

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: April 5, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-207)

TO: Sarah Branum
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager – KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Improvement of Anadromous Fish Habitat and Passage in Omak Creek - Culvert Replacement (2005 SOW Performance and Budget Period)

Project No: 2000-001-00

Watershed Management Program or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program Final EIS – DOE/EIS-0265): 1.12 Hardened Fords, 1.13 Culvert Replacement, 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement, 5.11 Hardened Fords for Livestock Crossing, 6.10 Access Fencing

Location: Omak Creek Watershed; Omak, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Colville Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and Natural Resource Conservation Service

Description of the Proposed Action: The work covered under this memo is for activities proposed in CTUIR's 2005 SOW that include a variety of activities in the watershed:

1. Identify selected projects,
2. Obtain permits and develop the biological assessments as needed and HPA
3. Produce reports,
4. Manage invoices,
5. Install 8-foot diameter by 30-foot long replacement culvert on E. Fork of Stapaloop Creek,
6. Install 3,170-foot long livestock exclusion fence and one cattleguard,
7. Remove animals and construct a ford,
8. Conduct redd surveys,
9. Conduct adult fish trapping,
10. Conduct volumetric measurements of fine sediment,
11. Conduct snorkel surveys,
12. Install PIT tag antennae, and
13. Conduct photo monitoring.

Analysis: For any work conducted in the Okanogan River system, the National Marine Fisheries Service (now NOAA Fisheries) issued CTUIR a direct permit 1412 on August 2, 2003, that authorizes take of upper Columbia River steelhead and UCR spring Chinook. I further discussed this with Dale Bambrick and Chris Peterson (both with NOAA Fisheries) and they each concurred that permit 1412 applies to the actions proposed in the SOW. The August 2003 permit lists a variety of conditions on program management, fish handling, monitoring, reporting, etc. that must be followed to comply with ESA.

For the proposed fence construction, the THPO issued a December 3, 2004, memorandum that stated a finding of no affect on historic properties. This determination was made subject to conditions of “inadvertent discoveries” and “post-review” discoveries. In short, if human remains, burials, sacred items, prehistoric artifacts, historic features, or other cultural objects are found during project implementation, all work shall cease within 200 feet of the find and necessary steps shall be taken to protect the find from further damage or disruption. The THPO’s requirements are further explained in the December 2004 letter which was addressed to Roy Schwilke of the CTUIR Range Department. In accordance with NHPA consultation, the THPO’s intentions were again reiterated for the fence in their March 22, 2005 letter to BPA. The March 22, 2005 letter also provided similar conditions for the proposed culvert replacement. All conditions must be followed. NHPA consultation concluded on March 22, 2005.

Standard water quality protection procedures and best management practices will be followed during implementation of the project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

The strategies identified herein were developed within a multidisciplinary team known as the Omak Creek Watershed Technical Advisory Group. The ideas have been shared with user groups, ranchers, and loggers to gain further input and support.

Findings: Except as noted above, BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, April 24, 1992). The Project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council’s Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA’s Watershed Management Program (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Watershed Management 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 Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required. Support documentation for this project is maintained in BPA’s environmental planning file.

/s/ Carl J Keller

Carl J. Keller

Fish and Wildlife Biologist – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ James Kehoe for

Kathy Pierce

Acting NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: April 6, 2005

cc:

Mr. Chris Fisher – Colville Confederated Tribes, P.O. Box 150, Nespelem, WA 99155