

DATE: October 21, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-237)

Linda Hermeston
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager – KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Marracci/ WDFW (Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife) Diversion Dam Fish Passage Renovation and Ditch Piping Project

Project No: 2005-006-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement-- Fishways; 1.16 Spawning Habitat Enhancements; 1.17 Rearing Habitat Enhancements; 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities; 2.7 Avoid Exotic Species; 2.9 Mechanical Vegetation Removal; 2.11 Hand Pulling; 4.1 Irrigation Water Management; 4.2 Water Measuring Devices; 4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline; 4.23 Intake and Return Diversion Screens; 4.25 Consolidate/Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams; 6.5 Water Supply: Pipeline; 6.15 Vegetation Stabilization: Brush/Weed Management; 7.2 Install Hydraulic Structures at Low Streamflows; 7.3 Minimize Erosion and Sedimentation During Stream Crossing Construction; 7.5 Avoid Stream Crossings Outside of Construction Windows; 7.8 Drainage Control to Minimize Erosion and Sedimentation; 7.9 Avoid Construction During Inclement Weather; 7.10 Erosion Control and Revegetation at Project Completion; 8.11 Equipment Servicing; 8.22 Site Protection; 8.23 Monitor Revegetated Areas; 9.22 Construction: Erosion and Sediment Control Plans; 9.23 Construction: Erosion and Sediment Control Structures; 9.24 Construction: Inspect Erosion and Sediment Control Structures

Location: Marracci/WDFW Diversion Dam is located at RM 35.2, 5 miles downstream from the town of Twisp, on Beaver Creek, tributary to the Methow River, Okanogan County, Washington State, Columbia River Basin.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and Okanogan Conservation District (OCD). (Action Agencies)

Description & Background of the Proposed Action: This project is part of the Updated Proposed Action (UPA) habitat projects to meet the Action Agencies' metric goals for the Wenatchee, Entiat and Methow subbasins. The UPA program is to improve the quality of tributary habitat to help provide "off-sets" to the impacts of hydro operations on the survival of certain listed anadromous species in the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). The Action Agencies have agreed to address specific limiting factors on the survival of these ESUs in specified areas of their passage, spawning and rearing habitats. The effects of the

November 24, 2004, UPA were evaluated in a revised BO on the FCRPS issued by NOAA Fisheries on November 30, 2004, pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Council and ISRP have reviewed and approved the UPA project implementation for the BO. The proposed projects and locations are consistent with and priorities within the draft Subbasin Plans.

The proposed Marracchi project would replace a diversion structure that is constructed annually from rocks, logs and plastic with a rock v-weir incorporating engineered fish passage. This structure would be integrated with a redesigned headworks and a more efficient delivery system for the water that is diverted in the delivery canal to private lands and the WDFW Methow Wildlife Refuge. The project would pipe this canal which could result in a return to the stream of 1.0 to 1.5 CFS of flow.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Bob Anderson, Okanogan Conservation District, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (DOE/EIS-0265) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Marracchi/WDFW Irrigation Diversion is located in the Beaver Creek drainage of the Methow Valley Subbasin. At low flows, the Marracchi/WDFW Diversion structure is a barrier to fish passage. The project objective is to replace this temporary structure with a permanent structure incorporating engineered fish passage. In addition, the project would pipe a currently unlined irrigation canal to improve efficiency. The delivery canal is an unlined ditch that is constructed in sandy soils where seepage losses could be 50 to 70%.

Beaver Creek and the tributaries are inhabited by resident rainbow trout, introduced Eastern brook trout, and Upper Columbia steelhead. An isolated bull trout population in the headwater tributaries in addition to brook/bull trout hybrids also exist. In the lower reaches, Beaver Creek goes dry in low water years in the fall because the subwatershed is an adjudicated drainage where water uses are provided in excess of available water during part of the irrigation season. The exception to this is in the lowest 0.3 miles of the drainage where surface flow is maintained via irrigation return. Beaver Creek is listed on the Dept. of Ecology's 303(d) list for flow because during dry years the stream is dewatered below the lowest diversion.

This project was included previously in a batched consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service on the removal of several irrigation diversion dams in lower Beaver Creek (FWS reference 1-09-2003-I-W0189). Subsequent removal of barriers to fish passage downstream of the Marracchi diversion has the potential to change effects of the project on listed species in a manner or to an extent not considered in the original consultation. Therefore, BPA re-initiated consultation and requested concurrence with the determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" the bull trout and designated bull trout critical habitat in accordance with Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. The Service's revised final rule designating critical habitat for bull trout was published on September 26, 2005. This revision retained the exclusion of all proposed critical habitat in the upper Columbia sub-basin. Therefore, consultation on effects to bull trout critical habitat was not necessary. A letter of concurrence with BPA's findings was received from USFWS on October 12, 2005, conditioning the project implementation as described in the original Okanogan Conservation District Beaver Creek Barrier Removal & Reconstruction BA, dated February 2003.

This project is designed to conform to the NMFS Biological Opinion for the BPA Habitat Improvement Program (NMFS ref 2003/00750). It incorporated the general conservation measures presented in the HIP BO for construction activities (Section 1.22 and 1.23, pages 27 to 41) as well as the specific conservation measures for improvement of irrigation diversion dams (Sections 1.2 through 8.5, page 60). In addition, Bryan Nordland, NMFS, has participated during the development of the project designs. Therefore, Section 7 consultation with NOAA Fisheries was completed using the HIP BO and all effects of the project activities are within the range of effects addressed in the Opinion. On file is the relevant documentation such as Form 1 HIP BO Consistency Form and Custom Report from the HIP BO.

A cultural resource background search and field survey was conducted by Mark DeLeon, US BOR archaeologist on July 12, 2005. A report was submitted to BPA on September 23, 2005 with a finding of “no potential to cause effects and no further Section 106 review necessary on this undertaking.” During the week of October 3, 2005, Steve Tromly, BPA archaeologist consulted with the Washington Department of Archaeology & Preservation, State Historic Preservation Office, and received verbal concurrence with the report findings. A follow-up letter of concurrence from Gregory Griffith, Deputy SHPO, dated October 14, 2005, was received and is on file.

An Environmental land audit was completed by Mark Hermeston, BPA environmental physical scientist. A review of the property included a review of records, site reconnaissance, evaluation of surrounding properties, and interviews with landowners and/or occupants to determine if there were any recognized environmental conditions associated with the site. Results indicate that there are no hazardous or toxic wastes present. This project does not involve land acquisition.

Okanogan County is the lead contact for applicable aquatic resource permits through JARPA. WDFW would provide the HPA permit and COE provide 404(d) wetland permits. All appropriate permits would be obtained prior to construction.

Coordination meetings have been held quarterly during the past two years to discuss the Updated Proposed Actions (UPA) habitat proposals with willing landowners, local governments, conservation and special interest groups, tribes, the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board and others. Specific project teams have been designated to pursue coordination and implementation of the approved projects including the Marracci/WDFW Diversion Dam Renovation Project. Participants include BOR, WDFW, USFS, USCOE, NOAA Fisheries, USFWS, DOE, Okanogan Conservation District and BPA.

The public involvement program has evolved over several years and has included public notices, public meetings, agency coordination meetings, radio advertisements and discussions, stories in local newspaper and information available via various Internet web links. This project has widespread support for salmon recovery efforts among Colville Confederated Tribe (CCT), Yakama Nation (YN), local governments, landowners, Okanogan County Commissioners, Winthrop and Twisp town councils.

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/ Patricia R. Smith

Patricia R. Smith
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine Pierce

DATE: October 21, 2005

Katherine Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Documents on File:

Marracci NEPA Checklist
HIP Consistency Form 1
Custom Report from HIP BO
Cultural Resources Survey Report
OCD Beaver Creek Barrier Removal & Reconstruction BA (February 2003)
USFWS Concurrence Letter

cc:

Mr. Greg Knott, USBR, PO Box 918, Twisp, WA 98856
Mr. Bob Anderson, Okanogan Conservation District, 1251 S. 2nd Ave, Okanogan, WA 98840
Mr. Don Phillips, USFS, 24 West Chewuch Road, Winthrop, WA 98862