

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 11, 2006

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-265)

TO: Mrs. Dorie Welch - KEWU-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Project Title: Meadow Creek Habitat Restoration

Project No: 1996-083-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.3 Restoration of channelized river and stream reaches; 1.4 Pre-implementation evaluation of proposed enhancement; 1.5 Install grade control structures and check dams; 1.6 Install large woody debris/whole trees; 1.8 Bank protection through vegetation management.

Location: Rivermile (RM) 1.5 to 2.5 of Meadow Creek, Union County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA, in cooperation with CTUIR and NRCS, proposes to fund a project designed to restore wetland and riverine habitat and improve cold water habitat for salmonids. The proposed project is located between RM 1.5 and 2.5 of Meadow Creek, a tributary to the Grande Ronde River in the Upper Grande Ronde subbasin. The legal description of the area is T3S, R35E, Sections 34 and 35, Willamette Meridian, Union County, OR.

Proposed habitat restoration and enhancement activities include:

- Construct 2,800 feet of restoration wetland channels and three floodplain ponds.
- Construct geomorphic riffle weirs and install large wood/whole trees in the existing Meadow Creek channel.
- Integrate existing Meadow Creek channel into network of restoration channels and floodplain.
- Revegetate project area via seeding, installation of coir/sedge mats and tree, shrub and sedge/rush planting.
- Fish salvage and removal, if deemed necessary.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Mr. Allen Childs, CTUIR, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species under the jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are: Snake River Basin steelhead and Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon. BPA initiated Formal ESA Section 7 Consultation and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation on November 8, 2005. BPA received a Biological Opinion from NOAA Fisheries on February 22, 2006. NOAA concluded that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the further existence of the listed Snake River steelhead or Chinook salmon. NOAA also found that the proposed action will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat designated for listed Snake River steelhead or Chinook salmon.

The ESA listed species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are: Gray wolf, Canada lynx, Howell's spectacular thelypody, bald eagle and bull trout. BPA initiated Informal ESA Section 7 Consultation with USFWS on November 8, 2005. BPA received a concurrence letter from USFWS on November 29, 2005. USFWS concurred that the proposed activities would have no effect on Gray wolf, Canada lynx, and Howell's spectacular thelypody. USFWS also concurred that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect bull trout and bald eagle. Columbia spotted frogs, a USFWS ESA Candidate species, are documented to be present in Meadow Creek; USFWS outlined recommended conservation actions to mitigate affects from proposed activities.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, NRCS, in cooperation with the CTUIR Cultural Resource Protection Program, initiated consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). CTUIR and NRCS completed a cultural resource investigation and submitted a report to SHPO to which concurrence was granted in June 2006. Although no further archaeological research is needed, if any cultural material is encountered during the proposed project activities, all activities surrounding the site should cease immediately and an archaeologist will be contacted to evaluate the material.

The CTUIR, NOAA Fisheries, USFWS, ODFW, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program (GRMWP), NRCS, Union County Planning Department, Oregon Department of State Lands (ODSL), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the adjacent landowners are the primary stakeholders in the proposed project and all worked collaboratively in the planning process. Project proposals were submitted and reviewed through GRMWP. The project was publicly reviewed at the GRMWP Board of Directors meeting in April 2006; the meeting was advertised in the local newspaper and on the radio. The three adjacent private landowners were provided an opportunity to review the project through the ODSL permitting process and were given 15 days to review and comment on the proposed activities.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of the Meadow Creek Habitat Restoration Project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits. All terms and conditions outlined in obtained permits, including but not limited to the Oregon Department of State Lands permit, the SHPO concurrence letter, the USFWS concurrence letter, and the NOAA Biological Opinion, must be strictly adhered to.

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/ Kelly Mason

Kelly Mason

Environmental Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Kathy Pierce

Kathy Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

DATE: July 12, 2006

Attachments:

Meadow Creek SA checklist

NOAA Fisheries ESA Sec. 7 Biological Opinion

USFWS ESA Sec. 7 Concurrence Letter

SHPO Concurrence Letter

OR DSL Permit

cc: (w/o attachments)

Mr. Allen Childs, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

cc: (w/ attachments)

Ms. Deb Virgovic, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mr. Alan Bahn, Natural Resources Conservation Service