

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: December 17, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-198)

TO: B. Zelinsky – KEWL-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Sandy River Delta Habitat Restoration

Project No: 1999-025-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities; 2.10 Mechanical Vegetation Removal; 3.29 Herbicide/Pesticide Application; 4.15 Water Table Control

Location: Troutdale, Multnomah County, OR

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the U.S. Forest Service

Description of the Proposed Action: The U.S. Forest Service purchased the Sandy River Delta in 1991 to preserve and protect this sensitive habitat at the confluence of the Sandy River and Columbia River. The Sandy River Delta Plan (USDA-Forest Service, October 1995) and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Sandy River Delta Plan (EIS) (USDA-Forest Service, October 1995) were completed for the area and the Record of Decision for the Sandy River Delta Plan was signed March 25, 1996. BPA proposes to continue funding of habitat restoration work on the Sandy River Delta in accordance with the Sandy River Delta Plan under BPA's Fish and Wildlife Program.

Proposed activities include herbicide use and manipulation of the water table by pumping water from existing wells into wetlands to control reed canary grass, an exotic. Also, riparian forest restoration would be carried out through herbicide control; planting trees and shrubs; discing and mowing of weeds and replacement with drilled cover crops.

Analysis: The EIS prepared by the U.S. Forest Service for the management plan provides the environmental analysis for this project. It meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Endangered species – The bald eagle, chinook and chum salmon, steelhead, and possibly migrating bull trout are the only listed species found in the Sandy River Delta management area. The U.S. Forest Service has determined that implementation of the management plan will have no effect to any listed species.

Cultural resources – The U.S. Forest Service conducted ground surveys of the Sandy River Delta management area in preparation for the EIS. Several sites were found, but none of the actions proposed to be funded by BPA would affect any of these sites. The ROD states, “The State Historic Preservation Office concurred with Forest Service findings of “no-effect” and “no adverse effect” to cultural and historic resources for the selected alternative. Documentation is found in Appendix A of the Final EIS.”

The U.S. Forest Service also conducted an environmental land audit and public involvement program in conjunction with the EIS.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council’s Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA’s Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Watershed Management Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Nancy Weintraub 12-17-04

Nancy H. Weintraub
Senior Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 12-17-04

cc:

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