

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-230)

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

Proposed Action: Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program - South Fork Cowiche Creek-Thornton Property

Project No: 2002-025-01

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See Appendix A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):

- 1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures
- 1.9 Structural Bank Protection using Bioengineering Methods

Location: Yakima County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and North Yakima Conservation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a fish habitat enhancement project with the North Yakima Conservation District on the South Fork Cowiche Creek--Thornton Property. This project involves improving instream habitat conditions by placing a series of logs and rootwads in specific locations in the South Fork Cowiche Creek, intended to provide additional rearing habitat for fish and to enhance the instream waterflow. The project will include the streambank revegetation of all adjacent areas that have been disturbed or regraded during construction, and are to be seeded with a suitable erosion control mix.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Mike Tobin with the North Yakima Conservation District, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

In complying with requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are Mid-Columbia River steelhead trout and Columbia River bull trout. Bull trout have not been documented within 10 miles of the project site and bull trout presence has not been confirmed within the Cowiche 5th field watershed, therefore BPA has determined there to be no effect to bull trout. The proposed project is located in potential spawning, rearing and/or migration habitat currently used by steelhead trout, however the proposed project will significantly enhance habitat thereby increasing productivity of listed stocks. 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 South Fork Cowiche Creek-Thornton Property 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, a cultural resources inventory was conducted on the South Fork Cowiche Creek-Thornton Property by Central

Washington University, concluding that there were no historic properties identified in the project area. In a letter dated August 30, 2005, the Washington State Historic Preservation Office concurred with those findings. In addition, BPA sent a letter to Mr. Johnson Meninick of the Yakama Nation on May 17, 2005, requesting concurrence on the area of potential affect and seeking information on any known historic properties or cultural resources in the project area; no response was provided. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, an archaeologist should be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Public/stakeholder involvement has occurred as part of the South Fork Cowiche Creek-Thornton Property. The Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program has proactively and cooperatively worked with nearby landowners, tribal representatives, and with local, state, and federal agencies to apprise them of the project scope and status.

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 R. Boorse 9-14-05

Dawn R. Boorse
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Kathy Pierce

Kathy Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 9-14-05

Attachment:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/ attachment)

Mr. Mike Tobin - North Yakima Conservation District

Mr. Stephen Kropp - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife