

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 5, 2005

REPLY TO: KEC-4
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-222)

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

Proposed Action: Oregon Fish Screening Project – Beech Creek and Rock Creek Diversions

Project No: 1993-066-00

Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis

(See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 1.14 Reduce Scour and Deposition at Hydraulic Structures, 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement-Fishways, 1.16 Spawning Habitat Enhancement, 1.17 Rearing Habitat Enhancement, 3.13 Diversion Ditch, 4.23 Intake and Return Diversion Screens, 4.25 Consolidate/Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams.

Location: Grant and Wheeler Counties, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to fund two fish passage improvement projects with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Rock Creek Diversion project will modify an existing diversion structure that blocks adult steelhead passage during some stream flows and juvenile steelhead passage during all stream flows. Concrete weirs will be constructed on the existing diversion structure's downstream concrete skirt, which will allow adult and juvenile salmonids to pass at all stream flows. The Beech Creek Diversion project will modify an existing diversion structure that blocks adult steelhead passage at some stream flows and juvenile steelhead passage at all stream flows. A removable Alaska Steeppass Ladder will be attached to the existing diversion structure. The ladder will be installed prior to irrigation season and removed at the conclusion (April 1 – September 30), which will allow adult and juvenile steelhead salmonids to pass at all stream flows.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Steven Allen with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (January 25, 2005) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are bald eagle and steelhead. It was determined that the proposed projects would have no effect on bald eagle. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, BPA determined that ESA consultation for Mid-Columbia River steelhead and Essential Fish Habitat consultation for chinook salmon were covered under BPA's Habitat Improvement Program Programmatic Biological Opinion with NOAA Fisheries. Beech Creek was approved by BPA on March 17, 2005 and Rock Creek was approved by BPA on August 2, 2005. Project designs were approved by Larry Swenson with NOAA Fisheries (March 16, 2005). All applicable terms and conditions contained in the Programmatic Biological Opinion must be implemented accordingly.

BPA determined that the proposed project activities did not have the potential to affect historic resources and therefore Section 106 Consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act was not initiated. There will be no ground disturbance associated with either the Rock Creek or Beech Creek projects. There will be a notch cut in the existing dam structure at Rock Creek. The Beech Creek fishway will be prefabricated off site and put in place using a boom truck. Both projects are located on private agricultural lands that have been disturbed in the past. As a precaution Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff will perform a preliminary site evaluation for cultural resources, however it is not expected that resources will be discovered. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during project construction, a qualified archaeologist should be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

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

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Rock Creek and Beech Creek Diversion projects. These projects are being implemented in partnership with local landowners. Consultation on these projects has taken place with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, OR Division of State Lands, OR State Police, NOAA Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, OR Water Resources Department, affected Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Wheeler County Road Department.

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/ Shannon C. Stewart

Shannon C. Stewart

Environmental Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

Acting NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

DATE: August 5, 2005

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

Beech Creek HIP BO Approval Letter, March 17, 2005

Rock Creek HIP BO Approval Letter, August 2, 2005

cc: (w/ attachments)

Mr. Steven Allen - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife