

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: July 05, 2006

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-264)

to: Jay Marcotte - KEWL-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Satus Creek Watershed Restoration Project - Lincoln Meadow Road Removal and Relocation (Yakama Reservation Watersheds Project - FY2006)

**Project No:** 1999-035-01

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See Appendix A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):**

7.18 Road Closure; and 7.21 Relocate Road.

**Location:** Lincoln Meadow, Yakama Nation Reservation, Yakima Sub basin, Washington State

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Yakama Nation (YN)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Yakama Nation Tribal biologists propose to conduct a road removal and relocation project in a montaine wetland known as Lincoln Meadow (attached map). Yakama Nation Fisheries, Yakama Reservation Watersheds Project (YRWP) will be contracting the removal and relocation of 800 feet of road. This project will include all of the following activities: road blading, shaping and compaction (.95 miles), road relocation (.38 miles), clearing, grubbing and disposal (3 acres), loading and hauling pit run rock (2,280 yards), loading and hauling crushed aggregate 1" minus gradus E (1,410 yards), install one culvert (18" diameter by 10 feet length), and install one armored stream crossing.

The purpose of the project is to remove a section of road that currently bisects Lincoln Meadow. A culvert is currently in place through the road in order to drain the upstream portion of the meadow. The road now acts as a levee bisecting the meadow, and the existing culvert sits too low to function effectively thus it has caused significant incision through the upper portion of the meadow. Removing the road and culvert should allow Project staff to reconnect the watercourse with the meadow surface, and provide opportunity to add grade control features to the watercourse.

Relocation of the road will be accomplished by improving an already existing spur road. This road has a much more environmentally acceptable alignment and location, being on significantly higher ground, and is located outside of Lincoln Meadow. The new road will require one armored crossing, and one culvert. Both of these structures will be installed utilizing best management practices and engineering forethought to avoid problems similar to those currently being experienced in Lincoln Meadow.

**Analysis:** Brandon Rogers, Yakama Nation Fisheries Biologist II, completed the NEPA compliance checklist for this watershed management project (attached signed on 07/05/2006). The Project meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA obtained a list of federally endangered, threatened, and proposed species with the potential to occur in the project area from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) website on 30 June 2006 (attached dated 07/01/2005). It states that bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus marmoratus*), northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos = U.a. horribilis*), and Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) may occur within the project area. Critical habitat for the northern spotted owl and bull trout may occur.

Mr. Rogers confirmed with Tribal wildlife biologists that spotted owls and critical habitat for the northern spotted owl does not occur within the proposed project area, nor are owl core centers near enough to the proposed action area to be affected by project activities. Mr. Rogers also confirmed with Tribal members that none of the federally listed species would be negatively impacted by the project, as no listed species are known to occupy the proposed action area.

There are no effects to any federally listed species due to: 1) the species absence from the proposed action area; 2) no species are known to be near the proposed project locations; and 3) no cumulative impacts are known. BPA makes a determination of no effect to all listed species and critical habitats documented on the USFWS species list. No Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation initiation with USFWS will occur. No anadromous fish or critical habitats are located within the proposed action area; therefore, no ESA Section 7 consultation with NOAA will occur. If there could be any effect to listed species as a result of proposed project activities once the project is underway, project activities will cease and consultation with USFWS and/or NOAA will be initiated.

A cultural resource review of those portions of the proposed project sites that will be subject to ground disturbance will be completed prior to implementation of proposed activities. This review will include a literature search and a field survey by a qualified cultural resource specialist. The project area is located on the Yakama Reservation, and the Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program staff will determine if the project will have an effect on cultural or historic resources. BPA initiated Section 106 consultation with the Yakama Nation Tribe on January 10, 2006, as part of the FY06 Statement of Work actions under the BPA Project Number 1999-035-01. This additional proposed work will be covered under that Section 106 initiation. A cultural resources review of the proposed project sites is being completed by the Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program prior to the implementation of any ground disturbing activities. If any cultural or historic resources are identified in the project area, appropriate mitigation will be done, in conjunction with the Tribe. If cultural deposits are found during any phase of the proposed project, or if the nature of the undertaking changes, ground-disturbing work will cease and a Yakama Nation cultural resource specialist will be contacted immediately.

Standard protection measures for activities in or near streams and wetlands will be followed during the implementation of the proposed project. The HIP BO non-discretionary terms and conditions

include mitigation measures for construction activities as previously agreed to under BPA Project Number 1999-035-01, and will be implemented.

Public involvement has taken place as part of the Project. Tribal members and staff will implement the project on tribal land. Tribal members are kept aware of the activities of the Fisheries Resource Management Program through the Natural Resources Quarterly Bulletin, which is made available to the public. Information is also disseminated through announcements on the YN radio station, and announcements and articles in the local newspaper. Non-tribal members have access to these sources of information. Students at the local college, Heritage College, are exposed to the project through some of the curriculum.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS (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.

/s/ Sandra Ackley

Sandra Ackley  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine Pierce

Katherine Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

DATE: July 6, 2006

Attachments:

Map of road relocation and removal

Completed NEPA Compliance Checklist for Watershed Management Projects, 07/05/2006

USFWS Listed Species Letter, downloaded from website on 06/30/2006

cc: (w/ attachments)

Mr. Brandon Rogers, Fisheries Biologist II, Yakama Nation