

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 14, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-229)

TO: Lee Watts - KEWL-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Coeur d'Alene Reservation Fisheries Habitat Improvement (2006 SOW)

Project No: 1990-044-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program Final EIS): 1.1 Modeling the effects of river channelization; 1.3 Restoration of channelized river and stream reaches; 1.4 Pre-implementation evaluation of proposed enhancements; 1.6 Install large woody debris structures; 1.8 Bank protection through vegetation management; 1.9 Structural bank protection using bioengineering methods; 1.13 Culvert removal/replacement to improve fish passage; 1.17 Rearing habitat enhancements; 2.1 Maintain healthy riparian plant communities; 2.2 Plant/protect conifers in riparian areas for thermal cover; 2.3 Creation of wetlands to provide near-channel habitat and store water for later use; 2.14 Enhance large woody debris recruitment.

Location: Cour d' Alene Subbasin watershed, Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation, Benewah County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to continue funding an ongoing fish passage enhancement and stream/riparian area restoration project with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The project objectives are to continue helping protect wild fish stocks by restoring native habitats, maintain continuous healthy riparian corridors, maintain genetic fish integrity, improve function of key watershed processes, and increase westslope cutthroat trout production in four select watersheds by removing causes of habitat degradation.

The proposed work elements address various planning, coordination, construction, research, monitoring, and administrative actions for the period extending to May 2006 that includes the following actions: education and outreach, identify new restoration projects, realign and create a new channel, construct a bridge on Alder Creek, enhance floodplain communities, install large woody debris, plant native plants, remove brook trout from Benewah Creek, analyze data, install fish migration traps, purchase PIT tags, install PIT Tag antennae systems, PIT tag juvenile westslope cutthroat trout, sample salmon in target watersheds, manage biological database, analyze trapping and PIT tag data, measure water temperature and discharge in target watersheds, produce reports, and administer the project.

Analysis: The Coeur d'Alene Tribe's SOW is dated March 2, 2005. A watershed environmental compliance checklist for this project was prepared by Angelo Vitale of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and signed by Ronald Peters on July 14, 2005. This checklist meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The listed species that could occur in the general project area, under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) are gray wolf, bald eagle, Canada lynx, bull trout, water howelia and Ute ladies' tresses. Pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA, BPA submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) for various work activities to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in July, 1999. Accordingly, a determination of "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect" was made for bald eagle and bull trout and the latest take permit (TEO14798-3), effective January 18, 2005, was issued to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe under Section 10(a)(1)(A). The general conditions of this permit expire on January 17, 2009. Substantive changes in the project conditions/parameters from that identified above, may need to be reviewed by BPA environmental staff for a possible reassessment of project effects on listed ESA species. A no-effect determination is made for the other listed ESA species.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Kathryn Arneson of the Spokane Tribal Cultural Preservation Office completed a cultural resources survey of the Benewah Creek stream restoration activities in 2001. The survey covered the project area now proposed for implementation of channel realignment at Benewah Creek. A cambium-fill tree and lithic artifacts (mortar and pestle) were identified about a mile upstream from the proposed 1,600 feet of channel work, but no cultural or historic features were identified in the work site. In an August 29, 2001 letter, the Deputy Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) agreed that the Benewah Creek Mill Site is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Evans Creek site (for proposed increase instream habitat complexity) was also surveyed by Ms. Arneson. Her June 30, 1997 report noted a single stone pestle in the project area that was collected, described, photographed and appropriately deposited; she recommended a further archaeological investigation. In an August 22, 1997 report, the Deputy SHPO concurred that limited testing be conducted but also recommended avoidance of the site or preparation of a site recovery plan and memorandum of agreement to mitigate effects. The Tribe has indicated they will avoid the site. Regarding the proposed bridge construction on North Fork Alder Creek, the site was visited and evaluated by John Hartman, a representative for the Tribe's Cultural Resource Management program. Based on an August 26, 2005 letter from the Tribe, cultural resources and/or human remains are unlikely to be present in the road, but cultural resources may be present below the road fill where there has not been recent disturbance. Accordingly, the Tribe's cultural representative and consulting archaeologist will be present during excavation and if significant cultural resources and/or human remains are discovered, all applicable laws and policies will be followed, the contractor will stop work, and BPA archaeologist, Steve Tromly, will be notified.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during soil and vegetation displacement activities (i.e., dredging and channel realignment, placement of large wood debris in the stream, removal of fill, and placement of the culvert and bridge. Construction is authorized under conditions and restrictions outlined in the: U.S. FWS ESA Section 10 permit (TEO14798-3), the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Clean Water Act (CWA) permit authorizations, the U.S. EPA National Pollutant Discharge Eliminations System Stormwater requirements, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certifications, and the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Requirements.

A public involvement program has included various constituents that include: NRCS, FSA, USEPA, AVISTA Utilities, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The work elements are approved by the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Natural Resources Committee and authorized by the Tribal Council. The Tribal Fisheries Program lists all their projects for implementation in their quarterly newsletter for distribution to 800 Reservation residents. Meetings are occasionally held with affected landowners regarding the affected watersheds. The basis for management actions of this project has resulted from review of about 78 peer review articles on fisheries enhancement techniques and implementation strategies and an adaptive management strategy is incorporated into the management plan.

Findings: This Supplement Analysis provides BPA's environmental clearance for the actions identified above. 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. Support documents to this memo are maintained in BPA's environmental project file.

Based on the provisions identified on the enclosure to this memo, this proposed action meets the requirements for the Supplement Analysis referenced above. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Carl J. Keller

Carl J. Keller

Fish and Wildlife Biologist

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

Acting NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: September 14, 2005

Attachment:

Provisions

cc: (w/attachment)

Mr. Angelo Vitale, Fisheries Program, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, 850 A Street, Plummer, ID83851

Attachment

PROVISIONS

This Supplement Analysis contains the following provisions to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's SOW:

1. A tribal elder from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and consulting archaeologist have been hired and received authorization from the Tribal Culture Committee to oversee all planned construction activities associated with the proposed activities in the SOW and will further coordinate SHPO/THPO consultation as needed. If significant cultural resources and/or human remains are discovered, all applicable laws and policies will be followed, the contractor will stop work, and BPA archaeologist, Steve Tromly [503 230-4454], will be notified.
2. Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during soil and vegetation displacement activities (i.e., dredging and channel realignment, placement of large wood debris in the stream, removal of fill, and placement of the culvert and bridge.
3. Construction is authorized in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the: Endangered Species Act permit (TEO14798-3), the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Clean Water Act permit authorizations, the U.S. EPA National Pollutant Discharge Eliminations System (Stormwater) requirements, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certifications, and the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Requirements.