

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: December 3, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-130)

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

Proposed Action: Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program– Dry Creek Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project

Project No: 2002-025-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis

(See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management, 1.9 Structural Bank Protection using Bioengineering Methods, 1.10 Structural Bank Protection using Engineered Structures, 1.16 Spawning Habitat Enhancement, 2.7 Avoid Exotic Species, 4.6 Sprinkler Irrigation, 4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline, 4.25 Consolidate/Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams

Location: Kittitas County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a fish passage and irrigation efficiency project with the Kittitas County Conservation District located on Dry and Cabin Creeks in Kittitas County, Washington. The proposed project will include removing a diversion dam, consolidating three irrigation diversions into one, and installing a fish screen. A new center pivot irrigation system will be installed and water savings of approximately 12 cfs will be left instream improving instream flows in lower Cabin and Dry Creeks, as well as the Yakima River. In addition, disturbed streambanks will be stabilized and revegetated.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Stephen Kropp with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Rusty Gigstead with the Kittitas County Conservation District (November 18, 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 Middle Columbia River steelhead, bull trout, and bald eagle. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, a Biological Evaluation was sent to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on September 17, 2003 and to NOAA Fisheries on October 14, 2003.

BPA determined that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect steelhead, bull trout or bald eagle. BPA also determined that the project may adversely affect essential fish habitat for coho and chinook salmon. USFWS concurred with BPA's findings on September 23, 2003. NOAA Fisheries concurred with BPA's findings on November 18, 2003 and concluded that no additional conservation recommendations would be needed to offset impacts to essential fish habitat.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resource survey of the project area was completed by Earth Imaging Associates, Inc. The survey included archival research, an interview with the landowner, and a pedestrian survey of the project parcel where disturbance activities are planned. The archival search did not indicate any prior records and/or sites located within the project vicinity and no cultural materials were identified as a result of the pedestrian survey. The diversion structure on Cabin Creek was identified as a potential historic property but was not found to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with these findings on November 6, 2003. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered as part of this project, an archaeologist should be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of the Dry Creek Project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals. Permits and approvals applied for or granted for this project include (but are not limited to) a County Shoreline and Floodplain Management Permit, a State Hydraulic Project Approval, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permit, and a State 401 Water Quality Certification.

Public involvement will take place as part of the Dry Creek project. The Kittitas County Conservation District is sponsoring this project as part of the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP). YTAHP is a consortium of local irrigation and conservation districts and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The project was identified by the YTAHP core committee as a high priority early action. In addition, Washington State Environmental Policy Act rules require that the lead agency for this project use reasonable methods to inform the public and other agencies that an environmental document is being prepared or is available and that public hearing(s), if any, will be held. For this project public notice will be given by one or more of the following methods: notifying public and private groups and individuals with known interest in the proposal; publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the area; and/or posting the property.

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 Stewart 12-3-03

Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

DATE: 12-4-03

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

NOAA Fisheries Letter of Concurrence, November 18, 2003

USFWS Letter of Concurrence, September 23, 2003

WA Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Letter of Concurrence, November 6, 2003

cc: (w/ attachments)

Mr. Stephen Kropp – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Ms. Anna Lael – Kittitas County Conservation district