

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 15, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-108)

TO: David Byrnes
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Klickitat Watershed Enhancement Project – Snyder Canyon Creek Mill Fish Passage Project

Project No: 1997-056-00

Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 1.1 Modeling the Effects of River Channelization, 1.4 Pre-Implementation Evaluation of Proposed Enhancements, 1.5 Install Grade Control Structures and Check Dams, 1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures, 1.13 Culvert Removal/Replacement to Improve Fish Passage, 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancements – Fishways

Location: Klickitat County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Yakama Nation

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a portion of a fish passage improvement project with the Yakama Nation Fisheries Program on Snyder Canyon Creek near Klickitat, Washington. Additional funding and support for this project will come from Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants, the Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

In the early 1900's a lumber mill was constructed along Snyder Canyon Creek. Snyder Canyon Creek was confined to a 2,300-foot concrete flume, which was dammed at the upstream end. Adult steelhead were occasionally observed in the flume during winter months, but no fish passage was possible past the dam. Two culverts located upstream of the dam also serve as barriers to juvenile fish passage.

The proposed project will install grade control structures below the existing flume, install baffles throughout the flume, remove the dam, and replace the upstream culverts to improve fish passage on Snyder Canyon Creek. BPA funds will be used to replace the two existing culverts (Maki Crossing and Stanton Crossing) located upstream of the mill site and replace them with free spanning bridges. This Supplement Analysis addresses the proposed culvert replacement actions only.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Will Conley with the Yakama Nation (July 7, 2003), and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are bald eagle, bull trout and Middle Columbia River steelhead. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, BPA submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) for the Snyder Canyon Creek Mill Site Fish Passage Project to NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on December 16, 2002. As part of the BA, BPA determined that the proposed actions would have no effect on bald eagle, may affect but are not likely to adversely affect bull trout, and may adversely affect steelhead. BPA also determined that the proposed actions would have no effect on Essential Fish Habitat for chinook or coho salmon.

USFWS issued a letter of concurrence on these findings on January 7, 2003. NOAA Fisheries issued a Biological Opinion for the project on April 29, 2003 (see attached). NOAA Fisheries concluded that the proposed actions were not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of Middle Columbia River steelhead or result in the destruction or adverse modification of their habitat. Within the Biological Opinion, NOAA Fisheries identified a set of required Reasonable and Prudent Measures and Terms and Conditions for the project that are designed to minimize take of steelhead and minimize potential effects to Essential Fish Habitat. All identified Reasonable and Prudent Measures and Terms and Conditions contained in the attached Biological Opinion must be implemented accordingly.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resources survey of the mill site and the culvert replacement sites was completed by William White, an archaeologist with the Yakama Nation. No cultural resources were discovered in the area of impact for the two culvert replacement projects being funded by BPA. Based on the recommendations of the Yakama Nation, a qualified archaeologist will monitor the removal and construction phases of the culvert replacement work in case archaeological or historic material is uncovered during these phases of the Snyder Canyon Creek Mill Site Fish Passage Project. In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity of the finds will be discontinued, the area secured, and the Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation notified. The Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with these findings and recommendations on June 19, 2003.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of the culvert replacement activities. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has taken place as part of the Snyder Canyon Creek Mill Site Fish Passage Project. Through the local Salmon Recovery Funding Board process, this project was solicited by Klickitat County through various media outlets. The project was also reviewed by a Technical Advisory Group and by a Citizens Review Committee. The Yakama Nation has also met and spoken with local landowners about this project on several occasions. Local landowners are in support of the proposed activities.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This 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.

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart
Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: July 15, 2003

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion, April 29, 2003

USFWS Letter of Concurrence, January 7, 2003

WA Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Letter of Concurrence, June 19, 2003

Fred Walasavage Email Concerning Hazardous Wastes, May 22, 2003

cc: (w/ attachments)

Mr. Will Conley – Yakama Nation Fisheries Resource Management