

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 16, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-231)

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

Proposed Action: Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program - Garretson Fish Passage and Screening - Cowiche Creek

Project No: 2002-025-01

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

- 1.5 Install Grade Control Structures and Check Dams
- 1.8 Bank Protection Through Vegetation Management
- 1.9 Structural Bank Protection using Bioengineering Methods
- 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement—Fishway
- 2.6 Native Seed Inventories
- 2.7 Avoid Exotic Species
- 4.2 Water Measuring Devices
- 4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline
- 4.23 Intake and Return Diversion Screens
- 7.2 Install Hydraulic Structures at Low Streamflows
- 7.4 Divert Water Around Construction of Larger Structures
- 7.10 Erosion Control and Revegetation at Project Completion

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 passage and screening project with the North Yakima Conservation District on the Cowiche Creek - Garretson Property. The project is intended to enhance migratory fish access and productivity in the Cowiche Creek watershed. The concrete check dam owned by David Garretson was designed to divert water from the site for irrigation, and the water surface drop off at the end of the dam is currently over one foot during low flow. The project includes removing this concrete diversion wall and setting it back into the bank. The streambed within the vicinity of the old check dam will be regraded and fill material used to create an armor layer below the dam to facilitate upstream and downstream fish passage over the dam. Additionally a new fish screen will be installed to protect resident and migratory fish from becoming entrained in the irrigation system.

The project will include 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 and replanted with native plants.

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 (Mid-Columbia steelhead trout, bull trout, grizzly bear, spotted owl, gray wolf, Canada lynx, marbled murrelet, Ute ladies' tresses, or bald eagle) would not be adversely affected by the proposed project with the possible exception of steelhead 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. There is no potential to affect grizzly bears or their habitat during this project due to the nature of the proposed work and the fact that the project is located in close proximity to areas of regular human use. The nearest probable grizzly bear siting was reported in 1993 approximately 15 miles northwest of the project area (WDFW, 2005). The project location is outside the known range of the spotted owl, and is not located adjacent to suitable habitat for the species. The nearest spotted owl nest was documented in 1996, over 15 miles from the project site (WDFW, 2005). The closest spotted owl siting was reported in 2002, approximately 14 miles from the project site. There is no potential to affect gray wolves or their habitat during this project due to the nature of the proposed work and the fact the project is in close proximity to areas of regular human use, which gray wolves avoid. The closest probable sighting of a gray wolf occurred in 1989, over 10 miles from the project site (WDFW, 2005). Canada lynx generally prefer higher elevation coniferous forests. The nearest verified sighting of a Canada lynx occurred in 1987, over 16 miles from the project site (WDFW, 2005). The project location is also outside the known range of marbled murrelets, and is not located adjacent to possible habitat for the species. The WDFW Wildlife Heritage Database was consulted and no eastern Cascade sightings of marbled murrelet occur within at least 25 miles (WDFW, 2005). As of September of 2004, there were no known populations of Ute Ladies' Tresses anywhere in Yakima County (WA Natural Heritage Program, 2005). Bald eagles have not been observed or documented near the project site, and the nearest documented bald eagle roosting site was documented in 1991, over 12 miles away (Wildlife Heritage Database, 2005). Therefore, BPA has determined there to be no effect to bull trout, grizzly bear, spotted owl, gray wolf, Canada lynx, marbled murrelet, Ute ladies' tresses, or bald eagle. 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 Garretson Fish Passage and Screening--Cowiche Creek 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 Garretson Fish Passage and Screening--Cowiche Creek, by Central Washington University concluding that the proposed undertaking will have no adverse effect on historic properties. 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 June 2, 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.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementaton of the Garretson project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable permits and approvals.

Public/stakeholder involvement has occurred as part of the Garretson Fish Passage and Screening - Cowiche Creek. 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 9-16-05

Dawn R. Boorse
Environmental Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Kathy Pierce

Kathy Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

DATE: 9-16-05

Attachment:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/ attachment)

Mr. Mike Tobin - North Yakima Conservation District

Mr. Stephen Kropp - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife