

memorandum

DATE: September 7, 2006

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-276)

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

Proposed Action: Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program – Ludwick Pipeline and Lyle Creek Diversion Project

Project No: 2002-025-01

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

4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline

Location: Kittitas County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD)

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a fish habitat enhancement project with the Kittitas County Conservation District. The project involves changing the delivery of Bull Canal Company water to property owned by Jack Ludwick. Currently the landowner withdraws water for irrigation from Lyle Creek via a gravity irrigation diversion at the mouth of the creek. The diversion structure spans the Lyle Creek and blocks fish passage, and is also unscreened allowing fish in Lyle Creek to be entrained in the irrigation system. From that diversion point, water is currently delivered to the northwest corner of the Ludwick property.

The proposed project would involve enlarging an existing delivery system from Bull Canal Company to the northeast corner of the Ludwick property in order to avoid the use of the Lyle Creek diversion. Part of the delivery system is currently an earthen ditch and the remaining is existing PVC pipeline. The earthen ditch would be converted to enclosed pipe and the existing pipe would be replaced with a larger diameter pipe to accommodate the increased flow. When the system is determined to be functional and meeting the needs of the landowner, the Lyle Creek diversion will be decommissioned.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Anna Lael, District Manager with the KCCD, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

In complying with the requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area would not be adversely affected

by the proposed project. Bald eagles routinely use the Yakima River and its tributary streams throughout the year, and are known to roost within the Yakima River corridor, in relatively close proximity to the proposed construction sites. Roosts are generally located in older, larger trees or snags with large lateral limbs. However, no such trees are present within the immediate vicinity of the project, and no alteration of habitat or prey items are likely to result from the proposed activities. Noise from construction activities at the project site would be the only potential disturbance to foraging eagles. However, noise will be in short intervals and is not expected to rise above the background noise associated with normal agricultural activities on surrounding lands.

Gray wolves have been observed within 10 miles of the project area; however, the chances of encountering individual gray wolves in an area of sub-optimal habitat is minimal. The proposed project is not expected to adversely affect gray wolves or their habitat due to the nature of the proposed work and the fact the project is in close proximity to areas of regular human use, which gray wolves generally avoid. No other listed plant or wildlife species have been documented within ten miles of either project area (WDFW Wildlife Heritage spatial database, 2005; Washinton Natural Heritage Program list of known occurrences of rare plants in Washington, Kittitas County, August, 2005.)

In complying with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), a cultural resources inventory was conducted on the proposed Ludwick Pipeline and Lyle Creek Diversion project by archaeologists from Central Washington University. The cultural resources inventory report indicated that no cultural resources were found during the fieldwork. In a letter dated March 13, 2006, the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with BPA's "no effect" determination. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, work will be halted in the vicinity of the findings until an inspection and assessment can be done.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of the Ludwick Pipeline and Lyle Creek Diversion project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable permits and approvals.

Public/stakeholder involvement has occurred as part of the Ludwick Pipeline and Lyle Creek Diversion project. The Kittitas County Conservation District has proactively and cooperatively worked with landowners, tribal representatives, and local, state, and federal agencies to apprise them of the project scope and status. Individual consultation has been done with the Yakama Nation, Jack Ludwick (landowner), Jeff Brunson (landowner), Washington Department of Transportation, and the Bull Canal Company.

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/ Dawn R. Boorse

Dawn R. Boorse

Environmental Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

DATE: September 8, 2006

Attachment:

NEPA Compliance Checklist