

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 21, 2006

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-278)

TO: Jamie Swan - KEW-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Project Title: Colville Confederated Tribes Repair Work (Thirty Mile Culvert Installation and Streambank Armoring; Bridge Creek Sediment Removal; and South Nanamkin Creek Re-Contouring, Floodplain Reconnection, and Armoring)

Project No: 1990-018-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.1 In Channel Modification and Habitat Enhancement Techniques, 1.9 Structural Bank Protection using Bioengineering Methods, 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 2.6 Native Seed Inventories, 2.7 Avoid Exotic Species, 3.7 Critical Area Planting, 7.4 Divert Water Around Construction of Larger Structures, 7.9 Avoid Construction During Inclimate Weather, and 7.10 Erosion Control and Revegetation at Project Completion.

Location: Sanpoil Subbasin, Washington (Colville Reservation)

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Colville Confederated Tribes

Description of the Proposed Action: A high flow event in the Spring of 2006 caused damage to numerous streams in the Sanpoil Subbasin, including sedimentation, bank failure, channel migration and culvert failure. In order to restore valuable fish and wildlife habitat in this area, BPA proposes to fund three stream repair projects with the Colville Confederated Tribes. These projects include: Thirty Mile Culvert Installation and Streambank Armoring; Bridge Creek Sediment Removal; and South Nanamkin Creek Re-Contouring, Floodplain Reconnection, and Armoring.

Thirty Mile Repair – The 2006 high flow event caused Thirty Mile Creek to break through a section of stream where a beaver dam had been located. Project personnel removed the beaver dam but the bank needs to be armored to ensure the water stays in the channel. Medium and large boulders will be placed along the weakened section of Thirty Mile Creek to prevent a similar occurrence in the future while maintaining the connectivity to the floodplain. No new access roads will be built as part of this repair and no re-contouring or other alteration of the project area will be necessary.

Bridge Creek Repair – The 2006 high flow event caused a Ferry County culvert to fail delivering considerable sediment to the lower channel of Bridge Creek and creating a fish

passage barrier. To maintain the biological objectives of habitat improvement work done in the Fall of 2004, sediment will be removed from the site. In addition, the south bank just below the culvert will be re-contoured, both banks armored, and the riparian fencing will be repaired.

South Nanamkin Creek Repair – During the 2006 high flow event, an inadequate culvert on the Sanpoil Highway (SR21) caused water to back up into South Nanamkin Creek. South Nanamkin Creek migrated approximately 20 feet to the north and then broke through a section of stream flowing into a field and along a ditch to an adjacent culvert. The culvert is a Washington State Department of Transportation culvert and no schedule for its replacement has been determined. Proposed repairs include increasing the capacity of the stream to hold water and reconnecting the floodplain to dissipate energy which will ease the burden on the undersized culvert. The recontouring of sections of South Nanamkin Creek and placement of medium and large boulders along a 250 meter section of the creek should prevent a similar occurrence in the future and prevent damage to the highway while maintaining the connectivity to the floodplain.

Analysis: The compliance checklists for these projects were completed by Sheri Sears with the Colville Confederated Tribes (August 15, 2006) and meet the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

There are no Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that are known to occur in the vicinity of these repair projects. One bald eagle nest has been identified in the area but it is located more than ½ mile from all of the project sites. BPA has determined that the proposed repair projects will have No Effect on ESA-listed species.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resource survey of the South Nanamkin Creek project site was completed by Colville Confederated Tribe's History /Archaeology Program. As a result of the survey no historic properties were found within the South Nanamkin Creek Area of Potential Effect (APE), but there was a significant traditional cultural property found immediately adjacent to the APE. Since the feature was located outside the APE however BPA determined that no historic properties would be affected by the South Nanamkin Creek Project. This finding along with the survey report were forwarded to the Colville Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for consideration on September 21, 2006. Separately, BPA determined that the Bridge Creek Project and the Thirty Mile Project did not require surveys. The Colville THPO concurred with these findings on August 29, 2006.

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

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/ Shannon C. Stewart

Shannon C. Stewart

Environmental Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

DATE: September 25, 2006

Attachment:

- (3) Compliance Checklists
- (2) THPO Concurrence Letters
- (1) THPO Findings Letter

cc: (w/o attachment)

Ms. Sheri Sears - Colville Confederated Tribes