

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: January 4, 2006

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-247)

TO: Jamie Swan - KEWL-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Project Title: Implement Trout Creek Watershed Enhancement (1998-028-00), and Trout Creek Habitat Restoration (1994-042-00)

Project No: 1998-028-00, 1994-042-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.3: Restoration of Channelized River and Stream Reaches; 1.8: Bank Protection through Vegetation Management; 6.10: Riparian Fencing; 5.13: Alternative Water Sources

Location: Madras, Jefferson County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District (JCSWCD) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund a stream channel restoration project, implemented by JCSWCD and ODFW. The project would take place along Trout Creek, one of the largest tributaries to the Deschutes River in North-Central Oregon. Trout Creek supports Middle Columbia River Steelhead, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). However, due to a variety of impacts to the stream, it has become channelized and in the recent past has been completely dewatered in summer months.

The proposed project includes many activities necessary for restoration of a channelized stream, including removal of river control structures (existing berms), followed by excavation of the channel to design a stream which mimics historic natural conditions on Trout Creek. Structures such as J-Hooks and cross vanes would be placed instream to prevent future channelization. The restored stream area would be fenced to exclude livestock, and replanted with native vegetation to protect the streambanks. Alternative water sources would be developed for the livestock to ensure long-term exclusion from the riparian area.

Analysis: The compliance checklists for this project were completed by Adam Haarberg, JCSWCD, and Tom Nelson, ODFW, and the checklists meet the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

ESA-listed steelhead are present in Trout Creek. The proposed project involves significant stream channel construction, so BPA consulted with NOAA Fisheries in 2003 and 2004 on

potential effects on the listed fish. On February 2, 2004, NOAA Fisheries provided a Biological Opinion for the proposed project, concluded formal consultation. The Biological Opinion contained a number of terms and conditions that must be employed during project implementation. Those terms and conditions can be found in the attached Biological Opinion.

The JCSWCD works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The NRCS took the lead in completing the necessary survey and documentation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The NRCS provided a copy of its Section 106 documentation, completed in September 2003, to BPA, and this documentation is attached.

Because the proposed project has an impact on the waters of Trout Creek, the project sponsors sought removal-fill permits. Those permits are held by JCSWCD and ODFW. The proposed project has been discussed in a public forum for watershed issues in the area, the Trout Creek Watershed Group. There have been no comments submitted regarding the proposed project.

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/ Richard Yarde

Richard Yarde

Environmental Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

DATE: January 13, 2006

Attachments:

Compliance Checklists

Cultural Resources Review Forms

Biological Opinion

cc: (w/o attachments)

Mr. Adam Haarberg, Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Mr. Tom Nelson, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife