

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: May 19, 2011

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Hood River Fisheries Project EIS (DOE/EIS-0241/SA-03)

to: Richard Golden – KEW

**Proposed Action:** Fisheries Improvement Projects, Hood River Production Program (HRPP, 1988-053-15), Hood River County, Oregon.

**Location:** Moving Falls site on the West Fork Hood River, East Fork Hood River site near Dee Mill, and Neal Creek site near RM 0.25.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation (CTWS), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** With the decommissioning and removal of the Powerdale Dam and fish ladder/trap in 2010, the Hood River Production Project (HRPP), a partnership between the ODFW and CTWS, is left without effective means for trapping anadromous fish in the Hood River system for monitoring, evaluating and researching populations; segregating natural-origin and hatchery-origin fish; and collecting broodstock (chinook and steelhead) for the Parkdale Fish Hatchery. The Hood River Fishery Program EIS (DOE/EIS 0241, 1996) included fish trapping considerations, as does the Revised Master Plan for the Hood River Production Program (DOE/BP-P106494, April 2008) and the recently updated Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMP) for chinook and steelhead (Revised Master Plan appendices I and J, respectively). These documents also analyze acclimation site construction and effects of release of hatchery-origin fish. These documents are incorporated by reference into this Supplement Analysis.

The HRPP partners propose to continue the program of anadromous adult fish trapping in the Hood River basin at three new locations to make up for the loss of the Powerdale Dam ladder/trap: the Moving Falls site on the West Fork Hood River; the East Fork Hood River site near Dee Mill; and a site about 0.25 miles up Neal Creek, a major tributary to the lower mainstem Hood River. The dynamic nature of the Hood River system makes all other locations on the mainstem Hood River infeasible, so weirs and traps on each of the two major forks and Neal Creek are needed to catch migrating adult anadromous fish for continuing to meet the objectives of the HRPP.

**The Moving Falls site** is so named because after a flood about 25-30 years ago, the West Fork Hood River channel developed a serious, deep headcut that continued to erode upstream. The moving headcut 'falls' was a major fish passage barrier, so ODFW eliminated it by constructing a series of concrete sills/weirs spanning the river channel to act as a grade control structure and fishway. The grade control structures and fishway have deteriorated over time, and are in need of stabilization and repair to maintain fish passage and reduce sedimentation in the channel. The

CTWS and ODFW propose that BPA help fund the re-development of the grade control structures/weirs/fishway which would include a fish ladder and trap to collect upper West Fork-bound anadromous fish. The adjacent flat land at this site, which has been previously graded and cleared, has already been acquired by lease from Longview Fibre, Inc., to access and manage the ladder and trap and to install an above-ground, juvenile fish acclimation and release tank complete with instream gravity flow, water intake (concrete) and outfall pipe.

**The East Fork site** was evaluated in the Revised Master Plan (DOE/BP 2008) and found to be the most feasible site for a temporary fish weir and trap on this other major fork of the Hood River. Although not evaluated in the Revised Master Plan, **the Neal Creek site** is proposed for a temporary fish weir and trap on this major tributary to the lower mainstem Hood River below the East Fork and West Fork confluence. Because of the dynamic nature of the Hood River system, the East Fork and Neal Creek sites are considered experimental. Only minimal components and site preparation are proposed at these sites; the designs are completely temporary and adaptive management will be used to adjust the weirs (if necessary) to improve operational and capture efficiency to meet HRPP objectives. Work at both of these sites has already been permitted (Hood River County floodplain, Oregon DSL fill/removal, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act section 401 and 404). And, the HRPP has been operating under ODFW's annual Endangered Species Act (ESA) section 10 research take permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the ESA section 4(d) rule and the HGMPs to satisfy the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Existing access roads would be used at each site for installation and long-term operations and maintenance; no new roads would be constructed. Road maintenance may be required periodically over the life of the facilities.

### **Analysis of the Proposed Action:**

The purpose of this Supplement Analysis (SA) is to determine if the proposed action is a substantial change from what was proposed and analyzed in the Hood River Fishery Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0241, June 1996) and adopted in its corresponding Record of Decision (ROD) (October 1996). Also, this SA must determine whether there are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns since the HRPP EIS was completed.

Capturing and handling of returning adult anadromous fish; spawning, incubating, acclimating and releasing juvenile hatchery fish; monitoring and evaluating fish and fish populations; and installing facilities to do these activities were all analyzed in the Hood River Fishery Program EIS and past ESA consultations, so no further NEPA analysis is needed on those undertakings. They will continue to occur and have effects not substantially different from those considered previously. The only difference between what was analyzed in the EIS and the proposed action pertains to changes in locations of adult fish trapping and temporary juvenile fish acclimation activities, and the quantity of adult fish trapped. The three new weirs/traps would not be as efficient as the old Powerdale fish facility, which allowed practically all anadromous fish entering the Hood River system to be trapped, handled and assessed. So, with the three new weirs, it is expected that fewer fish overall would be subjected to any harm associated with

trapping, handling and assessment activities while still meeting the operational objectives of the HRPP.

Site-specific analysis for ESA and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) considerations, and sensing of public and adjacent landowner reactions were undertaken for installation activities proposed at all three sites.

All sites were surveyed in 2009 for cultural resources and none were found. The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office concurred via a letter of July 27, 2009 with BPA's finding of "no effect" to cultural resources pursuant to NHPA Section 106.

A biological assessment on all of the proposed actions at the East Fork, Middle Fork and Moving Falls sites was first submitted by BPA to the USFWS and NMFS for ESA Section 7 consultation in January 2010. USFWS returned a Biological Opinion to BPA on the effects of the Moving Falls acclimation site in September 21, 2009, and for all other elements of the proposed action in June 2010. Because the Moving Falls fish passage project was modified later, the USFWS issued another Biological Opinion for that action on May 10, 2011. NMFS returned individual informal consultations for the Middle Fork and East Fork projects (November 25, 2009), and the Moving Falls acclimation facility (July 22, 2010). BPA agreed with NMFS to use the Habitat Improvement Project programmatic Biological Opinion to cover the Moving Falls fish passage improvement and weir/trap project.

All of these ESA consultations applied non-discretionary terms and conditions to the project to support the USFWS' and NMFS' no jeopardy determinations and concurrence with BPA's determinations regarding effects to protected species and their designated critical habitats. Magnuson-Stevens Act consultation was concurrently undertaken with NMFS. No objections to the proposed action were lodged by either agency through any of these consultations.

HRPP operations (e.g., capture and handling of adult fish; research, monitoring and evaluation of all fish; and rearing and release of hatchery-origin juvenile anadromous fish, etc.) was re-evaluated in the revised spring Chinook salmon and winter steelhead HGMPs listed as revised appendices I and J respectively to the Revised Master Plan for the HRPP (2008). Those HGMPs are under agency evaluation at this time, but their predictions to effects on ESA-protected species (based on years of HRPP monitoring of actual effects) are not substantially different from past and current consultations. HRPP operations are also generally covered by the existing ESA section 10 Cooperative Agreement between the USFWS and Oregon and the ESA section 4(d) permits issued annually to ODFW by NMFS.

Interested and potentially affected public and adjacent landowners were continually sensed during development of the Revised Master Plan (2008) by BPA, ODFW, CTWS, and consultants hired to help plan, design, and permit the proposed action. No objections or evidence of substantially changed environmental conditions or public sentiments regarding the HRPP or the proposed action are apparent.

Since the instream and near-stream work in the proposed action are new undertakings, county, state and local permitting and regulatory authorities have been contacted, and all relevant

permits applications are already in hand or are in process (e.g., Clean Water Act 401 certification and 404 permits, Shoreline Development permits, Oregon DSL fill/removal permits, water rights for acclimation pond use, etc.). No objections or substantial concerns have been expressed to date by any regulatory entities or landowners regarding the proposed action or the HRPP in general.

No designated wetlands occur at any of the project sites. All new facilities would be in the Hood River floodplain (not a FEMA-designated floodplain), but by the nature of their function as fish production facilities, that is unavoidable. The total floodplain area permanently affected is less than ¼ acre combined at all sites. Very minor amounts of riparian vegetation would be affected as the sites are substantially devoid of vegetation due to the past and recurrent, extreme flood regime in the Hood River system.

The proposed action is expected to influence instream turbidity temporarily during weir installation at each site. However, since turbidity is naturally extremely high in the glacier-fed Hood River system most of the year, these new effects are not considered to have deleterious or even detectable effects to aquatic conditions beyond the existing background levels.

Even though the small scale activities in the proposed action would not generate enough greenhouse gases to significantly influence global climate change, there would be some immeasurable, incremental contribution from construction and long-term operations, primarily related to motor vehicle use. Using gravity feed water at the acclimation pond and manual systems in the fish traps and weirs would require no long-term fossil fuel combustion or byproducts, or threats of leaks of such substances into the ground or water.

The proposed action sites could be targets of vandalism from time to time. But, the consequences of any intentionally destructive acts would be limited to property damage, and perhaps a loss of some juvenile hatchery-origin fish (non-ESA listed stocks) in the acclimation pond.

The cumulative effects of artificial production programs in the Columbia River Basin are addressed in BPA's Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan EIS (FWIP EIS) (DOE/EIS-0312, BPA 2003) and ROD (BPA 2003). The goal of the FWIP EIS was to develop a contemporary, comprehensive and consistent policy to guide the implementation and funding of BPA's fish and wildlife obligations under existing statutes and policies. In the FWIP ROD, BPA adopted the Proposed Action 2002 alternative that characterized the policy direction BPA would take. This alternative focuses on enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, modifying hydroelectric power operations and structures, and reforming hatcheries to both increase populations of listed fish stocks and provide long-term harvest opportunities. The HRPP and the proposed action in this SA are consistent with the Preferred Alternative 2002 described in the FWIP EIS and ROD.

### **Findings:**

The proposed action is consistent with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, BPA's Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan EIS and ROD, and the Hood River Fishery Program EIS. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Hood River Fishery Program

EIS regarding environmental concerns or analysis; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances, issues or information relevant to environmental concerns since the Hood River Fishery Program EIS was completed. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.



Mickey Carter  
Environmental Compliance Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce  
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: May 20, 2011

References:

- Bonneville Power Administration. 1996. Hood River Fisheries Project EIS and ROD. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, OR (DOE/EIS-0241).
- Bonneville Power Administration. 2003. Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan EIS and ROD, Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, OR (DOE/EIS-0312).
- National Marine Fisheries Service. November 25, 2009. Letter on Moving Falls Acclimation Pond Informal ESA Section 7 and MSA Consultations
- National Marine Fisheries Service. June 10, 2010. Letter on Middle Fork Project Informal ESA Section 7 and MSA Consultation
- National Marine Fisheries Service. July 22, 2010. Letter on Moving Falls Acclimation Pond Informal ESA Section 7 and MSA Consultations Reinitiation
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. 2008. Revised Master Plan for the Hood River Production Program. (DOE/BP-P106494)
- Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, State Historic Preservation Office. July 27, 2009. Letter of concurrence with BPA's determination of No Effect to cultural resources under NHPA Section 106 (SHPO Case No. 09-1512)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. September 21, 2009. Letter of Concurrence for West Fork Hood River – Moving Falls Acclimation Pond Project.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. June 30, 2010. Biological Opinion for HRPP Fish Weir Traps, Fish Acclimation Facility Water Intake, Moving Falls Stabilization, and Middle Fork Falls Modification Projects.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. May 10, 2011. Biological Opinion for Moving Falls Fish Ladder Project.

cc:

Mr. Chris Brun, Hood River Program Coordinator, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, 6030 Dee Highway, Parkdale, OR 97041

Mr. Rod French, District Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 3701 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, The Dalles, OR 97058

bcc:

Y. Johnson – KEC-4

P. Key – LC-7

Official File - KEC (EQ-14)

*Mcarter:mac:5885:5/19/11*

*[http://internal.bpa.gov/efw/KEC/fandw/FWPROJ/FEIS-0241-SA-03\\_Hood\\_River\\_EIS\\_05152011.doc](http://internal.bpa.gov/efw/KEC/fandw/FWPROJ/FEIS-0241-SA-03_Hood_River_EIS_05152011.doc)*