DATE:  August 22, 2006

REPLY TO ATTN OF:  KEC-4

SUBJECT:  Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-272)

TO:  Jan Brady - KEWR-4
      Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:**  Custer SWCD Habitat Projects for FY 06, Lower Pahsimeroi Riparian Protection Fences (Bowles, Last Chance & Last Stand Ranches)

**Project No:**  1994-017-00

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):**  2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities; 4.12 Filter Strips; 6.1 Deferred Grazing; 6.10 Access: Fencing

**Location:**  Bowles, Last Chance & Last Stand Ranches along the Pahsimeroi River in the Upper Salmon River Basin within the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Custer County and Lemhi County, ID.

**Proposed by:**  Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Custer SWCD.

**Description of the Proposed Action:**  The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund three riparian area protection fences as watershed improvement projects through the ongoing Custer SWCD Holistic Watershed Improvement contract. The projects are proposed to improve watershed conditions, resulting in improved anadromous and native fish habitat.

The three fences were planned and coordinated by the Custer SWCD in partnership with the ranches’ landowners and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The fences are intended to protect currently productive, high quality fish habitat by excluding livestock except for very brief grazing periods to allow control of weeds and rodents along the Pahsimeroi River banks. The fences would be managed to allow wintering and migrating wildlife to access and use the riparian area.

Bowles Fence – 2040 feet of wire fence
Last Stand Ranch Fence – 8000 feet of jack and pole fence
Last Chance Ranch Fence – 7200 feet of jack and pole fence

**Analysis:**  The fence projects meet the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). See the enclosed NEPA checklist for watershed projects.

Species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) that may occur in the general vicinity of the projects were analyzed as appropriate. No species or habitats were likely to be impacted by project actions, so formal consultations were not necessary. Average fence setback from anadromous fish habitat is greater than 35 feet, and over 40 acres of riparian habitat would be protected/enhanced by the projects.
Cultural resource reviews and NHPA Section 106 compliance was completed for the projects by the NRCS. See enclosed Idaho NRCS Archaeological and Historical Inventory Record. No sites or resources were found. If cultural materials are found during project implementation, then ground-disturbing work will stop until they are assessed by a qualified party.

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

Public involvement occurred as part of the projects through recurrent, open public meetings (SWCD monthly meetings, and Soil Conservation Commission Advisory Board quarterly meetings); informational brochures, materials, and displays in public forums (e.g. fairs and conferences); and field tours, agency coordination meetings (including Model Watershed Technical Team meetings), personal conversations, and mail and email correspondence.

**Findings:** The projects are generally consistent with Section 7.6 A.2, 7.6 B.3, & 7.8 E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council’s Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds: 1) That the proposed action is 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/ Mickey Carter  
Mickey Carter  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

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

DATE: **August 24, 2006**

cc: (w/o attachments)  
Ms. Karma Bragg, CSWCD, P.O. Box 305, Challis, ID 83226  
Mr. Mark Olsen, NRCS, 31 Highway 93 North, Suite D, Salmon, ID 83467