

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 16, 2006

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-254)

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

Proposed Action: Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program - Fogarty Ditch Diversion

Project No: 2002-025-01

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

4.6 Sprinkler Irrigation,
4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline,
4.20 Well Construction for Primary Water Source

Location: Kittitas County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Kittitas County Conservation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a fish habitat enhancement project with the Kittitas County Conservation District along Fogarty Ditch to enhance the ditch as side channel habitat along the Yakima River south and west of Ellensburg, Washington. The work includes a conversion of one existing surface water diversion on the Fogarty Ditch system to a pumped withdrawal through the use of a “ring well” to be installed on the F. Payne property; a change in the point of withdrawal for the R. Acheson property from an unscreened impassable diversion on Sorenson Creek to a point on Fogarty Ditch beyond the Bureau of Reclamation installed fish screen; and upgrading the irrigation water application system on the Acheson property from flood to sprinkler.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Anna Lael with the Kittitas County 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), listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area would not be adversely affected by the proposed project. Bald eagles routinely use the Yakima River and its tributary streams throughout the year, and are known to roost within the Yakima River corridor, in relatively close proximity to the proposed construction sites. Roosts are generally located in older, larger trees or snags with large lateral limbs.

However, no such trees are present within the immediate vicinity of the project, and no alteration of habitat or prey items are likely to result from the proposed activities. Noise from construction activities at the project site would be the only potential disturbance to foraging eagles. However, noise related to ring well installation will be in short intervals and is not expected to rise above the background noise associated with normal agricultural activities on surrounding lands. Gray wolves have been observed within 10 miles of the project area; however, the chances of encountering individual gray wolves in an area of sub-optimal habitat is minimal.

The proposed project is not expected to adversely affect gray wolves or their habitat due to the nature of the proposed work and the fact the projects are in close proximity to areas of regular human use, which gray wolves generally avoid. No other listed plant or wildlife species have been documented within ten miles of either project area (WDFW Wildlife Heritage spatial database, 2005; Washinton Natural Heritage Program list of known occurrences of rare plants in Washington, Kittitas County, August, 2005.)

In complying with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resources inventory was conducted on the proposed Fogarty Ditch Diversion project by Tucker Orvald of Central Washington University. The cultural resources inventory report recommends that an archaeological monitor be present during ground disturbing activities, and BPA will ensure that one is present. In a letter dated February 15, 2006, the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with BPA's "no effect" determination. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, work will be halted in the vicinity of the findings until an inspection and assessment can be done.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of the Fogarty Ditch Diversion 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 Fogarty Ditch Diversion project. The Kittitas County Conservation District has proactively and cooperatively worked with landowners, tribal representatives, and local, state, and federal agencies to apprise them of the project scope and status. Individual consultation has been done with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Yakama Nation, Frank Payne (landowner), and Rob Acheson (landowner).

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

Dawn R. Boorse

Environmental Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

DATE: March 17, 2006

Attachment:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/o attachment)

Ms. Anna Lael - Kittitas County Conservation District

Mr. Richard Visser - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife