or recovered. As noted above, NOAA Fisheries is lead in evaluating and regulating hatchery practices for protection of listed fish stocks, and therefore is responsible for coordinating protection of the independent populations in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha River systems. It is assumed that hatchery procedures relating to maintenance and recovery of independent populations are (or will be) dealt with in permits issued by NOAA Fisheries to project managers.

**Projects Within the Imnaha WSR  
Satellite Facility**

**Evaluation under the "Direct and Adverse Effects" Standard  
Free-flowing Condition  
Water Quality  
Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

**Imnaha Satellite Facility**

Refer to the preliminary WSR Section 7(a) Report for the NEOH DEIS (August 26, 2003) for detailed information regarding the Imnaha WSR outstandingly remarkable values (ORV) and management goals for the ORV.

The following discussion is focused on those components of the Imnaha Satellite Facility that affect the river's free-flowing condition and are therefore water resources projects subject to Section 7(a). Project proposals are evaluated as to their effect on the river's free-flowing condition, water quality and outstandingly remarkable values. A detailed project description was provided in the introduction of the August 26, 2003 Preliminary Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Section 7 (a) Determination and changes proposed in the NEOH FEIS are summarized in the Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Section 7 (a) Determination.

The following analysis is specific to new effects disclosed in the NEOH FEIS.

Components of the Imnaha Satellite Facility proposal that are or appear to be within the ordinary high water mark of the river and which were not addressed in the August 26, 2003 WSR Report (NEOH FEIS pages 1-16 to 1-18) include:

- Replacing the existing picket weir with a hydraulically operated weir.
- Enlarging the trapping and holding area.
- Maintaining the existing fish ladder with a new auxiliary water supply pipeline and diffuser constructed to the existing fish ladder to increase attraction flows.
- Constructing a rock sluice rather than the settling basin as proposed in the NEOH DEIS for trapping sand and silt before water flows into the acclimation ponds.
- Developing an on-site well to replace the existing domestic water supply for domestic use and for use in the adult holding spray system.
- Shifting the septic drain field to replace the drain field area displaced by construction (no change overall in the size or function of the drain field).

**Description of Effects to Within-Channel Conditions**

*New weir:*

The NEOH FEIS changes the type of weir from a Chiwawa weir to a hydraulically operated design (NEOH FEIS page 2-15). This change will not alter any of the analysis or effects already included in the preliminary WSR Section 7(a) Report.

*New fish ladder:*

Concerns identified in the preliminary WSR Section 7(a) Report regarding the additional fish ladder have been eliminated. The new fish ladder alongside the existing ladder is no longer needed; spawning is no longer proposed at this facility (NEOH FEIS page 1-16).

## Effects to Existing Hydrologic or Biologic Processes Due to Changes in On-Site Conditions

Addition of an auxiliary water supply pipeline for flow augmentation is proposed for installation near the existing fish ladder (NEOH FEIS 2-18). There is not an adequate description of this new pipeline to completely determine potential effects; however the coordination during project implementation can be used to ensure effects to on-site conditions are acceptable.

There appears to be an overall water withdrawal decrease in the NEOH FEIS (page 2-18) compared to the NEOH DEIS. No more than 9.6 cfs would be diverted for juvenile acclimation and release, about 20.3 cfs more would be diverted for adult collection, holding and spawning, and no more than about 6 cfs would be diverted for adult bypass. The overall reduction in water withdrawal will provide more habitat in the river. While this will address the effects to adult Chinook no assessment on the potential impact on movement of bull trout is given. It will be necessary to coordinate during project operation to ensure that both hatchery and habitat management objectives are met.

There is a change from sandbags proposed in the NEOH DEIS to a coffer dam in the proposed in the NEOH FEIS (page 2-18). This change will not alter the analysis already included in the preliminary WSRA Section 7(a) Report.

### Fisheries

See also introductory remarks to this report in the section titled, "Fisheries Evaluation under the "Direct and Adverse Effects" Standard for the Imnaha WSR and Under the "Invade or Unreasonably Diminish Standard" for the Lostine WSR".

*Facility Operation*—Design of the weir replacement proposed in the NEOH FEIS would accommodate migrating fish, passing them efficiently and safely (FEIS section 2.3). The final design would be coordinated with NOAA Fisheries and US Fish and Wildlife Service using published criteria, which addresses the concern from the preliminary WSR Section 7(a) Report.

The new ladder is no longer proposed for construction at this facility in the NEOH FEIS, eliminating related concerns in the preliminary WSR Section 7(a) Report. The impacts to juvenile salmonids identified in the preliminary WSR Section 7(a) Report will be minimized through the maintenance of 9 inches of water depth.

### *Description of Project Effects to Fish Habitat*

Concern regarding "swamping" of natural production, identified in the preliminary WSR Section 7(a) Report, have been addressed. The Imnaha River fisheries co-managers have provided a contingency by "scaling" broodstock collection from across the adult run to avoid swamping the natural production (see response to comments NEOH FEIS page 3-37)

**Projects Below the Lostine WSR**  
Hatchery  
Adult Collection Facility

**Evaluation under the “Invade ... or Unreasonably Diminish Standard”**  
Invade the Designated River Area  
Unreasonably Diminish its Scenery, Recreation, Fish or Wildlife Values

**Lostine Hatchery and Adult Collection Facilities**

The following discussion is focused on the potential effects of the Lostine Hatchery and Adult Collection facilities to invade the Lostine WSR or diminish its scenery, recreation, fish or wildlife values. This standard applies to a project proposal below, above or on a stream tributary to a designated WSR. The lower terminus of the Lostine WSR is about one mile upstream of the hatchery and about five miles above the Adult Collection Facility. The following addresses only new information from the NEOH FEIS.

**Diminish Fish Value of Lostine WSR**

See also introductory remarks to this report in the section titled, “Fisheries Evaluation under the “Direct and Adverse Effects” Standard for the Imnaha WSR and Under the “Invade or Unreasonably Diminish Standard” for the Lostine WSR”.

Fish Populations and Trend

*Description of Project Effects from Facility Operation*—The preliminary WSR Section 7(a) Report identified a need for additional information on how water quality standards would be achieved, given creation of chemical and effluent waste due to operation of the facility. The NEOH FEIS states that water quality monitoring will be undertaken as specified by the NPDES permits. However there is no mention of monitoring for disease that may be passed from the facility effluent to the naturally reproducing fish (NEOH FEIS page 1-30). Close cooperation during project operation will be necessary to ensure that both hatchery and habitat objectives are met.

Concerns regarding dewatering of Chinook and/or bull trout redds in the preliminary WSR Section 7(a) Report have been addressed in the NEOH FEIS. Monitoring of instream flows and potentially pumping back hatchery water will be under taken to maintain a minimum of 12 cfs or 50% of the total flow whichever is greater (NEOH FEIS page 1-30)

Effects to Fish Populations from Lostine Adult Collection Facility

*Description of Project Effects from Facility Operation*—The preliminary WSR Section 7(a) Report identified the need for more information regarding effects to migrating non-target Chinook and bull trout. The NEOH FEIS states that spring chinook not selected for broodstock and all non-target fish would be allowed to pass above the weir (NEOH FEIS Response to Comments page 3-40).

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Zollman R. Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries Biologist, Enterprise, Oregon. 8/06/2003. Personal communication.

# **Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Final Section 7(a) Determination**

*Based on the Final Environmental Impact Statement  
Prepared for the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Program  
Grande Ronde-Imnaha Spring Chinook Project*

**Prepared by:**

**USDA Forest Service  
Pacific Northwest Region**

November 15, 2004

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act  
Final Section 7(a) Determination  
*Final Environmental Impact Statement*  
*Prepared for the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Program*  
*Grande Ronde-Imnaha Spring Chinook Project*

**Purpose**

This determination assesses the potential for the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Northeast Oregon Hatchery Project to result in direct and adverse effects to the values of the Imnaha Wild and Scenic River (WSR) for the portions of the project located within the WSR corridor. For the portions of the project located outside WSR corridors, downstream of the Lostine WSR and upstream of the Grande Ronde WSR (on Lookingglass Creek), this determination assesses the potential for the projects to invade the designated river areas or unreasonably diminish their scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values present in October 1988, the date of their addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System). This determination is based on the *Final Environmental Impact Statement Prepared for the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Program Grande Ronde-Imnaha Spring Chinook Project* July 2004 (NEOH FEIS).

A preliminary Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) Section 7(a) Determination and a separate WSRA Section 7(a) Report were submitted on August 26, 2003 in response to the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement Prepared for the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Program Grande Ronde-Imnaha Spring Chinook Project* May 2003 (NEOH DEIS). This final WSRA Section 7(a) Determination draws from information in the preliminary WSRA determination and report.

**Introduction**

***Environmental Analysis***

The NEOH FEIS evaluates a proposal to update and modify two existing hatcheries and construct two new hatchery facilities: Imnaha Satellite (modifications), Lostine Hatchery (new) and Adult Collection Facility (new), Lookingglass Hatchery (modifications). One new facility, the Imnaha Final Rearing Facility that was proposed in the NEOH DEIS was dropped from the NEOH FEIS.

***Projects Within the Imnaha WSR Corridor***

The Imnaha Satellite facilities will be evaluated to determine if they have a "direct and adverse effect on the values" for which the river was designated. Specifically, modification and reconstruction proposals will be evaluated as to their effect on the river's free-flowing condition, water quality and outstandingly remarkable values.

*Imnaha Final Rearing Facility*—Dropped from the NEOH FEIS, except for removal of the existing Acrow Panel Bridge (NEOH FEIS pages 1-15 and 1-16). The NEOH FEIS proposes to remove the existing bridge and to rehabilitate areas disturbed by bridge removal.

*Imnaha Satellite Facility*— Refer to the August 26, 2003 Preliminary WSRA Section 7(a) Determination and WSRA Report for a description of the existing Imnaha Satellite facilities and for effects addressed in response to the NEOH DEIS.

The NEOH FEIS proposes modifications to the existing facility to allow for more efficient collection of broodstock over a greater range of flows, and to allow for improved short-term adult holding prior to transfer to the Lostine River Hatchery for spawning. Improvements to the existing juvenile acclimation pond are also proposed to allow for final rearing at preferred densities prior to release.

The proposal would involve the following changes that were not addressed in response to the NEOH DEIS (NEOH FEIS pages 1-16 to 1-18):

- Replacing the existing picket weir with a hydraulically operated weir.
- Enlarging the trapping and holding area.
- Maintaining the existing fish ladder with a new auxiliary water supply pipeline and diffuser constructed to the existing fish ladder to increase attraction flows.
- Constructing a rock sluice rather than the settling basin as proposed in the NEOH DEIS for trapping sand and silt before water flows into the acclimation ponds.
- Developing an on-site well to replace the existing domestic water supply for domestic use and for use in the adult holding spray system.
- Shifting the septic drain field to replace the drain field area displaced by construction (no change overall in the size or function of the drain field).

An additional 11.3 cfs (for a total of 20.3 cfs) would be diverted from the Imnaha River for acclimation of smolts and adult holding and collection during peak usage periods (surface water diversions are reduced from the NEOH DEIS quantities of 13 cfs additional and 26 cfs total). Up to 100 gallons per minute would be pumped from a new well for domestic use and for adult holding spray systems.

Construction would be scheduled to avoid disrupting existing hatchery operations when feasible. However, during installation of the hydraulically operated weir, and the addition of the auxiliary pipe and diffuser box at the fish ladder entrance, migrating fish would be temporarily trapped below the site for broodstock collection and for release above the site. All in-water construction activities would take place during ODFW-approved work window for the Imnaha River (July 15-August 15).

#### ***Projects Below the Lostine WSR***

The Lostine River Hatchery and Adult Collection facilities will be evaluated to determine whether they invade the Lostine WSR area or unreasonably diminish its scenic, recreational, fish, or wildlife values present as of the date of its addition to the National System.

*Lostine River Hatchery*— Refer to the August 26, 2003 Preliminary WSRA Section 7(a) Determination and WSRA Report for a description of the existing Lostine River Hatchery facilities and for effects addressed in response to the NEOH DEIS.

The NEOH FEIS proposes to design the Lostine River Hatchery to hold the Imnaha River broodstock for spawning and egg incubation to the eyed stage. The Lostine River Hatchery would also hold half of the Imnaha River spring/summer Chinook program from incubation to final rearing. The remainder would be reared at Lookingglass Hatchery (where Imnaha stock is currently reared). (NEOH FEIS page 1-10)

The proposal would involve the following changes that were not addressed in response to the NEOH DEIS (NEOH FEIS pages 1-10 to 1-14):

- Building a 12-foot wide gravel access road and parking area for permanent access to the intake and temporary construction staging.
- Building a spawning room, including 6 adult holding ponds and isolation tanks for Lostine and Imnaha stocks.
- Constructing 10 smolt rearing raceways (two banks of five raceways) for holding Lostine and Imnaha stocks.
- Installing a pump station and 18-inch pipeline to return hatchery water back upstream to the base of the fish ladder near the intake. This water, primarily river water with some groundwater, would restore flows in the Lostine River and help attract fish to the ladder, for moving upstream and downstream.
- Constructing a concrete outfall downstream of the hatchery. Water from the hatchery's rearing raceways and cleaning basin would be conveyed through a 24-inch pipe and released into the river through the partially submerged outfall. Smolts would also be released through the pipe and outfall. The outfall's small valve opening and removal bar grate would prevent adult fish from entering the pipe.

In September, when spring/summer Chinook spawning occurs, the average flow is 50.2 cfs, and recommended withdrawals of 17.8 cfs would result in 32.4 cfs through the bypass reach. Hatchery water withdrawals would be managed to maintain adequate stream depth and instream flows for fish habitat and passage. During low periods, a pump back system would ensure a minimum of 12 cfs or 50 percent of the total flow through the bypass reach, whichever is greater. Three new groundwater wells would provide up to 1,350 gallons per minute to the facility. The available groundwater from project wells has been updated from the 1,200 gallons per minute in the NEOH DEIS.

Undeveloped land upland of the current facilities would be cleared. The site would be graded and filled with 5,000 to 6,000 cubic yards of rock (10,000 in the NEOH DEIS) from a nearby quarry to level the site and provide flood protection. Site clearing and work on the main buildings would be undertaken in the first season and construction of raceways, incubation and spawning building, water cleaning basin, and related structures and piping would occur during the second season.

The eastern portion of the weir, including bank abutments, would also be constructed during the first year's instream work window. The second instream work window would be used to install the remaining portion of the pneumatically-controlled weir, the surface water pipeline at the intake, and the downstream hatchery outfall. Upstream and

downstream fish passage would be maintained during instream work, as coffer dams would isolate the construction area on respective banks, allowing free flow on the other side of the river. Less than ½ acre of instream work would be involved.

*Lostine Adult Collection Facility* — Refer to the August 26, 2003 Preliminary WSRA Section 7(a) Determination and WSRA Report for a description of the existing Lostine Adult Collection Facilities and for effects addressed in response to the NEOH DEIS.

Since the NEOH DEIS, the design proposed for the Lostine Adult Collection Facility has evolved to improve compatibility with the existing irrigation diversion by shifting the location of the release channel and fish ladder exit downstream 60 feet.

The proposal would involve the following changes that were not addressed in response to the NEOH DEIS (NEOH FEIS pages 1-8 to 1-10):

- Decommissioning the existing, deteriorating concrete fish ladder. The most upstream and most downstream sills would be entirely removed; the other sills would be partially removed to the extent needed and allowed to fill with stream gravels.
- Constructing a new concrete fish ladder and installing a modern, fish-friendly weir structure (hydrologic velocity barrier) for adult fish passage and Chinook broodstock collection.
- Protecting the river's west bank from damage during high flow conditions by constructing a soil and rock levee, about 3- to 5-feet high and extending about 360 feet upstream of the exit of the fish ladder. Existing vegetation would be removed for levee construction. The levee was lengthened an additional 60 feet downstream to correspond with shifting the release channel and fish ladder exit.
- Replacing the log bridge with a steel panel bridge (removed from the Imnaha River Acrow Panel Bridge site) and placing the bridge abutments outside the ordinary high water level.

***Project above the Grande Ronde WSR***

The Lookingglass Hatchery will be evaluated to determine whether it invades the Grande Ronde WSR area or unreasonably diminishes its scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values present as of the date of its addition to the National System.

*Lookingglass Hatchery* — Refer to the August 26, 2003 Preliminary WSRA Section 7(a) Determination and WSRA Report for a description of the existing Lookingglass Hatchery facilities and for effects addressed in response to the NEOH DEIS.

The six-bay garage, additional raceways (and associated excavation), and powerline upgrade proposed in the NEOH DEIS are eliminated in the NEOH FEIS (NEOH FEIS page 1-5).

The proposal would involve the following changes that were not addressed in response to the NEOH DEIS (NEOH FEIS pages 1-5 to 1-7):

- Modifying the hatchery building (adding incubation trays to improve fish health, segregation, and monitoring and evaluation requirements of the hatchery fish production).
- Modifying the hatchery building (increasing the size of the rearing troughs to reduce rearing densities).
- Installing bird netting to reduce predation on fish in raceways.
- Adding a new standby generator at the intake building.

*Wild and Scenic River Descriptions*

Refer to the August 26, 2003 Preliminary WSRA Section 7(a) Determination and WSRA Report for a description of the Imnaha, Lostine, and Grande Ronde WSR and their outstandingly remarkable values (ORV).

### Section 7(a) Requirements

Section 7(a) of the WSRA provides specific review standards for a water resources project proposed within a designated river and for such facilities when located below, above or on a stream tributary to a designated river.

*Projects Within WSR Boundaries*—The Imnaha Satellite facilities are located within the designated river corridor and will be evaluated to determine if there is a “direct and adverse effect on the values” for which the river was designated. Specifically, modification and reconstruction proposals will be evaluated as to effect on the river’s free-flowing condition, water quality, and ORVs. Application of this evaluation standard requires consideration of effects of the proposal on within-channel, riparian and floodplain, and upland conditions, hydrologic and biologic processes, and effects to the ORVs.

*Projects Outside WSR Boundaries*—For the proposed projects that are outside WSR corridors (Lostine Hatchery and Lostine Adult Collection Facilities, and the Lookingglass Hatchery), the evaluation standard is whether they “invade the area or unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreational, fish, or wildlife values present in the designated river as of the date of their addition to the National WSR System”. The initial question to be addressed is whether the proposed project invades the designated river areas. The term invade is defined as encroachment or intrusion upon.

If the proposed project does not invade the designated river, the next question to be answered, relative to the standard in Section 7(a), is whether or not the proposed project will “unreasonably diminish” the scenic, recreational, fish, or wildlife of the Lostine and Grande Ronde WSRs. Given that the standard implies that some diminution of values may be determined reasonable, there are two questions to consider:

1. Does the proposed project cause diminution of the scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values of the designated river as present at the date of designation?
2. If there is diminution, is it unreasonable? This would suggest an evaluation of the magnitude of the loss. Factors to be considered include:
  - (a) Whether the value contributed to the designation of the river (i.e., outstandingly remarkable); and,
  - (b) The current condition and trends of the resource. (If diminution is determined unreasonable, measures may be recommended to reduce adverse effects to within acceptable levels.)

### Rationale for Determination

The basis for this final Section 7(a) determination is Forest Service staff knowledge, additional information as described in the NEOH DEIS and NEOH FEIS, the August 26, 2003 Preliminary WSRA Section 7(a) Determination and the accompanying WSRA Section 7(a) Report, and the Final WSRA Section 7(a) Report, prepared for this final determination.

**Determination**

Although not a condition of my determination, there is a need for closer coordination during project implementation, and, more broadly, closer coordination of the hatchery program with the Forest Service habitat management program. A number of information needs are identified in the Final WSR Section 7(a) Report that could improve understanding, and help promote refinement of the Forest Service habitat program to complement population management activities.

**Determination for Projects within the Imnaha WSR--under the "Direct and Adverse Effects" Standard**

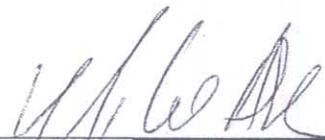
***Free-Flowing Condition***—I have considered the effects of the Imnaha Satellite Facility on the river's free-flowing condition. I find the modifications to this existing facility, with improved coordination during project implementation as noted in the Final WSR Section 7(a) Report that accompanies my determination, do not have a direct and adverse effect on the river's free-flowing condition.

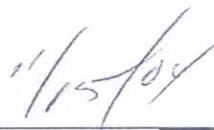
***Fisheries, Scenery, Recreation, Wildlife, Vegetation/Botany, History/Prehistory, Traditional Use/Lifestyle Adaptation***—I find the proposed Imnaha Satellite facilities will not have direct and adverse effects to the river's fisheries, scenery, recreation, wildlife, vegetation/botany, history/prehistory, and traditional use/lifestyle adaptation.

**Lostine and Grande Ronde WSR Determination under the "Invade the Area or Unreasonably Diminish" Standard—Lostine Hatchery and Adult Rearing Facility**

***Invade***—The proposed action does not propose construction of any project works within the corridor of the Lostine or Grande Ronde WSR; therefore, the project will not invade the area of the WSRs.

***Scenery, Recreation, Fish and Wildlife***—I find the proposed actions do not unreasonably diminish the scenery recreation, fish, or wildlife values of the Lostine or Grande Ronde WSR.

  
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LINDA GOODMAN, Regional Forester  
Pacific Northwest Region  
USDA Forest Service

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date