DATE: October 5, 2005

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-235)

TO: Joe DeHerrera
    Fish and Wildlife Project Manager – KEWU-4

**Proposed Action:** Haskill Creek Restoration Project

**Project No:** 1991-019-03

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

1.6 Install large woody debris;
2.1 Maintain healthy riparian communities.

**Location:** East Edgewood Drive, Whitefish, MT, Flathead County

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MFWP).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a stream restoration project on Haskill Creek, a tributary to the Whitefish River. The existing channel is characterized by eroding banks, an altered braided channel pattern and over-steepened bed profile. Extensive habitat degradation and competition have caused a decline in fish populations. The project would include channel reconstruction, sloping the cut banks, revegetating the slopes, excavation of the high streambanks and sloping the banks to maintain bank stability. Within the active channel floodplain benches would be constructed. Bank stabilization would include engineered small woody debris jams, extensive band and floodway revegetation and native alluvium cobble patches to maintain the longitudinal bed profile.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Brian Marotz, Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

**Endangered Species Act information:** No threatened, endangered or sensitive species occur in the project area. Consultation: Tim Bodurtha, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Creston Field Office, Kalispell, MT.

**Cultural resource information:** Consultations were initiated with the Tribal Historic Preservation offices of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. John Wilmoth, Montana SHPO, concurred on September 23, 2005, “...that the likelihood for intact archaeological deposits is extremely low. We do not think any further cultural resource considerations are warranted at this time, other than the usual caution and notification in the event an unanticipated discovery occurs.”

**Environmental Land Audit:** No hazardous and toxic wastes are present. Confirmed by Montana Department of Environmental Quality site visit, June 2005.
**Permit Information:** Montana Department of Environmental Quality (318 Authorization); US Army Corps of Engineers (Section 404 Compliance); Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (SPA 124); US Fish and Wildlife Service (Section 7 ESA Consultation).

**Public Involvement Information:** Three field tours of the project area were conducted during the summer 2004 with affected landowners, public entities including the City of Whitefish, Friends of Haskill Basin, Haskill Basin Watershed Council, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, US Army Corps of Engineers, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the Flathead Conservation District. Project details were also discussed at monthly meetings of the Flathead Conservation District and Haskill Basin Watershed Council, a non-profit advisory committee consisting of landowners and the general public involved in water quality planning.

**Additional information:** See the attached SA checklist.

**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/ Colleen Spiering  
Colleen Spiering  
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

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

DATE: October 6, 2005

Attachments:  
Watershed Checklist  
SHPO Concurrence Letter

cc: (w/ attachments)  
Mr Brian Marotz – MFWP, Fisheries Program Officer, 490 N. Meridian Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901