memorandum

DATE: December 5, 2006

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-286)

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

Proposed Action: Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP) – Upper Lust Fish Passage Project, South Fork Cowiche Creek

Project No: 2002-025-01

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See Appendix A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):
1.1 Modeling the Effects of River Channelization
1.4 Pre-implementation Evaluation of Proposed Enhancements
1.5 Install Grade Control Structures and Check Dams
1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures
1.7 Install Other Habitat Complexity Structures
1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management
1.9 Structural Bank Protection Using Bioengineering Methods
1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement - Fishways
2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities
2.6 Native Seeds Inventories
2.7 Avoid Exotic Species
2.11 Hand Pulling
4.1 Irrigation Water Management
4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline
4.25 Consolidate/Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams

Location: Yakima County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration and North Yakima County Conservation District

Description of Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund a fish passage and habitat enhancement project with the North Yakima County Conservation District (NYCD). The proposed project involves:

1. Worksite Isolation: A temporary stream bypass will be constructed using clean, washed gravel, ecology blocks and/or sand bags with plastic sheeting to isolate the work area from flowing water.
2. Concrete Removal: The existing concrete diversion structure (concrete ramp, walls, and pre-existing ecology blocks) will be removed using a backhoe.
3. Streambed re-grade and cross vane construction: Four Rosgen style, non-porous cross vanes will be constructed using large angular rocks of sufficient size to prevent them from being washed away by 100 year flows. The cross vanes will be keyed a minimum of twelve feet into each bank. Willow and/or dogwood cuttings will be placed within each key as it is backfilled.

4. Bank re-grade: Banks will be re-graded to final grade as shown in the design drawings. A hardened toe will be constructed using a combination of large rocks and root wads.

5. Remove temporary bypass: The coffer dam will be removed gradually as to prevent a sediment plume.

6. Bank stabilization: All earth areas adjacent to the watercourse which have been disturbed or re-graded by this project will be seeded with a suitable erosion control seed mix and protected from erosion following a detailed plan.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Jennifer Scott, Fish and Wildlife Biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 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 include: bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*), Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*), and Middle Columbia River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

BPA has determined that the actions for the YTAHP – Upper Lust Fish Passage Project may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect bull trout and bald eagle in association with this proposed project. In addition, BPA has determined that the project will have no effect on gray wolf, Canada lynx, grizzly bear, marbled murrelet, and Ute ladies'-tresses. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with this determination in a letter dated November 16, 2006.

The proposed project has the potential to impact steelhead in the short term as a result of habitat modifications, sedimentation, and de-watering of the project area. However the proposed project will significantly improve juvenile and adult mid-Columbia River steelhead passage and survival in the South Fork Cowiche Creek, as well as abandon an unscreened gravity diversion, thereby eliminating entrainment into an irrigation canal. BPA has determined that if conducted in accordance with the applicable terms and conditions identified in the ESA Section 7 Consultation Biological Opinion (BO) and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for BPA’s Habitat Improvement Program (HIP BO), the Upper Lust Fish Passage Project meets the requirements of consistency and no further consultation is required.

In complying with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), a cultural resources inventory was conducted on the proposed Upper Lust Fish Passage Project. As a result of this inventory, no cultural and/or historic resources were identified within the project area. In a letter dated November 28, 2006, the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with this 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 Upper Lust Fish Passage 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 Upper Lust Fish Passage Project. The NYCD 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 William and Jeanette Evans (landowners) and C. James Lust (diversion easement owner/operator).

**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 Boorse  
Dawn R. Boorse  
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

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

Date: December 6, 2006

Attachment:  
NEPA Compliance Checklist