

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 17, 1998

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: ECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS

TO: Thomas C. McKinney – NEPA Compliance Officer

Proposed Action: Stabler Cut-Bank

Budget No.: f5020

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 Structures, 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management, 1.9 Structural Bank Protection Using Bioengineering Methods, 1.10 Structural Bank Protection Using Engineered Structures, 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 2.2 Plant/Protect Conifers in Riparian Areas for Thermal Cover, 2.4 Provide Filter Strips to Catch Sediment and Other Pollutants, 2.14 Enhance Large Woody Debris Recruitment

Location: White Salmon, Washington.

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The Stabler Long Cut Bank Project involves treatment of a low cut bank to restore the rate of channel migration and woody debris input to more natural levels in the Wind River. The project will occur along 1,500 feet of the right bank of the Wind River and will extend 200 feet upslope of the post-project low water line. Proposed activities include resloping, large woody debris (LWD) placement, planting, vegetation management and monitoring.

The existing cut bank will be resloped with an excavator to a 2:1 slope. Ten LWD clusters will be placed at approximately equal intervals along the bank. Each cluster will consist of a toe log, two or three key pieces, and backfill. The toe log will be approximately 60 feet long excavated along the low water line. Key pieces will consist of logs of about the same dimensions as the toe log, but with the root wad attached. These will be laid on top of the toe log, with the root end extending no more than halfway across the wetted low flow channel with the top end buried in a trench excavated into the bank. Additional key pieces will be placed to overlap one another to form an open crib. The crib will be back filled with boulders and small woody debris. The cluster at the upstream end of the project will also include a “bank barb” constructed of boulders. The resloped area will be covered with erosion control matting and planted with a mixture of shrubs, conifers, and hardwood trees, with an emphasis on cedar and other conifer trees. Willow and cottonwood may be favored adjacent to the waterline to maximize bank cohesion. The project also includes vegetation management and monitoring of the project site.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the Underwood Conservation District and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Section 7 consultation was conducted with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the requirements of the Endangered Species Act (Act). Of concern are the potential impacts from proposed project construction activities to Lower Columbia River steelhead trout. A biological assessment was completed and sent to USFWS. USFWS concurred on August 3, 1998, with BPA's finding that the action is "not likely to adversely affect" listed Lower Columbia River steelhead trout.

On-the-ground surveys were conducted by Alex Bourdeau of the USFWS Region 1 Cultural Resource Team in the project areas and there were no cultural resources present. This action was done under the terms of a programmatic agreement between the USFWS and the Washington State Historic Preservation Office.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 2.2A, 2.2H, and 7.7 of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

Eric N. Powers
Environmental Project Lead
Environment, Fish and Wildlife Group

Concur:

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: _____

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
USFWS Concurrence Letter
Cultural Resource Compliance Determination Letter

cc:

B. Beraud - EC-4

L. Croff - ECP-4

N. Weintraub - ECN-4

J. Baugher – EWN-4

M. Shaw - EWP-4

P. Key - LN-7

G. Johnston – Underwood Conservation District

Official File - ECN (EQ-14)

Epowers:enp:x5823: 09/17/98 (w:ecn\ecn98\eq-14\Wm\wind river2.doc)