

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 8, 2005

REPLY TO: KEC-4
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-228)

TO: Jay Marcotte
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEW-4

Proposed Action: Tucannon River Model Watershed – Hovrud Irrigation Efficiency/Flow Enhancement

Project No: 1994-018-06

Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 4.1 Irrigation Water Management; 4.2 Water Measuring Devices; 4.6 Sprinkler Irrigation; 4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline.

Location: Columbia County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Columbia County Conservation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to fund an irrigation efficiency enhancement project in Columbia County, Washington. The project will reduce irrigation withdrawals and place conserved water in trust for enhanced instream flows benefiting salmonid recovery efforts in the Tucannon Subbasin. The project site is currently irrigated with hand lines, wheel lines, and two existing center pivot systems equipped with standard rainbird sprinkler heads. This project will convert the existing center pivot system's sprinkler package to 20-psi regulators, goose necks and drop rotors. Three new center pivot systems will replace hand line and wheel line systems (including mainline and power relocation). These system enhancements will result in a water savings of 0.72 cfs and 76 acre feet of water. The saved water will be placed into trust via the Washington Department of Ecology. This project is a cooperative effort between Columbia Conservation District, the landowner, Washington Conservation Commission, and Washington Department of Ecology.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Terry Bruegman with the Columbia Conservation District (August 15, 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 proposed project include bald eagle, Ute ladies'-tresses, Spalding's catchfly, bull trout, Snake River spring chinook, Snake River fall chinook, and Snake River steelhead. BPA has determined that the proposed actions will have no effect on ESA-listed species. No instream activities are proposed and therefore no impacts to aquatic species are anticipated. In addition, all work will take place in an established agriculture production field where ESA-listed species are not present.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resource survey of the Hovrud site (along with three other sites) was completed by Brett Lenz with Columbia Geotechnical Associates Inc. No cultural and/or historic resources were discovered on the Hovrud site as a result of this survey. Based on these findings, BPA determined that the proposed project would have no effect on cultural and/or historic resources. The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with these findings on August 12, 2005. These findings were also forwarded to

the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe for consideration. 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 Hovrud project. The project has been discussed at public meetings, in local and area news items, in numerous site tours, and in presentations given to state and regional commodities, environmental associations and resource agencies. This project was also analyzed as part of the Tucannon Subbasin planning process. Participants on the Subbasin Planning Team include local, state, regional, and national interests. Partnerships on this project have been formed with WA Conservation Commission, WA Department of Ecology, WA Water Trust, WA Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, Columbia County Commissioners, Walla Walla Community College, Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and local landowners.

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 9-8-05

Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Kathy S. Pierce

Date: 9-8-05

Katherine S. Pierce
Acting NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
WA Dept of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Concurrence Letter, August 12, 2005

cc: (w/o attachments)
Mr. Terry Bruegman – Columbia Conservation District