

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 17, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-148)

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

Proposed Action: Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects- Gydesen-Moen Irrigation Improvement and Riparian Enhancement

Project No: 1994-017-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 6.5 Water Supply: Pipeline, 4.2 Water Measuring Devices, 4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline, 4.22 Avoid Excess Irrigation Flows

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 an irrigation improvement and riparian enhancement project on the Pahsimeroi River with the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District. Approximately 4,300 feet of pipe was installed in FY 2003 to replace two open ditches that are located on the Gydesen property. The current proposal involves installing 1 full pivot and one 1/4 pivot the Gydesen property and a 1/2 pivot on the Moen property to replace flood irrigation currently being served from the P-11 diversion. The P-11 diversion and ditch will be permanently closed as a result of this project. Approximately 1,400 feet of pipeline will be installed on the Moen property and 1,200 feet will be installed on the Gydesen property as part of the current proposal. Water from a warm spring will be used to supplement water for the installed system. All work will occur in the dry as the ditches have lockable headgates that will leave the water in the river approximately 1 1/2 miles from the construction site.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Karma Bragg with the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District (April 7, 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, sockeye salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout. It was determined that the proposed project would have no effect on gray wolf, bald eagle, Canada lynx, Ute Ladies'-Tresses or sockeye salmon since these species are not known to occur in the project area which is used primarily for farming. It was also determined that although steelhead and bull trout are found in the project vicinity, the proposed actions would have no effect on these species because all work will take place in the dry at a considerable distance from the streambanks. Documentation supporting these determinations was provided by Karma Bragg with the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District (June 16, 2004).

Requirements associated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act were handled by the Natural Resource Conservation Service in cooperation with staff from the U.S. Forest Service, Boise National Forest. The project description and site information was reviewed by a qualified archaeologist and it was determined that the Gydesen-Moen project did not require an archaeological survey to proceed. These findings were made in compliance with the established Programmatic Agreement between the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. 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 Gydesen-Moen project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals including water rights.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Gydesen-Moen project. This project has been coordinated through the Upper Salmon Basin Technical Team composed of technical representatives from U.S. Fish & Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, Shoshone/Bannock Tribe, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game. This project has been reviewed at bi-annual meetings of the Upper Salmon Basin Advisory Committee, which is made up of local stakeholders including environmental and recreational groups, tribes and waterusers from the basin. Landowners on either side of the project have been consulted with. This project has also been reviewed in Custer Soil and Water Conservation District and Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program monthly meetings that are open to the public. In addition, this project has been reviewed extensively by Idaho Department of Water Resources.

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 6-18-04

Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 6-18-04

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
NRCS Project Request for Cultural Resource Assistance, Moen August 29, 2003; Gydesen July 15, 2002

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