

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 26, 2004

REPLY TO: KEC-4
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-188)

TO: Jonathan McCloud
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Umatilla Habitat Improvements/Sears Creek Culvert Replacement

Project No: 1987-100-01

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.13 Culvert Removal/Replacement to Improve Fish Passage

Location: Umatilla County, Oregon

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to fund the replacement of a culvert just upstream from the mouth of Sears Creek that poses a passage impediment for adult steelhead. The failing culvert is undersized and its inlet is partially filled with bed load. The discharge side has a drop of some three feet with high velocity flow and an inadequate pool to allow easy passage for steelhead headed for the upper drainage spawning and rearing area. There will be 1) installation of a new arch culvert in Old Meacham Road, 2) rock added to the stream bed upstream and downstream from the new culvert in order to bring the channel up to a consistent grade, and 3) placement of a rock weir upstream and downstream of the culvert to reduce energy and velocity and create scour pools.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Robert Lewis, a habitat biologist with the CTUIR, 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 summer steelhead, bald eagle, bull trout, and Canada lynx. The bald eagle, bull trout, and Canada lynx are not known to occur in the immediate project vicinity, and it was determined that the proposed culvert replacement would have no effect on these species. For summer steelhead, an anadromous fish species, NOAA Fisheries concurred with BPA's determination that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect summer steelhead, and will not adversely affect the Essential Fish Habitat in Sears Creek.

In complying with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resource survey was done by a CTUIR investigator. Since the project is located on tribal land the CTUIR Tribal Historic Preservation Office reviewed findings and determined the project could proceed with a cultural resource monitor present during ground disturbing activities. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, an archaeologist would 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 Sears Creek Culvert Replacement project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

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/ Dawn Boorse 10-26-04

Dawn R. Boorse
Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 10-26-04

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist