

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 26, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-189)

TO: Ben Zelinsky
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Tucannon River Model Watershed – Howard Irrigation Efficiency Project

Project No: 1994-018-06

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 4.1 Irrigation Water Management, 4.2 Water Measuring Devices, 4.6 Sprinkler Irrigation, 4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline

Location: Garfield County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund an irrigation efficiency project with the Columbia Conservation District. The existing handline irrigation system will be converted to a 725-foot five-tower center pivot system. The system will include 20-psi regulators, goose necks and drop rotators to within 4 feet of ground level and the installation of 960 feet of mainline. Historic use at the site is 74.33 acre-feet; efficiency use will be 49.85 acre-feet, which will equal a savings of .36 cfs for the Tucannon River. This project will enhance critical flows in spring chinook and steelhead spawning and rearing reaches and bull trout overwinter/ spring migration corridors in the Tucannon River. 100% of the saved water will be allocated to an instream use via the Washington Water Trust by the Washington Department of Ecology.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Terry Bruegman with the Columbia Conservation District (October 25, 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 Snake River spring chinook, Snake River fall chinook, Snake River steelhead, bald eagle, bull trout, Ute ladies' -tresses, and Spalding's catchfly. The project does not involve instream work and therefore no impacts to aquatic species are expected. All work will take place in established production agriculture fields where listed terrestrial species are not present. Based on this information, BPA determined that the project would have no effect on ESA listed species.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resource investigation of the Howard project site was completed by Brett Lenz an archaeologist with Columbia Geotechnical Associates, Inc. The investigation included background research and a pedestrian/ subsurface survey of areas proposed for disturbance. As a result of this investigation no prehistoric or historic resources were identified. Based on these findings, BPA determined that the proposed project would have no effect on cultural and/or historic resources. The Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with these findings on August 26, 2004.

In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, work should be 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 Howard project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable permits and approvals.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Howard project. This project has been discussed at public meetings, in local and area news items, and in presentations given to state and regional entities, environmental associations and resource agencies. In addition project tours have taken place. The Tucannon Subbasin planning process utilized a subbasin planning team and established watershed planning units for project review and input. Participants represent local, area, regional and national interests. Partnerships have also been formed with WA Conservation Commission, WA Dept of Ecology, WA Water Trust, WA Snake River Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Columbia County Commissioners, Walla Walla Community College, Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and local landowners.

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 C. Stewart

Shannon C. Stewart

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: October 27, 2004

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

WA SHPO Letter of Concurrence, August 31, 2004

cc: (w/ attachments)

Mr. Terry Bruegman – Columbia Conservation District