

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: 10/28/98

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: ECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS, Project No. 96-011

TO: Thomas C. McKinney - ECN-4  
NEPA Compliance Officer

**Proposed Action:** Walla Walla Watershed Passage Projects – Burlingame Diversion, Garden City/Lowden 2 Diversion, and Hofer Diversion.

**Budget No:** F3488

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement - Fishways, 4.8 Water Conveyance: Ditches and Canal, 4.25 Consolidate/Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams

**Location:** Walla Walla County, Washington.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

**Description of the Proposed Action:**

**Burlingame Diversion Dam Fish Ladder and Fish Screen Improvements:** Located at River Mile 36.2 of the Walla Walla River, the goal of the proposed modifications is to improve adult (upstream) fish passage over the diversion dam into the upper watershed for Steelhead Trout and salmonids. An adult trapping component is also being added to the existing ladder to provide the ability to monitor upstream passage. However, BPA has stated that before any trapping component is used, BPA or its contractor will obtain a Section 10 scientific collection permit.

The existing fish screens have excessive approach velocities, excessive screen openings, and poor fish bypass conditions, and therefore are proposed to be replaced with screens that incorporate solutions to these problems.

**Garden City/Lowden 2 Diversion Consolidation & Fish Passage Improvement:** The Garden City and Lowden 2 Diversions are located between River Miles 30 and 31 of the Walla Walla River. The proposed improvements for Garden City/Lowden 2 include: 1) Consolidating the diversions at the Lowden 2 diversion site and construction of a new conveyance between the Lowden 2 canal and the Garden City canal; and 2) Construction of new fish screens near the point of

diversion and construction of a grade control structure in the Walla Walla River that will replace the push-up berms currently used to divert water into the canal.

With the proposed consolidation of the two diversion to the Lowden 2 site, additional fish passage structures would be constructed at the Lowden 2 site only and the existing screens and diversion at the Garden City diversion would be removed. The proposed passage improvements would include a new fish screen and fish bypass near the diversion and a new grade control/diversion structure in the Walla Walla River to allow long term diversion of water to the Districts without the need to work in the river. The new structure would be designed to provide upstream fish passage.

Hofer Diversion Dam Fish Passage Project: The Hofer Diversion Dam is located on River Mile 4.1 of the Touchet River. The proposed upstream passage improvements include providing low flow passage over the existing diversion. Alternatives considered include constructing a series of concrete weirs across the river channel to submerge the dam, rehabilitating and enlarging the existing fish ladder, and construction of a conventional fish ladder along the right bank.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the BPA 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) under the requirements of the Endangered Species Act. Of concern are the potential impacts from proposed project construction activities to the bald eagle and bull trout. As a result, a biological assessment was completed and sent to USFWS. USFWS concurred on September 15, 1998, with BPA's finding that the proposed project as described in the BA, would be expected to have a beneficial affect.

A Cultural Resources Survey of the project area was conducted in August, 1998. No cultural resources were identified in the project area. The proposed project would have no effect on cultural resources.

**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.

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Dawn R. Boorse  
ECN Project Lead  
Environment, Fish and Wildlife Group

Concur:

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Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachments:**

NEPA Compliance Checklist  
USFWS Concurrence Letter on BA  
Cultural Resources Survey

cc:

L. Croff - ECP-4

B. Beraud - ECN-4

N. Weintraub - ECN-4

J. Marcotte - EWN-4

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Official File - ECN (EQ-15)

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