

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 6, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-153)

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

Proposed Action: Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program – Cowiche Creek Pump Screens

Project No: 2002-025-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline, 4.23 Intake and Return Diversion Screens

Location: Yakima County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the North Yakima Conservation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a fish passage improvement effort on Cowiche Creek in conjunction with the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program and the North Yakima Conservation District. As part of this project, existing pump diversions will be fitted with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and NOAA Fisheries approved Pump Rite screens. In each case, the intake will be attached to a flexible plastic pipe that may be draped over the streambank and lowered into the creek during the irrigation season. No filling or excavating will be required and no permanent structures are to be installed. Existing diversions currently use removable flex hose, so there are no existing structures to be removed.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Mike Tobin with the North Yakima Conservation District (June 14, 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 Mid-Columbia River steelhead and Columbia River bull trout. It was determined that the proposed pump screen projects would have no effect on these species. The project will not involve any ground disturbance, construction or demolition activities. The Pump Rite screens are NOAA Fisheries approved. The operation of the screens will have no effect on ESA listed fish (Dale Bambrick, NOAA Fisheries 6/30/04).

The proposed pump screen projects do not involve any ground disturbance, construction or demolition activities. BPA has determined that the project has no potential to affect cultural and/or historic resources. Requirements associated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act are therefore not triggered. 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 Cowiche Creek pump screen projects. 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 Cowiche Creek pump screen project. Landowners are participating in this pump screen project on a voluntary basis. The North Yakima Conservation District works proactively and cooperatively with landowners, local, state, and federal agencies to inform them of the project scope and benefits. Consultation on this project has also taken place with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Yakama Nation, NOAA fisheries, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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 7-6-04

Shannon C. Stewart

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 7-6-04

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/ attachments)

Mr. Stephen Kropp– Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mr. Mike Tobin – North Yakima Conservation District