

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: August 31, 2005

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-225)

TO: J. Baugher – KEWL-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** North Fork John Day Anadromous Fish Habitat Enhancement Project

**Project No:** 2000-031-00

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement**

**Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 1.8 Bank Protection Through Vegetation Management; 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities; 2.2 Plant/Protect Conifers In Riparian Areas For Thermal Cover; 2.6 Native Seeds Inventories; 2.7 Avoid Exotic Species; 2.14 Enhance Large Woody Debris Recruitment; 2.15 Acquisition Of Sensitive Riparian Resources; 3.29 Herbicide/Pesticide Application; 5.13 Alternative Water Sources; 6.1 Deferred Grazing; 6.5 Water Supply: Pipeline; 6.6 Water Supply: Ponds; Water Supply: Trough; 6.8 Water Supply: Well; 6.9 Water Supply: Spring development; 6.10 Access: Fencing; 6.15 Vegetation Stabilization: Brush/Weed Management

**Location:** Grant and Umatilla counties, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The goal of this project is to protect and enhance habitat for improved natural production of indigenous, wild spring chinook salmon and summer steelhead in the North Fork John Day River Basin. This project addresses critical protection and restoration of habitat necessary for survival of salmonid fishes in the basin. Project functions include identification of habitat impacts, creation of solutions to land use problems, prioritization and implementation of habitat improvements, and providing and participating in educational outreach activities.

Specific activities to be completed include:

- fencing of riparian areas to exclude or control cattle grazing;
- creation or upgrading of upland livestock watering sites (including spring developments, bermed retention ponds, and shallow wells in the floodplain);
- planting trees and shrubs in the riparian and floodplain areas, e.g., using a stinger attachment to plant willows, and using mulch fabric mats to plant willows, black cottonwood, wild rose, red alder, snowberry, red and black elderberry, choke cherry, redosier dogwood and black hawthorn, ponderosa pine tublings;
- removal and replacement of fencing that is maiming and killing mule deer and elk;
- weed control through use of herbicides.

Since many of these projects are being cost-shared with the Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) Conservation and Riparian Enhancement Program (CREP), specifications for the fences and the number of plants and species composition for the riparian plantings are determined by the NRCS' CREP planting plans. The project areas may also be entered into conservation easements under the CREP program or similar programs.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Todd Shaw of the CTUIR, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

**Endangered Species Act.** Listed species likely to be present include bald eagle, bull trout, and steelhead. Coverage for the proposed 2005 activities is provided through BPA's Habitat Improvement Program Biological Opinion with National Marine Fisheries Service (approval letter dated 8/29/2005) and through an informal consultation concurrence letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dated 8/26/2005. Future projects will undergo consultation as appropriate.

**Cultural resource information.** The CTUIR Cultural Resources Department is conducting surveys for the proposed 2005 activities. Reports will be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office and concurrence with the findings and conditions will be obtained prior to any ground-disturbing activities.

No environmental land audits or permits are required for this work.

**Public involvement information.** The CTUIR holds a designated seat on the North Fork John Day Watershed Council. Landowners and the general public are made aware of CTUIR proposed projects through this coordinating body. Because only 1,200 people reside within the North Fork John Day Basin, the watershed council has proven to be very effective in promoting awareness and public participation. Participation on the watershed council has resulted in landowners contacting the CTUIR for assistance, schools and interest groups contacting the CTUIR for various outreach requests, and contractors (fencing, heavy equipment operators, etc.) contacting the CTUIR to bid on various BPA funded implementations. The project has and will continue to conduct local outreach efforts (public meetings, tours and presentations) at the community level to obtain input, identify landowner and resource agency concerns, provide educational opportunities, and promote stream habitat restoration and protection.

**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/ Nancy H. Weintraub  
Nancy H. Weintraub  
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce  
Katherine S. Pierce  
Acting NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: August 31, 2005

**Attachment:**  
Checklist

cc: (w/ attachment)  
Mr. Todd Shaw, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, DNR-Fisheries Program; P.O. Box 638, Pendleton, OR 97801