

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: 3/18/99

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS

TO: Joe Deherrera – KEWN-4  
Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Ahtanum Creek Watershed Assessment

**Budget No:** F5230

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

1.4 Pre-Implementation Evaluation of Proposed Enhancements; 4.1 Irrigation Water Management, and 4.3 Soil and Crop Water Use Data

**Location:** Ahtanum Creek Watershed, Yakima County, Washington

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Yakama Indian Nation.

**Description of the Proposed Action:**

This project is the first attempt at objective fact gathering with the intent of restoring anadromous fish populations in Ahtanum Creek. The fisheries habitat problems in the Ahtanum Creek watershed are complex, and we intend to use watershed analysis as a framework for ensuring that future actions are complementary and effective.

We propose to map irrigated lands and water delivery systems, measure water discharge and temperature, compare water diversion and loss with on-farm water needs, and estimate the efficiency of irrigation water conveyance and use. At the same time we will gather historic and current data on stream channel condition, riparian function and salmonid populations.

We will use this information to determine how water use and riparian management in lower Ahtanum Creek may be limiting production of anadromous salmonids in the watershed as a whole, and to determine the most effective measures for salmon and steelhead restoration. After completing data analyses and the Assessment document in FY2000, we will recommend restoration measures that could include improved irrigation facilities, land and water management changes, and purchase or lease of land and water rights.

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

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Services were contacted to determine that bull trout are known to occur or potentially occur in the vicinity of the project area. There is no evidence of steelhead in the basin currently. Spring chinook have been seen in the lower reaches of the basin, but there is no evidence of spawning activity. A collection permit has been applied for in case the assessment includes electro-fishing or a screw trap for fish identification and release only.

The Tribal archaeologist will be consulted during the assessment to identify potential occurrences of cultural resources.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with Sections 7.6A1, 7.6A2, and 10.5A 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.

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Nancy Weintraub  
KECN Project Lead  
Environment, Fish and Wildlife Group

CONCUR: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment:**  
NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc:  
H. Nigam – EH-42 (DOE)  
L. Croff - KECP-4  
B. Beraud - KECN-4  
N. Weintraub - KECN-4  
J. Marcotte - KEWN-4  
P. Key - LN-7  
Official File - KECN – (EQ-15 (Supplemental Analysis) )

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