

memorandum

DATE: October 9, 1998

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: ECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS, Project No. 98-44 to 98-47

TO: Thomas C. McKinney – NEPA Compliance Officer

Proposed Action: Asotin Creek Model Watershed Habitat Restoration Projects

Budget No.: f5124, f5126, f5128, f5130

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): Project techniques are to improve in-stream habitat, re-establish geomorphic stability and restore the riparian plant community as stated in the Asotin Creek Model Watershed Plan.

Location: Asotin Creek, Washington.

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The Asotin Creek Model Watershed Plan identified four critical watershed problems in the Asotin Creek watershed. The watershed restoration plan identified a number of practices that can be installed to provide cumulative benefits to restore fish and wildlife and improve water quality. The purpose of the first project is to cut and haul Christmas trees to project sites to be used between structures for bank stabilization and complex habitat.

The second project is the Asotin Creek Fish/Structure Monitoring. WDFW will conduct pre- and post-construction monitoring of in-stream fish habitat restoration structures to document success of pool forming structures.

The third project is the Headgate Park Monitoring. Post-Headgate Park Structure Installation would be monitored of fish habitat restoration projects.

These next projects stem from the January 1, 1997, flood and they include: Koch #2 Channel Reconstruction Project, Koch #3 Habitat Restoration Project, Charley Creek #4 & #5 Habitat Restoration Projects, M. Koch #6 & #7 Habitat Restoration Projects, Hood #8 Habitat Restoration Project, Thiessen #9 Habitat Restoration Project, J. Koch #11 Habitat Restoration Project, M. Bogar #12 Habitat Restoration Project, Thompson #13 Habitat Restoration Project, C. Flynn #14 Habitat Restoration Project, and the Charley Creek #15, #16, #17, & #18 Habitat Restoration Projects. The flood of 1997 caused extensive damage to a pre-constructed dike and the adjacent stream corridor at this site. As a result, the stream became braided and is presently

denuded of riparian vegetation. These projects include restoring in-stream fish habitat, re-establish meander geometry to bankfull discharge dimensions, enhance floodplains and pointbars relative to the riffle pool morphology that previously existed. The projects would also re-establish riparian vegetation and re-introduce large woody debris (LWD) to system.

The South Fork Riparian Restoration and Instream Habitat Development Project would restore in-stream fish habitat, re-establish the riparian zone and protect the stream reach from further land use impacts. Historically intensive lean use has occurred on these sections resulting in degraded stream channel stability, a loss of riparian vegetation and subsequently poor instream habitat. This reach of the south fork of Asotin Creek is a potentially significant producer of wild steelhead trout and to reach it's full potential this reach needs to be enhanced.

The final six projects are Asotin Creek Information and Education Projects focusing on the Asotin County school districts. These projects will provide students with knowledge to become better stewards of the land give them more perspective on demands placed on our natural resources. Through continuing education opportunities the students will be able to recognize the issues surrounding their area and have a better understanding of the issues facing them as they mature.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the ACCD 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) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the requirements of the Endangered Species Act (Act). Of concern are the potential impacts from proposed project construction activities to peregrine falcon, bald eagle, bull trout, spring/summer chinook salmon and Snake River steelhead. As a result, a biological assessment was completed and sent to USFWS and NMFS. NMFS concurred on July 29, 1998, with BPA's finding that the action is "not likely to adversely affect" listed Snake River spring/summer and fall chinook salmon, or their designated critical habitat, and Snake River steelhead. Likewise, USFWS concurred on June 25, 1998, with BPA's finding that the proposed project as described in the BA, would be expected to have no effect on bald eagle and peregrine falcon. Also, USFWS concurred on the same date with BPA's determination of effect for bull trout of "may effect, but is unlikely to adversely affect.

Attached to this supplement analysis is the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) policy and procedures regarding Archaeological and Historic Properties (Cultural Resources). It addresses policy and procedures for protecting archaeological and historic properties and implementing historic preservation legislation and executive orders in its programs. BPA finds these policies and procedures to be in compliance with the EIS and ROD.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.8H.2, 7.10, and 10.2 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
NMFS Concurrence Letter
USFWS Concurrence Letter

cc:

B. Beraud - EC-4

L. Croff - ECP-4

N. Weintraub - ECN-4

M. Shaw - EWP-4

P. Key - LN-7

B. Johnson – ACCD

C. Bergstrom – EH-42

Official File - ECN (EQ-14 (wm))

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