

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 25, 2006

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-269)

TO: Lee Watts - KEWL-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Project Title: Coeur d'Alene Tribe Fisheries Habitat Improvement Project

Project No: 1990-044-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis
(See App. A of the Watershed Management Program Final EIS): 1.6 Install large woody debris structures; 3.29 Herbicide/ Pesticide Application; 10.11 Provide alternative sport fishing locations

Location: Benewah Creek Watershed, Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation, Benewah County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to continue funding on an ongoing fish passage enhancement and stream/riparian area restoration project with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The proposed work elements address various planning, coordination, construction, research, monitoring, and administrative actions for the period extending to May 2007 and includes the following actions:

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and documentation;
- coordinate restoration efforts with stakeholders;
- identify and select new restoration projects;
- collect preliminary design data for new projects;
- install a culvert on N. Fork Alder Creek, construct Benewah Creek channel;
- replant disturbed areas of Benewah Creek, enhance floodplain plant communities;
- maintain instream structures at treatment sites;
- conduct O&M activities at WF Lake Creek;
- remove brook trout from Benewah Creek;
- analyze data from brook trout removal from Benewah Creek;
- install and maintain migration traps at Lake and Benewah Creeks;
- install and maintain migration traps at Lake and Benewah Creeks;
- install PIT tag antenna system in Benewah Creek;
- PIT tag juvenile adfluvial westslope cutthroat trout in Lake and Benewah Creeks;
- sample salmonids in target watersheds for population estimation;
- biological data management;
- analyze data generated from salmonid trapping and PIT tagging;
- analyze data generated from salmonid sampling;
- measure physical habitat in reference and treatment reaches;
- measure water and air temperature in target watersheds;
- measure summer and winter thermal heterogeneity; physical data management;
- analyze data from physical habitat sampling and temperature monitoring;

- provide education and outreach opportunities;
- manage and administer projects;
- produce quarterly reports via Pisces;
- produce annual report;
- conduct O&M for put and take fisheries; and
- Implement M&E for put and take fisheries.

These ongoing actions for the project are consistent with both the September 14, 2005, Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-229) and the September 30, 2003, Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-124) **except the following items:**

1. maintain instream structures at treatment sites,
2. conduct O&M activities at WF Lake Creek, and
3. conduct O&M for put and take fisheries.

These three action items are addressed with this Supplemental Analysis.

Analysis: The watershed environmental compliance checklist for this project was completed by Mr. Angelo Vitale of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe on June 27, 2006. The checklist meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that could occur in the general project area are gray wolf, bald eagle, Canada lynx, bull trout, water howelia and Ute ladies' tresses. Pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA, BPA submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) for various work activities to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in July, 1999. Accordingly, a determination of "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect" was made for bald eagle and bull trout and the latest take permit (TE014798-3), effective January 18, 2005, was issued to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe under Section 10(a)(1)(A).

The general conditions of this permit expire on January 17, 2009. Future substantive changes in the project conditions/parameters from that identified above may need to be reviewed by BPA environmental staff for a possible reassessment of project effects on listed ESA species. A no-effect determination was made by BPA biologists for the other listed ESA species.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Kathryn Arneson of the Spokane Tribal Cultural Preservation Office completed a cultural resources survey of the Lake, Evans, Benewah, and Indian Creeks Stream Restoration Project (Arneson, Kathryn. 1997. Heritage Resource Inventory Report of the Lake, Evans, Benewah, and Indian Creeks Stream Restoration Project, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Natural Resources/ Fisheries Department, Coeur d'Alene Tribal Lands).

In accordance with the recommendations of the survey, the Tribe's cultural representative and consulting archaeologist will be present during excavation, and if significant cultural resources and/or human remains are discovered, all applicable laws and policies will be followed, the contractor will stop work, and BPA archaeologist, Steve Tromly, will be notified.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during soil and vegetation displacement activities (i.e., placement of large wood debris in the stream.) Construction is authorized under conditions and restrictions outlined in the: USFWS ESA Section 10 permit (TE014798-3), the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Clean Water Act (CWA) permit authorizations, the US Environmental Protection Act (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Eliminations System Stormwater requirements, and the US EPA CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certifications.

A public involvement program has been implemented that addresses various constituents, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency, EPA, AVISTA Utilities, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The work elements are approved by the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Natural Resources Committee and authorized by the Tribal Council.

The Tribal Fisheries Program lists all their projects for implementation in their quarterly newsletter for distribution to 800 Reservation residents. Meetings are occasionally held with affected landowners regarding the affected watersheds. The management actions included in this project have resulted from review of about 78 peer review articles on fisheries enhancement techniques and implementation strategies, and an adaptive management strategy is incorporated into the management plan.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Michelle O'Malley

Michelle O'Malley

Environmental Protection Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: July 25, 2006

Attachment:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/o attachment)

Mr. Angelo Vitale, Fisheries Program, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, 850 A Street, Plummer, ID 83851