

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: 8/3/99

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-15)

TO: David Byrnes - EWN-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Teanaway River Instream Flow Restoration Project

Budget No: F3760, 9704900

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 4.2 Water Measuring Devices, 4.6 Sprinkler Irrigation, 4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline, 4.18 Purchase/Negotiate Water Right

Location: Teanaway River, northeast of Teanaway, Kittitas County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Yakama Nation (YN), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Description of the Proposed Action: The primary objective of this project is to increase instream flows in the Teanaway River and increase salmon and steelhead production in the stream. Improved instream flows in the Teanaway River would increase both juvenile rearing habitat and improve passage conditions for adult salmon. In addition, improved instream flows will assist in restoring a healthy riverine ecosystem. Low summer instream flows have been recognized as a serious problem with respect to salmon and steelhead production in the Teanaway River for many years. In May 1996, the Teanaway River was listed on the Washington State Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list as both flow and temperature impaired. Water acquired through this cooperative water conservation project will be dedicated to instream flows in the Teanaway River. Water conservation programs would be implemented with cooperating landowners and the conserved water dedicated to instream flows. Conservation programs are expected to be operational by September 1999. Water measuring devices will be placed on all water diversions involved in the water conservation program. Continuous monitoring will ensure that diversions are reduced in order to increase instream flows.

The project would require four pumping and pipeline delivery systems at two site locations on the Teanaway River – Lambert Bridge and Red Bridge Road Bridge. Local NRCS resources would be used for development of on-farm delivery system designs and approval of irrigation equipment to meet NRCS standards. The Kittitas Conservation District would also be involved by serving as the local entity responsible for making direct payments to landowners for on-farm equipment as part of a cost share program. These pumping plants would require in-river work to

establish the intake suction lines and structures and require some type of pumping platforms. Each location would have two intakes to separate systems. There would be a single concrete structure to hold either the intake pipelines or the intake lines would be enclosed within the structure. This would require some minor excavation in the river channel and construction of the structure streamside. The structures would be backfilled and protected with rock riprap. They would be adjacent to or in the vicinity of the existing county road bridge abutments.

Equipment anticipated to be used would be a tracked backhoe, concrete pump truck, crane, small hand tools, front-end loader, dump truck, and concrete blankets. Water would be prevented from entering the work area by an earthen or material barrier to prevent soil fines from entering the river. Work would be performed during low water periods wherever possible; and would occur in the month of August. The excavator would be cleaned of any oil or hydraulic leaks prior to operating adjacent to the river, as would the loader and dump trucks. Access to the sites would cross over adjacently owned BPA land or by direct access from the adjacent county road. A service ramp or stairway would be provided during construction or a permanent stairway to the operating platform would be constructed as part of the project. Protective barriers and silt containment barriers would be removed after completion of the work. Upon completion of the proposed project, disturbed areas would be revegetated with native grass seed to minimize surface erosion.

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

Section 7 consultation was conducted with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the requirements of the Endangered Species Act. Of concern are the potential impacts from proposed project construction activities to the Wenatchee checkermallow, Ute's ladies tresses, gray wolf, grizzly bear, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, Northern spotted owl, Middle Columbia River steelhead, and bull trout. As a result, a biological assessment was completed and sent to USFWS and NMFS. USFWS concurred on June 8, 1999 with BPA's finding that the proposed project, as described in the BA, is not likely to adversely affect the Wenatchee checkermallow, Ute's ladies tresses, gray wolf, grizzly bear, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, Northern spotted owl, and bull trout. A survey was conducted in the project area for Ute ladies'-tresses in July, 1999 before any ground disturbance occurred; however, Ute ladies'-tresses were not found within the project area. NMFS concurred by telephone on July 1, 1999 that the project is not likely to adversely affect Middle Columbia River steelhead. This supplement analysis is contingent upon receiving written concurrence from NMFS with BPA's finding that the proposed project, as described in the BA, is not likely to adversely affect Middle Columbia River steelhead.

A Cultural Resources Survey of the project area was conducted on December 23, 1997. No cultural resources were identified in the project area. An additional survey was conducted in July, 1999, to address the new pumping station locations and pipeline alignments. No cultural resources were identified along the pipeline routes or within the two pumping plant locations. A letter documenting the results of this survey will be sent to the State Historic Preservation Office and the Yakama Nation.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 2.1, 7.7, 7.8G, 7.8H, and 7.11C 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.

Eric N. Powers
KECN Environmental Project Lead

CONCUR: _____ DATE: _____
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
USFWS Concurrence Letter on BA
Telecon re:NMFS Concurrence
NMFS Concurrence Letter on BA (when received)
Cultural Resources Survey
Ute ladies' tresses Survey

cc:

Al Scherzinger, Bureau of Reclamation
Lynn Hatcher, Yakama Nation
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L. Croff - KECP-4
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N. Weintraub - KECN-4
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P. Key - LN-7
Official File - ECN (EQ-13)

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