

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: March 11, 2004

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-135)

TO: Mickey Carter  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

**Proposed Action:** Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects - Muddy Springs/Pahsimeroi Fence

**Project No:** 1994-017-00

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 4.12 Filter Strips, 6.1 Deferred Grazing, 6.3 Control Grazing, 6.10 Access: Fencing

**Location:** Custer County, Idaho

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the installation of approximately 10,917 feet of riparian fence on Muddy Springs (both sides) and approximately 5,010 feet of riparian fence on the west side of the Pahsimeroi River. This fence will be a Jack Post and Pole fence therefore no ground disturbance will take place. The fence will meet BPA's minimum requirement of a 35-foot setback. Six stream crossing fences will be included in this project to keep livestock from entering behind the fence through the stream. Crossing fences will be placed at the high water level and will not interfere with stream flow. The Muddy Springs fence will include a riparian buffer zone of approximately 60 acres inside the fence. The Pahsimeroi River fence will be a pasture rotation project that will meet Natural Resource Conservation Service's specifications for grazing management.

**Analysis:** The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Karma Bragg with the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District (March 8, 2004) 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 gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, Ute Ladies'-Tresses, chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout. It was determined that the proposed fence construction project would have no effect on gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, or Ute Ladies'-Tresses since the project site is primarily agricultural and these species are not known to occur in the project area. It was also determined that the proposed project would have no effect on ESA listed aquatic species since the project will involve no instream activities and the proposed fences will be constructed with little to no ground disturbance at an average of 50-100 feet from the stream channel. In addition, the area has excellent ground cover that would serve as a buffer to any sediment that may be created by construction of the fence.

Requirements associated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act were handled by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), in cooperation with staff from the U.S. Forest Service

(Boise National Forest), under their existing Programmatic Agreement with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). A description of the Muddy Springs/Pahsimeroi Fence project and site information was reviewed by a qualified archaeologist and it was determined that although there are no known sites in the project area, areas in close proximity to reliable water sources and gentle terrain have a high probability of cultural resource discovery. In response, an appropriate archaeological survey will be completed by qualified NRCS staff. All survey findings will be forwarded to the Idaho SHPO for consideration. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, 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 should be followed during the implementation of the Muddy Springs/Pahsimeroi Fence project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Muddy Springs/Pahsimeroi Fence project. This project was coordinated through the Upper Salmon Basin Technical Team composed of representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, Shoshone Bannock Tribe, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game. This project was ranked by the Technical Team in September 2003 and reviewed again for consideration of funding in November. In addition, Custer Soil and Water Conservation District and the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project hold monthly meetings that are open to the public in which this project was discussed.

**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 3-12-04

Shannon C. Stewart  
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 3-15-04

**Attachments:**

NEPA Compliance Checklist  
NRCS Project Request for Cultural Resource Assistance, March 1, 2004

cc: (w/o attachments)  
Ms. Karma Bragg – Custer Soil and Water Conservation District